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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 15 February 2024

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THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Harper, Hon. NJ



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Premier) (9.31 am): I move—

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

Neville John Harper was born in Brisbane in September 1926, but he was a champion of the bush—a Country National Party MP who represented his people through and through. His impact on the state reached way beyond country Queensland. Not many sitting in this House today would have known Neville Harper well, but I do know of his service not just to Queensland but Australia.

From the time he left Brisbane Grammar School he dedicated himself to public life. Enlisting in the Navy as a teenager, Neville went on to serve his country in World War II. In his first speech in this place he noted that those years at sea gave him a grounding in life.

It was a life as varied as it was long and rewarding. He was a farmer, grazier, stock and station agent and registered rural and urban valuer. Neville represented his community first as a councillor on the Taroom Shire Council for six years and then as the National Party member for Auburn from 1980. Auburn was an electorate covering the western Burnett region. He represented Auburn for 12 years, and he sure made those years count.

During his time in state politics he served Queensland in many roles, including as cabinet minister for six years under three premiers. He served as minister for justice and attorney-general, minister for primary industries, minister for land management and leader of the House. As I said, I did not know Neville Harper, but if you ask anyone who did they will tell you that he was a straight shooter, honest, down-to-earth—a decent bloke.

To many Queenslanders Neville had many titles, but I am sure the one he was most proud of was family man. I want to thank Neville's wife, Karen, who is here with us today. Being married to someone who is married to their job is not easy, but I am sure he made you very proud. Thank you also to your children, your grandchildren and other family members who have taken the time to be with us here today.

Neville Harper passed away in September at the age of 97. I am sure the House will join me in placing on the record our thanks for his decades of public service to the institution of our democracy and to all Queensland. Vale, Neville Harper.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.34 am): Neville Harper, whose passing we acknowledge today, represents a significant group of former members of this House who enlisted in the armed forces, returned from overseas service, and took up land under the Soldier Settlement Scheme to open up tracts of rural Queensland and raise their families. Neville Harper represented the former electorate of Auburn from 1980 to 1992 and served his community, his party and this House with distinction over many years.

Born in Brisbane in 1926, Neville Harper attended state primary schools before undertaking secondary education at Brisbane Grammar School. Prior to his final senior examinations he enlisted in the RAAF and was accepted for aircrew training; however, delays in commencing this training led to him joining the Royal Australian Navy on 1 February 1945 in the last months of the Second World War. He achieved the rank of sub lieutenant and left the Navy in 1947, though he returned to the Navy and served on HMAS *Culgoa* in 1952 as a member of the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve.

At the completion of this service, he embarked on a career centred on Queensland's agricultural and pastoral industries. He spent time managing properties in Central Queensland before commencing employment with the significant stock and station firm Mactaggarts. It was while he was employed by Mactaggarts in Cunnamulla that he entered a War Service Land Settlement Scheme ballot at Wandoan. He was successful and fulfilled his dream, as he described it, of 'yearning to have property of my own'. When taking up his block, a set of tools and a tent for accommodation were delivered by the state government to the railway station for collection. It was from these humble beginnings that Neville Harper developed his brigalow scrub block, initially with dairy cattle and, as the dairy industry became less attractive, as a beef cattle stud. In an internet interview for the Wandoan RSL Neville Harper described his approach to the development of his property as 'first things first; then you just keep going'.

He began to take an active interest in community affairs and politics as well as developing a valuation practice specialising in Land Court matters. His public service began when he served on the Taroom Shire Council from 1976 to 1982. At the same time he engaged in a wide range of community activities in the area. He held significant positions in the Country Party and National Party at both local and state levels and was particularly dedicated to increasing party membership throughout the state. In the late 1970s he served as state vice-president of the National Party.

He was elected as the member for the seat of Auburn, which is now covered principally by the electorate of Callide and parts of Gregory. As the representative of an area in which agricultural industries and mining were coming into conflict, Neville Harper was conscious of the need for the interests of the agricultural sector to be protected so that the rights of private landholders would not be disadvantaged. In parliament he advocated for the need for access to reliable water supplies, the extension of railway electrification, greater financial support for local government, and the promotion of schemes to encourage young people to engage in rural employment.

In one of his final speeches in this House in 1992 he spoke of the need to preserve the constitutional arrangements as set out at Federation and spoke out against the gradual increase in power by the federal government. He said—

In the development of our Constitution 100 years ago, our intelligent and most perceptive founding fathers obviously had a fundamental concern in regard to the distribution of power—perhaps, in the main, the distribution of power between the proposed federation and the States. The architects of our Constitution were at pains to provide within its framework safeguards against the abuse of power.

In 1983 Neville became minister for justice and attorney, a position he held until 1986 and which he described as 'the most rewarding part of his political career'. During this period he saw the creation of an independent director of public prosecutions, set in train moves to appoint a solicitor-general independent from Crown Law, and initiated significant law reforms.

Between 1986 and 1989, Neville served as minister for primary industries and, in the final days of that government, as minister for land management—both positions allowing him to draw on his extensive experience in the community. It is interesting to note that Neville Harper's brother, Bob, served in this House as the member for Mount Ommaney in the 1990s representing the Liberal Party—one of the few instances in which siblings have held seats in the Queensland parliament.

We welcome Neville's wife, Karen, and other family members to the House today. We appreciate the fact that you helped him fulfill his goals, both in this place and in the wider community. Neville Harper made a significant contribution to this House and to politics in Queensland. More importantly, he contributed to his community from the time he took up that soldier settlement block in Wandoan. His record of service is one worthy of recognition and the opposition is privileged to support this motion today.



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (9.40 am): It is an honour to contribute to this condolence motion paying respect to Neville John Harper who passed away in September at the venerable age of 97. As the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have outlined, as well as serving as a minister, Mr Harper was the member for Auburn from 29 November 1980 until he retired following the abolition of the seat, and redistributions is a matter I will return to later.

Born and schooled in Brisbane, after finishing at Brisbane Grammar School, Harper served during the end of the Second World War and in the immediate postwar period in the Royal Australian Navy, including aboard the frigate HMAS *Hawkesbury*. He returned to civilian life and managing cattle properties in southern Queensland. As outlined very well by the Leader of the Opposition, he clearly created a career for himself in the country and ultimately on that soldier settlement land. This began an opportunity for him to build his career in involvement in community and to build his family.


Harper's political career within the National Party really kicked off a bit later in life, in the 1970s. As the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, he served on electorate councils, campaign committees and state finance and policy committees, and he also very importantly served in local government on the Taroom Shire Council. When he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in November 1980, it is notable that he succeeded the only other member to hold the seat of Auburn, also a Neville—Neville Hewitt, who had been a member of this House from 1956 until he retired in 1980, first in the seat of Mackenzie and then in the seat of Auburn from 1972. That is part of the story of redistributions and things of that nature which are significant in this House's history. Auburn was an electorate in the Burnett region during those days of the zonal system, and the opportunity to contribute in this House came from that. Just one term after his election, Mr Harper had that opportunity when the coalition agreement was torn up by Terry White in the lead-up to the 1983 election. That election saw, after some post-poll party hopping, the Nationals elected in their own right.

I note that since 1957 the Liberal Party had traditionally supplied the first law officer of the state, so when Neville Harper became minister for justice and attorney-general in the majority Bjelke-Petersen government, that was a notable step in itself. As has been noted by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Harper had reflected that that was the most significant contribution of his political career. There is no doubt that was the case with some of the things he was involved in. As someone who has from time to time acted as attorney-general, I have always identified a little bit with Neville Harper. He remains the last attorney-general—apart from some other intentional short-term appointments—without a legal qualification. As someone who was dismissed by many as a bush lawyer—a fraternity which I count myself a member of—it is interesting that he was part of some significant reforms and achievements in that role. As attorney-general, he established an independent Director of Public Prosecutions—a huge reform. He also appointed some more senior judges to the District and Supreme courts, adding capacity to what was very much a growing Queensland in the 1980s. He also appointed executive officers to lessen the administrative load of senior judges, which was a significant reform.

I also wish to make mention of another period, and I take Don Lane's *Trial and Error* here as my source, so I will put a bit of parenthesis about the source and how we couch the terms. In the recent condolence motion in relation to the late Mike Ahern, a number of members made reference to the brave role that Mike Ahern played as health minister in responding to the impact of the emergence of AIDS and the significant public health issue that represented. It is notable that Don Lane tells us that he, Hinze, Austin and Harper were ones who very strongly backed Ahern in his actions to prevent the spread of AIDS and that these public health measures were very much against the wishes of Sir Joh, the premier at the time. That was a bit of a conflict that arose, and I want to acknowledge that Neville Harper was on the right side of history in that instance.

I also want to note that he seemed to be on the right side of history in another respect in some regards because Lane, while highlighting his own role in certain things, wrote that he, Sir Robert Sparkes and Austin were the ones who really cooked up the refinement of the gerrymander that occurred in 1985. I quote from Lane: 'I had the impression that Neville Harper, the minister responsible for the Elections Act, generally was a bit miffed that he had no major role in the scenario'—a lot of that scenario took place in room B.28, where members would come in to give their feedback on the redistribution process. Neville Harper contributed significantly to reform here in that very crucial and very delicate period in the state's history. As has been mentioned, he further served as minister for primary industries in the eighth Bjelke-Petersen ministry and continued in the Ahern government and then in the Cooper government. In the final days of that National Party government, he served as the minister for land management.

His commitment to his community and his advocacy for his community was clearly strong in all the things that you read of Mr Harper. I want to acknowledge that that does not happen without the support of family, as we all know in this place. I want to acknowledge his wife and his family who are here with us today and all those who have known and loved Mr Harper. I cannot count myself amongst them, but I have great respect for his contribution. Vale, Neville Harper.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.47 am): It was lovely to spend time with the family of the late Hon. Neville John Harper this morning, sharing stories of various kinds. His daughter Louise was here last year for a parliament tour with the Wandoan State School only weeks before his passing and she and the school were taken through by the member for Bonney as I could not make it down, such is the life of a rural MP. I was never fortunate enough to meet Neville; however, my parents did through their time involved in the National Party. My father remembers Neville advocating to improve the young farmers scheme. As a young farmer himself at the time, this certainly piqued his interest.

The electorate of Auburn existed from 1972 to 1992, and Neville served as the member for Auburn from 1980 to 1992. The electorate of Callide now largely encompasses what was the electorate of Auburn, with key towns including Wandoan, Taroom, Monto, Eidsvold, Cracow, Theodore and Moura. The industry is very much the same today as it was then, albeit with some larger properties. Neville, while growing up in the south-east, very quickly became acquainted with rural life and worked on cattle properties across rural Queensland. This no doubt gave him the breadth of experience for his life ahead, and as the member for Auburn this very much meant that he understood the issues of many of his constituents.

In 1944 at the age of 18, along with a school friend, Neville enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. They were accepted for air crew training, however were anxious to serve in the armed forces. Because of the delay in being called up by the Air Force they decided to join the Royal Australian Navy. Neville entered full-time war service on 1 February 1945. This was the beginning of a lifetime of service to his country.

Post war, Neville undertook structural reconnaissance training and started working on a rural property called 'Burrandowan'. With his Queensland government tool allowance, he purchased a saddle which served him well for a total of 50 years, I am told. Through work experience at various properties and a short course at Gatton college, Neville learnt wider farming skills. In 1952, he commenced employment as a stock clerk for Mactaggarts Primary Producers Co-operative Association Ltd. This position required bookkeeping and attendance at cattle sales. I have been told that Neville had a very meticulous nature and this saw him rise through the ranks. After being transferred to the Cunnamulla branch, he subsequently became the youngest branch manager and then the first manager to make the branch profitable.


In 1953, Neville entered into the War Service Land Settlement Scheme ballot for land. He was most surprised when he received notification that he was successful for a block of land at Wandoan in late 1953, at the age of 27. This property at Wandoan went on to be named 'Bungarra'. Neville worked to develop this property over the coming years, purchasing dairy and beef cattle, constructing accommodation, the dairy itself and dams, among other things. Apparently, the best location for the house was about half a mile off the road. One of Neville's former National Party colleagues recounted that he would sometimes drive the four hours home from parliament only to find that it had been raining. He would then have to leave his car at the roadside and walk the remaining distance through the muddy black brigalow soil to his house. Having grown up on brigalow country, I can safely say that that would not have been an easy trek.

Neville's career in public life formally began in 1976 when he was elected to Taroom Shire Council. Following his election to the seat of Auburn, Neville served on policy committees, including lands and forestry, mines and energy, and commerce and industry. Between 1980 and 1983, Neville was chairman of a select committee on rural policy and the effects of mining on rural lands. This goes to show that some issues never really do cease to be of concern.

I have been told about a time when a new policy regarding a particular chemical was introduced. There was an uproar by affected shareholders, so Neville called a special meeting to take place in the Parliamentary Annexe. The purpose of this meeting was to give shareholders a chance to put forward their views and propose alternatives. Lively discussions were held. I am told that at the end of the meeting it was decided that Neville and the committee had in fact made the right decision; it just took some good old-fashioned debating to convince the other parties.

From all accounts, Neville was hardworking, passionate and always well-prepared. One thing I have not delved into much is the many little things he did along the way that had a huge impact on those he was doing it for. I know members of his family, including his daughters, Sally and Louise, are

still learning about the things Neville did for people from all walks of life, in many ways. It is these seemingly little things that are far from headlines, but are some of the most rewarding things that any person and any member of parliament can do. My thanks to the family for being here in this special place today. Vale, the Hon. Neville John Harper.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.53 am): It gives me great honour to rise and contribute to the condolence motion for Neville Harper, former National Party member for Auburn from 1980 to 1992. Firstly, my sincerest condolences to his wife, Karen, and his daughters, Sally and Louise, and the extended family. I also stand in this chamber today as someone born and bred in and around the Guluguba-Wandoan region, where my family still resides and an area proudly represented by Mr Harper from 1980 to 1992. I have to continue to call him Mr Harper because that is how I knew him as a child, and I feel that it might be rude and my parents might say I should not if I was to do otherwise.

Prior to becoming the local MP, Neville served on the Taroom Shire Council from 1976 to 1982 alongside my father, Don Stiller. I can recall being in the ute with Dad driving between home, which was situated in the Downfall area, all the way up to Wandoan, hammering in signs for the election of Mr Harper. I will not say where they were hammered into, because I do not think we are allowed to do that to trees anymore. I also recall him attending Guluguba State School as our local member of parliament, and my parents tell me he was very active in our local Wandoan community. As a returned serviceman, he enjoyed Anzac Days, visits to local schools and he worked very hard along with wife, Mardi, for Legacy, selling their Christmas plum puddings. Mr Harper's name is rightfully included on the Queensland parliament War Service Honour Board.

In the early 1950s, as we have heard, Mr Harper was one of 103 settlers who went to Wandoan as part of the settlement scheme after being successful in that Wandoan land ballot. As minister for justice and attorney-general, he wrote the foreword for the booklet published by Mrs Mardi Harper and Mrs Lois Ryan about the history of the soldier settlements in the Wandoan region. He stated—

I take pride in having been one of those ex-sailors, soldiers and airmen who were brought together by their common practical experience in working the land ...

I pay tribute to the women who were prepared to make do with hurricane lanterns, with wood-fired coppers and the hundred and one other hardships which went with 'starting from scratch' so that their very limited capital could be used to develop productivity.

He went on to say—

It is a great pity that such a large section of Australia's population today does not appreciate that leisure and modest luxury is the reward for that productivity, a reward which productivity alone can justify.

Over time, Mardi and Neville Harper developed and improved the block at Wandoan, turning it into a beef cattle place. Their daughter, Louise, and son-in-law, John Oakman, are running that block today.

Mr Harper was very heavily involved in the local RSL, but in particular the RSL which was then the RSL Wandoan Bowls Club. He was a foundation member of the bowls club, and I thought it quite telling when I called Mum to talk about what I should say for Mr Harper's condolence motion today, she was at the bowls club with Dad. I thought that was really quite special. Mr Harper also was very involved in the commencement of starting the Wandoan gymkhana which has turned into the pony club. My own electorate covers Toogoolawah. Mr Harper opened the Toogoolawah Court House. He also, along with one of the big dam builders, opened the Canna Dam, a beautiful skiing spot, and he also opened the Taroom Hospital.

Mr Harper was a member of the National Party and chairman of the Wandoan branch. In 1976 he was elected vice-president of our Queensland party. During his 12 years as local member, he served across several ministries, including minister for land management, minister for primary industries and minister for justice and attorney-general. He was also leader of the House. With his rural knowledge, he was a good fit as the minister for primary industries and had taken keen interest in the research and very important development of a vaccine for tick control.

In 1984, while serving as the minister for justice and attorney-general, he established the independent Director of Public Prosecutions. In a speech made by him as the then attorney-general, Neville Harper said—


I am sure all honourable members will agree with me that there should be little or no delay in placing criminal cases before the court. In order to achieve a speedy and competent prosecution service, the Government has agreed to my recommendation that the prosecutions function of the Crown law office should be separated from other legal functions undertaken on behalf of the Government.

This was described as the first dramatic change to Crown Law since its creation some 125 years prior. Mr Harper also appointed more senior judges to the District Court and Supreme Court and appointed executives to lessen the administrative load of senior judges.


Mr Harper was also responsible for legislation including a new Building Societies Act and the development of a secondary mortgage market board. He was a member of the parliamentary criminal justice committee and was the shadow attorney-general and opposition spokesperson for employment, training, industrial relations and public service.

On behalf of my family, and the people of the greater south-west, thank you, Mr Harper, for your service. Thank you to Mr Harper's family for giving us Mr Harper, for giving us your time and effort so he can do the job in representing us.

Neville John Harper died in Alexandra Headland in Queensland on 29 September 2023, aged 97. May he rest in peace.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.59 am): I am honoured to rise to speak to this condolence motion for the late Hon. Neville Harper. We have not only heard about his worthy and fine service to Queensland—particularly to his electorate—but also his role as a former member and minister of the Crown. For the last 20 years, Neville and his wife, Karen, have lived in my electorate at Alexandra Headland. Others have spoken well of his service in this place—and I will not cover those details again—but I want to pass on my sincere condolences to the extended family, particularly Karen.

When I saw Neville in my electorate, he still maintained a keen engagement and interest in the affairs of our state of Queensland and also Australia. In his later years, his health was a challenge. I know that is not an easy journey; it is certainly not an easy journey for family. It does not matter how old people are when they pass, it still leaves a huge hole in people's lives. I know that as the family grieve, for those who knew and loved Neville it is a journey where you are glad not to see someone in pain but you reflect on those memories. You hold firmly the love that you shared, and you reflect with gratitude on what they gave. Certainly, Neville gave much in his life. To Karen and the extended family, I extend my sincere condolences. Vale, Neville Harper.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.01 am): A lot has been said about the Hon. Neville Harper today, including on his service to the country and his role as a soldier settler. I thought I would say, as a member who has a number of soldier settler blocks and history in my own electorate, it was far from certain there would be success as a result of the hard work that was put in. Many of those ex-service personnel who took blocks of land over the years fell by the wayside but that did not happen with Nev Harper. I think his hard work and his ability was to bode him well for his future years in politics.

In addition to the many things which he achieved as minister—particularly as minister for justice and attorney-general—there is one thing which particularly stands out—that is, that he was responsible for the inauguration of the Sturgess report. This was conducted by the inaugural holder of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Des Sturgess. It was a seminal work which ultimately led, in part, to the Fitzgerald inquiry and it uncovered cases of child prostitution and cases of police protection of unlawful prostitution operations. That was no small thing. For that, along with everything else, he certainly deserves to be remembered well. I would like to share with the House my personal condolences to the family who have lost Nev Harper. He was a great Queenslander.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, will you please indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the commencement time for question time will be approximately 10.33 am.

PETITIONS

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

Childcare Centres

1,345 petitioners, requesting the House to require stricter requirements for screening of potential employees in childcare centres and legislate to ensure day care centres install CCTV to cover black spots where offenders can hide with children [\[195\]](#).

South East Queensland Regional Plan Area, Hardwood Logging

552 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure its commitment to phase out native hardwood logging within the South East Queensland Regional Plan area, under the South East Region Forest Agreement, by 31 December 2024 [\[196\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[197] Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023’

Insert—

‘Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024’

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Premier (Hon. Miles)—

[198] Report by Professor Emeritus Ian O’Connor AC, dated 4 December 2023, titled ‘Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office’

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.05 am): I begin by congratulating the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, and his partner, Jodie Haydon, on their engagement. We wish them both the happiest of times together.


Queensland is well served by our hardworking journalists. The government supports their important role. That is why the Attorney-General will today introduce an expansion of shield laws. Its purpose is to protect Queensland journalists and their sources. We know how important the work our journalists do is, especially the gallery here at parliament, which is why we will limit the powers of the CCC. The bills will ensure journalists cannot be compelled to provide information or documents at a CCC hearing where a confidential source could potentially be identified, unless it is in the public interest. Another reform to the CCC that the government has been carefully considering is to what extent they should be able to publicly report in relation to their corruption investigations.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I apologise for interrupting the Premier’s ministerial statement, but I am concerned that there is a bill on the table at present. I am worried that the Premier may be anticipating debate on that bill.

Mr SPEAKER: In this case, as the Premier is foreshadowing a government bill, it is not directly speaking to a private member’s bill. I will allow it but, of course, if you can ensure you are treading carefully around that issue, Premier, it would be greatly appreciated.

Mr MILES: As the House would be aware, a recent decision of the High Court has found that they have no public reporting powers for corruption investigations. Finding the right balance between allowing the CCC to do their job while also protecting the rights of individuals is important. We saw in the case of the Logan councillors and Moreton Bay mayor Allan Sutherland that the CCC can impact the lives and livelihoods of individuals, even when no wrongdoing can be proved. That is why our government will seek independent advice on the matter. Former chief justice Catherine Holmes has been appointed to advise us on appropriate reporting powers. She is a highly-respected former judge, and I am grateful she agreed to this assignment. It is important that the CCC has the powers it needs to do its job, but as we have seen with shield laws, those powers should not necessarily be absolute. There are occasions where competing principles need to be considered. Ms Holmes is the best person to provide that advice to government and to highlight the most appropriate path forward.

Executive Government, Transparency; Opposition, Transparency

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.08 am): I said from day one that I would work hard every day to earn the trust of Queenslanders. Governing with integrity plays a big and important role in building that trust. It is why my first external meeting as Premier was with Professor Peter Coaldrake to discuss how we can keep Queensland's hardworking Public Service strong and implement reforms to the integrity framework that supports all we do.

I am determined to make the Queensland government the most transparent in Australia. One of those key recommendations is that cabinet documents be proactively released. We have committed to doing that. My department has consulted with experts, here and in New Zealand where a similar policy has been implemented, to make sure we get this policy right. Today I can announce the first document set for release will be the last cabinet meeting in March. Those documents will be available in April. This will make Queensland the most transparent government in Australia, and one of the most transparent in the world.

I have said my government will be open and transparent with Queenslanders. That is why we will release assistant minister diaries as happens with the diaries of all ministers. Assistant ministers have an important role to play in supporting the development and implementation of our government's policies. A motion will be moved today to ensure shadow spokespersons' diaries are released also in the interest of transparency. I have also approved an amendment to require the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to release his diary extracts. I welcome the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana—


Ms Grace interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnel. The House will come to order. Member for Kawana, I do not believe your interjections are assisting the House.

Mr MILES: I welcome the Leader of the Opposition's support for increasing transparency in relation to the shadow ministry.


Release of Government Survey Information

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.10 am): The Queensland government, like most large organisations, commissions research to understand the views of Queenslanders. I do not think it is unusual for government, indeed any business or organisation, to use audience research to inform their work, but I do think government can be more transparent. So I am announcing today that I will release all community sentiment research conducted during this term of government. That research tells us that Queenslanders are deeply interested in the policies guiding our state and their concerns are what we are focused on. We know community safety is a concern for a lot of Queenslanders, but the research also tells us it is a complex problem and not everyone agrees on the solution. We know cost of living is an issue for many and we are working to tackle it.

Other more historic research helped inform our messaging during the COVID-19 pandemic to make sure Queenslanders were safe and informed of the restrictions in place and why they were important. I can also commit that future research will also be released to our Queensland leaders forum so they can be informed of what everyday Queenslanders think. However, it will also be much more focused on service delivery improvement and measuring the experience of Queenslanders dealing with our government departments.

Good governments listen and good governments govern with integrity. That is why having a strong framework of well designed integrity policies is something this government will continue to champion.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): The Miles government acknowledges that the Crime and Corruption Commission is central to Queensland's integrity landscape. Since its inception, the CCC has from time to time issued public reports and made statements relating to specific


corruption matters it has assessed, investigated or otherwise considered. These reports provide important information to the people of Queensland and highlight corruption risks for public servants and elected officials. However, as members would be aware, the High Court in *CCC v Carne* found that the CCC in fact has no legislative authority to issue such reports or statements.

Let me be clear. The Miles government acknowledges the need to legislate new reporting powers for the CCC. In doing so, we also recognise that publishing reports relating to individual corruption matters raises complex legal, ethical and human rights issues. That is why, as the Premier has just foreshadowed, I am today announcing the appointment of the Hon. Catherine Holmes AC, SC to conduct a short, sharp review of the matter to ensure that any legislative amendments strike a proper balance between the rights of the individual and the broader public interest. As the former chief justice of Queensland and more recently the head of the robodebt royal commission, Ms Holmes is eminently qualified to undertake this important body of work.

Ms Holmes' recommendations will be delivered to me by 20 May 2024 and then considered by cabinet and released in full. The government will act promptly to implement legislative amendments. I table the review's terms of reference for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Terms of Reference: Public reporting on corruption matters' [199].


Housing

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.13 am): Every Queenslander should have safe and secure housing. The Miles Labor government knows it is a challenge across the country to find a home and Queensland is no different. We especially know it is challenging for first home buyers to get into the market. That is why we doubled the first home owner grant, making it the most generous in the country. Honourable members will be pleased to know that this policy initiative is making a difference. Ellis Developments, builders in Townsville, told the *Townsville Bulletin* this week that they were already seeing an increase in demand as a result of our new grants scheme. Only a Queensland Labor government will deliver the housing Queenslanders need, and our track record shows that.

According to the most recent Productivity Commission report on housing, Queensland is the only state in Australia to increase the number of public housing dwellings over the past decade. Let me repeat that for the House: according to the most recent Productivity Commission report on housing, Queensland is the only Australian state to increase the number of public housing dwellings over the past decade. That shows our government has been delivering for Queenslanders, but we know there is more to do. That is why we will continue our legacy of delivering for the state through our Homes for Queenslanders plan. The new Homes for Queenslanders plan is backed by an additional \$3 billion in funding. This builds on our record investment in housing, which was already \$6 billion. The five pillars of the plan set a clear direction to provide every Queenslander with safe shelter.

This is about delivering more housing in every part of our state. To do that, we must pull every lever at our disposal. All governments should do that, unlike Peter Dutton who opposed the Help to Buy Scheme. Peter Dutton, Barnaby Joyce and other LNP members also voted against the Housing Australia Future Fund. They voted against unlocking 30,000 homes for Australians. You would have to be flat on your back, belly up on the footpath not to support that fund. It just shows Peter Dutton, Barnaby Joyce and those who share their beliefs are out of touch. It shows those who share their beliefs do not want to invest in housing, unlike our Labor government which has a record investment in housing. This investment can only happen when you protect your revenue streams like stamp duty and progressive coal royalties. Only the Miles Labor government has the courage to protect our state's revenue streams and deliver safe and secure housing for Queenslanders.

Engineered Stone

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.16 am): I am pleased to update the House that our government's longstanding campaign to stop the use of engineered stone has culminated in a national ban on this dangerous product. The ban, which is effective from 1 July 2024, was agreed by Commonwealth, state and territory leaders at December's work health and safety ministers meeting.

In 2018 I received an urgent briefing from my department on the sudden and alarming emergence of silicosis and we took immediate action by: implementing a ban of all dry cutting of engineered stone; issuing an urgent safety warning to workers in the industry about the serious risks; ensuring Workplace Health and Safety Queensland conducted a widespread and comprehensive statewide audit of all

known engineered stone workplaces in Queensland with ongoing compliance and enforcement; and introducing free WorkCover health screening for over 1,000 Queensland workers and \$5 million for medical research into occupational lung disease.

The Queensland government led the nation. In 2019 we introduced Australia's first code of practice for the stone benchtop industry, Australia's first dust lung disease register and in 2023 Australia's first code of practice for managing silica dust exposure in construction and manufacturing. This is an issue we have been very vocal about on this side of the House and I have consistently called for a national response. In fact, I wrote six times to former Morrison government ministers on this critical safety issue and received no response of substance. What a breath of fresh air it is to work with the Albanese Labor government, which actually cares about workers and is taking significant action on this scourge.


I want to thank Commonwealth workplace relations minister Tony Burke for taking the lead and working with states and territories to deliver this important ban. Workplace health and safety ministers will meet again in March to consider matters relevant to the introduction of this ban including transitional arrangements for existing contracts and a national framework for removal, repair and minor modification of existing products. I have always said the best way to manage a risk in the workplace is to eliminate it if possible and I am proud that Queensland has led the way for this to happen. That is because we know that occupational dust lung diseases can severely impact the lives of workers and their families.

The Miles government will always stand up for workers. Our record is second to none and we are proud of it.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S RULING


Anticipation Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next minister, further to the statement I made earlier in response to the point of order by the Manager of Opposition Business, it is important for the House to note that the rule of anticipation under standing order 231 gives the discretion to the Speaker to enable debate on an issue if a matter on the *Notice Paper* is unlikely to be considered in a reasonable time. In this particular case, the bill which was subject to the point of order will not be reported on until April and cannot be debated until July or August this year, hence the response to the point of order, member for Glass House.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Screen Industry

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.19 am): Mr Speaker, I know that you are well aware of this, but Queensland is the place to be for the screen industry. Films, television series and digital games made here in our state are enjoyed every day by audiences here and abroad. Our screen industry is continuing to grow, providing ongoing employment for thousands of Queenslanders, supporting local businesses and contributing millions to the economy each year. It is an industry we can all be proud of.

Perhaps most importantly, screen production brings our local stories to life and shares them with the world and 2024 has already seen a Queensland story take the world by storm. In January Netflix released the seven-episode adaptation of Trent Dalton's best-selling novel, *Boy Swallows Universe*. The series has already reached more than 9.3 million households in over 190 countries, peaking at the top 3 of Netflix's global watch list and No. 1 in Australia. To bring this uniquely Queensland story from the page to the screen, the filmmakers brilliantly recreated 1980s Brisbane—the era that I grew up in. The series was made by a team of cast, crew and creatives largely comprised of talented Queenslanders who have dedicated years to perfecting their craft. *Boy Swallows Universe* is the largest Australian series to be made in Queensland. It employed over 185 people and contributed more than \$34 million to the state's economy. Just like *Bluey* before it, the series has put locations across Brisbane and surrounding regions on the global map like Greenslopes and Beenleigh and many other places.

It was essential that *Boy Swallows Universe* be made here in Queensland and the Miles government was proud to support the production through our Production Attraction Strategy. It is one of many incentives and funds administered by Screen Queensland to ensure that our state's screen practitioners can build their careers here and tell our unique Queensland stories. The work of Screen Queensland enables the sector to attract the best local, interstate and international projects to the Sunshine State, including Ron Howard's *Eden*, which has just wrapped filming on the Gold Coast. This high-end feature film employed more than 300 locals, cast and crew and has injected more than \$26.5 million into the local economy. The Miles government will also be bringing more of the economic, employment, tourism and cultural benefits of the screen industry to the north of the state when the \$12.6 million Screen Queensland Studios Cairns facility opens for business soon. I am proud that Queensland screen production will continue to thrive in 2024.

Road and Transport Infrastructure



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.22 am): There is over \$32 billion in QTRIP supporting over 25,000 jobs across the life of the program. In addition, we have the fantastic Cross River Rail project which will transform the way we travel across South-East Queensland, supporting 3,400 workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth.

Mr MELLISH: Disgraceful. This is not a laughing matter and nothing is more important than ensuring every worker goes home safely to their family every day. The Miles government has a strong safety record on all of our construction projects, but we must never become complacent. We expect all contractors to actively reduce the risk—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you will cease your interjections. There is enough noise outside without having more noise inside.

Mr MELLISH: We expect all contractors to actively reduce the risk of any incidents happening on site. I have made it clear to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, Queensland Rail and Transport and Main Roads that I expect the highest safety standards to be upheld. Queensland has experienced extreme weather this summer, including heatwave conditions during some periods. In relation to Cross River Rail, heat is managed on site every day. Workers are reminded daily that there are shade shelters, air-conditioned crib rooms, chilled water and heat monitors available on site. Our massive Big Build could not happen without a strong workforce and a strong record on project safety. This government will always prioritise worker safety and I will be reiterating to our agencies and our contractors that this must be their No. 1 priority.

Education Infrastructure



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.24 am): When we talk about the achievements of the Miles government's commitment to a Big Build for Queensland, education must surely be at the top or near the top of the list. With an investment of \$11.8 billion since 2015, we have built new schools and new expansion projects for students in fast-growing communities across Queensland. We have new halls and new classrooms—so many new facilities right across Queensland because we say that, no matter who you are or where you are, even in the most remote areas of our vast and decentralised state, you deserve the same access to a high-quality education. In addition to these new facilities, in 2022 under our \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program we have installed air conditioners in every school in Queensland. What are we talking in terms of numbers of these new facilities? Some 27 new schools, including four special schools, and our two new schools opening this year—Scenic Shores in the electorate of Redlands with 97 students enrolled, and I know the member for Redlands was so proud to have that school featured across national television on the *Today* show to show off—

Ms Richards: Tim loved it!

Ms FARMER: They loved it. Karl loved it. That showed the rest of Australia what we do to provide state-of-the-art facilities for our students in Queensland. The Bellbird Park State School in the Ipswich suburb of Bellbird Park will also be opening in 2024. Although the severe weather in December and January impacted the opening of the school on its final location, teaching and learning began as


planned for staff and students regardless. I want to thank Woogaroo Creek State School in Augustine Heights for taking those staff and students on board so that they could get started. I know the member for Bundamba has already been out there for a visit on that site.

We have new halls. We have built 78 new halls since 2015, with 24 to be built and opened this year. I have already been so pleased to open the Pittsworth State High School hall, the Warwick State High School hall and the Oakey State High School hall. Together with the member for Capalaba, we opened the Capalaba State College school hall. These will be game changers for those school communities.

I cannot talk about facilities in education without paying tribute to QBuild and the facilities team in Education. There were 130 schools affected by weather events over the last couple of months—some only minor but some quite severe. They worked tirelessly to ensure that for the December and January weather events every child was able to start school at the same time as everyone else.

While talking about facilities, I also want to announce the remarkable progress in enhancing internet connectivity in Queensland state schools due to our \$187 million partnership with Telstra. By the time that is finished in phase 2, there will have been a 200-fold increase from last year's standard, and that is going to make a huge difference to Queensland schools. Our kids deserve the best, and that is what they are getting from the Miles government.

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.28 am): Today I am pleased to advise the House of another record broken by the Miles government's hugely successful Containers for Change scheme. Last month a record 175,805,461 containers were returned by Queenslanders for a refund and recycling.


A government member: In a month?

Ms LINARD: That is in a month; absolutely. This result smashed the previous record of 157,525,681 containers returned 12 months earlier in January 2023. For anyone doing the math, that is 18.2 million more containers returned for recycling and refund or an 11.6 per cent year-on-year increase. Queenslanders deserve a pat on the back for this fantastic effort. An important contributor to this result was our government's expansion of the scheme to include glass wine and spirit bottles in November last year. Since November, we have seen a 13.5 per cent increase in the number of glass containers being returned.

Since 1 November 2023, the average number of glass containers being returned is around 1.235 million each day. Since Containers for Change started in November 2018, more than 7.75 billion containers have been received. That is 7.75 billion containers diverted from landfill and instead recycled and re-used. Importantly, at a time when everyone is facing cost-of-living pressures, the scheme has returned more than \$775 million to Queenslanders' back pockets. This includes almost \$12 million which has been paid to charities and community groups.

Before the launch of Containers for Change, only 18 per cent of drink containers were being recovered and recycled in Queensland. The current rate is now almost 64 per cent, and our Miles government is determined to see that rate rise even further. It is an important part of our commitment to make Queensland a zero-waste society by 2050 and we are determined to build a circular economy where materials are re-used, recycled or remanufactured more and less waste is produced in the first place. It is also important to remember that it is not just about it being good for the environment; it is also good for jobs. For every one job in landfill there are three jobs in recycling and remanufacturing.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.30 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 5 March 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Documents



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.31 am): As chair of the PCCC I lay upon the table of the House a certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2023 and related correspondence.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2023, pursuant to section 4.7(3) of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [\[200\]](#).

The register reflects that no communications were made which qualify for recording in the register in 2023, and the register was furnished without comment from the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The committee received the register on 17 January 2024 and is tabling it within 14 sitting days of receipt as required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.31 am.

Youth Crime, Police Service



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.31 am): My question is to the Premier. I refer to reports Queensland police officers are being forced to call in sick, are not using marked police cars and are being warned to not walk footpaths at night due to the risk of being targeted by youth criminals. Can the Premier explain how it has come to this?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because it gives me a chance to put on the record my thanks and appreciation to our hardworking police. I know just how hard they work every single day, and we are pleased to back them—with hundreds more police on the beat and with the tools that they need to do their job. They would be a lot more stressed if there was a thousand fewer of them, as those opposite would have. Those opposite would have 1,000 fewer uniformed police in the community keeping us safe. I am proud of our record of putting more police on the beat. I am proud of our record of working with police. I am proud of our record of working closely with the Police Union. I met with the Police Union on Monday to talk to them about how we can do even more to support our hardworking police. We have delivered them big pay rises—well-earned pay rises.

We continue to support their work in every way that we can and we will not have them talked down by those opposite. We will not have those opposite deny their record of cutting the number of police, of going to election after election committing to fewer police in our community. That is the record of those opposite. The self-appointed premier-elect might want to deny his record—he might think he can ignore the will of the people; he might think he can make himself the premier somehow—but I know that our police know that the side of the House that has their back is this side of the House. We are a government that is proud to back our police—proud to support their work each and every day keeping our community safe, and we will keep doing it. We will keep bringing more police into our Police Service. In fact, the police minister tells me that there is a record number of recruits coming through the academy right now, and that will be more brave, hardworking Queenslanders doing us proud, keeping our community safe.

Community Safety

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. The government promised at the last election to keep Queenslanders safe. Has the government kept this promise?

Mr MILES: As I was just able to outline, we have delivered hundreds more police and there are even more police on the way—a massive number. There are 600 recruits undergoing intensive training now, with another 1,800 applicants in the pipeline. That is more than 2,000 extra police. That is twice the number that those opposite would have us do without. More police to keep our community safe is just one of the many initiatives we have put in place to keep Queenslanders safer. Already this week we have talked about the expansion of wandering to keep Queenslanders safe. I was with Jack Beasley's family yesterday, along with the police minister and the Police Commissioner, talking about how important that effort is. I think I will be with police again at lunchtime today, at a mobile police beat here at parliament, talking about how we can better support them to keep Queenslanders safe.

We are building the new youth remand centre as well as two new youth detention centres to keep Queenslanders safe. We delivered a new police helicopter in Townsville to keep Queenslanders in Townsville safe. We are deploying a new specialist youth crime rapid response squad to keep Queenslanders safe. We are working to expand electronic monitoring to keep Queenslanders safe. We are supporting victims through our new Victims' Commissioner and higher payments. Yesterday I met with the IMAC—I know the Attorney did, too—to talk about their efforts and their advice to us about how to better support victims. We are expanding the youth co-responder teams. They do a really good job bringing police and youth justice together.

As I have said over and over again, this is a government that is tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. We are determined to break the cycle of reoffending and we will do so with three tools: prevention in the first place; intervention when offending starts; and detention where it is necessary to keep violent repeat offenders off the streets. That is our comprehensive plan to prevent, intervene and detain. While those opposite might have slogans, we have plans informed by evidence and by advice by the police and by experts, and that is what we will continue to do.

Integrity

Mr TANTARI: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the Miles government is strengthening integrity measures in Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any threats to integrity in Queensland?

Mr MILES: That is a great and important question from the member for Hervey Bay. I know that, as a former long-serving career public servant himself, he knows how important it is to have an independent Public Service. He knows how important it is that we have strong integrity laws, because that is what helps make sure we have a Public Service that can support us to do our jobs as well as to deliver the services that matter to Queenslanders.

Today we have outlined a range of new initiatives on that front—on the front of supporting our Public Service and delivering greater integrity. The shield laws that the Attorney will bring forward today are all about making sure that journalists can report and they can have confidential sources that are protected. The review by Catherine Holmes that we announced today is all about making sure that the CCC has appropriate reporting powers. That is an important step and one that we will implement once we have that independent advice from a highly respected retired judge.

One of the things that Peter Coaldrake recommended was greater transparency over cabinet. Today I am really pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of implementing that important reform. We will be the first cabinet in Australia to release our cabinet papers in that way and I am proud of that. We said that ministers' and assistant ministers' diaries should be more transparent, which is why today we announce that we will release those diaries. I welcome the support of the Leader of the Opposition in the release of shadow ministers' diaries as well.

These are all the kinds of steps you get from a government that is determined to support our Public Service. We do not come in here and bag them, like those opposite constantly do. We support them, we respect them and we want to work with them to do an even better job of providing us with advice and delivering services for Queenslanders. That is why soon I will release a new strategy for our Public Service, to work with them to build up their capabilities so that we use consultants less and do more work in-house and so that public servants can see the career opportunities that they can have in our fantastic Queensland Public Service.

Youth Crime, Breach of Bail Offence

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. In 2015 the Labor government removed breach of bail as an offence for youth criminals. Following pressure from Queenslanders and the LNP, the government brought it back. Why did the Labor government remove breach of bail almost nine years ago?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In her question the member referred to an action taken in 2015. I ask that she authenticate that action.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for the House to come to order so that I can give the member for Currumbin some guidance. Member for Currumbin, the Leader of the House has raised a point of order in relation to the parts of the question that he believes may require authentication in terms of an action. Are you able to do so?

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker, yes. It is in the bill.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I would appreciate it if, when I am taking advice from the table, I can hear that advice without being shouted down. Member for Currumbin, you have not referred to a section of the bill that relates to the action. In order to authenticate this, you need to be able to show or prove where that is in the bill.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, I can do that.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to please authenticate as per the point of order.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I understand where you are coming from. In the past, my understanding has been that you have accepted the assurance of a member when you have sought authentication in relation to a matter. It has then been incumbent on the member to subsequently be able to provide you with that authentication. In a number of instances an assurance that 'yes, I am able to do so' has been accepted by you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. I will respond by saying that in most cases there has been an immediate ability to do so based on a piece of paper or document that could be tabled. In this particular case, I am certainly aware that this is not the first time that this matter has been raised as a point of order by members of the government in relation to this particular action which is claimed. I will accept that part of the question.

Member for Currumbin, I will expect that there is authentication. If the authentication is not satisfactory to me, I will be asking you to explain to the House why you said you were able to authenticate it.

Mrs GERBER: Certainly, Mr Speaker.

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Currumbin for her question.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Premier. Resume your seat. I will not keep letting you go, member for Buderim. You are clearly out of order. I ask you to stop your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders. If I hear a peep from you for the remainder of question time you will be exiting the chamber.

There is something very important that I would like to make the House aware of. Obviously, this place is meant to be a contest of ideas, not a contest of shouting down or volume. This is the last time I will say this today. I need to hear the answers, Hansard needs to hear the answers and, if a question is asked, I figure that the questioner would also like to hear the answer.

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. Mr Speaker, what I can tell you, what I can assure the House and what I can assure every single Queenslander is that we will not apologise for making our laws tougher. When we get advice from police to make our laws tougher then we will. We inserted a new offence of breach of bail that was very different to what the member for Kawana had introduced.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you have asked the question. I have given guidance to other members. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Scenic Rim, you are continually interjecting. You are also warned under the standing orders. Member for Toowoomba South, you are also warned.

Mr MILES: We know that our offence is different to what the member for Kawana had put in place because it is working. The difference is that it is working. Our breach of bail offence is actually being used by police. People are actually getting charged. People are actually getting convicted. People are in detention now because they have committed our breach of bail offence, which is something that never happened with the member for Kawana's flawed law. I can advise that, as at 31 December 2023, 2,297 child defendants have been charged with our breach of bail—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about a decision made by the government nine years ago, not current. I know that they want to run from their record, but the question was about their watering down of the laws.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I am listening to the contribution of the Premier. I believe it is entirely relevant.

Mr MILES: As at 31 December, 2,297 child defendants have been charged with the new breach of bail offence for a total of 5,733 charges. That is a breach of bail offence that we introduced to toughen our laws and that is actually working.

Community Cohesion

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier please update the House on how the Miles Labor government is investing and working to deliver a more cohesive Queensland community, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: The member for Mount Ommaney knows that cultural diversity makes our state strong and cultural diversity makes Queensland a better place. That is why, in our last budget, our government was proud to invest \$4.7 million over four years for multicultural projects to build a united, harmonious and inclusive Queensland. Sadly, not every political party or every elected official shares that view.

Queenslanders remember when Pauline Hanson made her shameful warning that Australia would be 'swamped by Asians'. To hear those words is, in fact, quite sickening. I can also inform the House that it is a statement that Pauline Hanson has never retracted. In fact, Pauline Hanson made it worse by extending it to Muslims. Pauline Hanson is, of course, the person who put Fraser Anning into parliament. Fraser Anning threatened immigrants in this country with what he said would be the 'final solution'. Let me be clear: Pauline Hanson brings shame on our nation. It is exactly why the Australian Labor Party always puts One Nation at the bottom of the preference list. That is a principled decision that has on occasions—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am growing tired of this, members. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mudgeeraba and member for Kawana, you both are warned under the standing orders. Minister for Health, you are warned under the standing orders. One person has the call: it is the Deputy Premier.

Mr DICK: That principled decision that we have been absolutely consistent with as a party has on occasion even put members of the LNP into the parliament, but we stand by those principles. I hear the interjections from members opposite. With the upcoming Ipswich West and Inala by-elections, now is the time for the Leader of the Opposition to make that same commitment. Stand against racism, stand against Islamophobia and stand for a better sort of politics in this country. The leader of the LNP needs to show courage. That is what he needs to do. He needs to stand up for migrants—people who come to this country seeking a better life. The Leader of the Opposition knows about the migrant story. Migrants should not be denigrated; migrants should be praised and supported. That inflammatory rhetoric from Pauline Hanson has no place in this country and in this state. The LNP needs to back words with action. The Leader of the Opposition needs to make the decision that the LNP will put One Nation last in Inala and in Ipswich West.

(Time expired)

Police Service, Polair

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. For nine years the Labor government said that a police helicopter for Townsville was not needed. Following pressure from Queenslanders and the LNP, the government provided a helicopter. Why did the Labor government reject a police helicopter for Townsville for almost nine years?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Burdekin for his question. The fact is: I delivered a helicopter within a month of becoming the Premier of Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr MILES: I tried to be pretty quick. I am sorry that four weeks is too long for the member for Burdekin. Within four weeks of the police asking me to deliver them a helicopter in Townsville, there was a helicopter for them in Townsville.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Mr MILES: I, for one, am proud of that outcome. I know that the people of Townsville feel safer now that they can see that helicopter in the air. I know from talking to police that it is already making a massive difference to crime in Townsville. I am pleased that we have been able to back our police in Townsville with that new helicopter, delivered within the first four weeks of the Miles government.

Integrity

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General update the House on the Miles government's commitment to integrity and transparency, and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. The Miles government cares about integrity. We care about transparency. That is why today I am introducing a suite of CCC reforms. That is why we are banning dual hatting. That is why we have commissioned the Holmes review. We are proud of our record of delivering in the integrity space. We know that it is in stark contrast with those opposite. Let's not forget the record of the member for Kawana, the former attorney-general—the man who was up to his eyeballs in the sacking of the PCMC in the middle of the night, the man who failed to declare meetings with lobbyists in his ministerial diary, the man who overruled his department to award a boot camp contract to an LNP donor. This is the person the LNP would have as deputy premier of this state. I do wonder if he is already calling himself 'deputy premier-elect'. This is the person the Leader of the Opposition has as his right-hand man. That tells us everything we need to know about the LNP and what their approach to integrity would be if they were to form government in October.

Police Service, Personnel

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that there are 322 fewer police now than 18 months ago?

Mr MILES: I was pleased to advise the House earlier just how well our police recruitment is going. I am pleased to get the chance to reiterate that. We on this side of the House want to see more police in the community, on the beat. There are a thousand more now than there would have been if those opposite had been elected. There are 600 undergoing intensive training in our police academies now and another 1,800 coming. That is something that we on this side of the House welcome.

Infrastructure Projects

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. Can the minister please update the House on how the Miles government is delivering infrastructure investment in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. She knows that our record Big Build is delivering not only in her electorate, with the upgrade of around \$60 million for the Lindum station, but in all electorates around this great state. We are very proud of our \$90 billion Big Build spend that will have a pipeline of work in homes, hospitals, schools, renewable energy infrastructure, new industry, transport and roads. CopperString in North Queensland, the Toowoomba Hospital, the Rockhampton Ring Road, the Cairns Marine Precinct common user facility and the Gold Coast Light Rail are just a few examples of where we are spending our money and the pipeline of work.

One thing is clear to this side of the House when we look at alternative approaches: our approach is record investment and the opposition's approach is record cuts. We can be sure of one single thing: when they are in government they cut the infrastructure budget. They did it then and they will do it again. There is no vision; there is no plan. Those opposite walk around with a pamphlet—what I call the 'whingeing' pamphlet—that has absolutely no detail in it whatsoever. Be aware, because the risk to our infrastructure spend is the LNP. We will continue to build all over Queensland because we know that the alternative is to cut, sack and sell.

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Crime

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier's voting record and role in changing crime laws almost nine years ago, what responsibility does the Premier take for Queensland's crime crisis?

Mr MILES: I take full responsibility for all of the measures that we have taken to deliver stronger laws and support our police to keep our community safe. That is what I will keep doing. We will continue to look to the evidence and we will continue to hear from the experts, as I did yesterday at the IMAC. We will continue to talk to the senior police, police on the ground and the Police Union, and we will take their advice about what laws they need. When they suggest that the law should be changed, we will take that advice. That is precisely what we have been doing and precisely what we will continue to do—and I will make no apologies for that. We are determined to have the toughest laws in the country—and we do—and we are determined to break the cycle of reoffending.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, your interjections are increasingly bordering on unparliamentary. Members deserve some respect in terms of their correct titles. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have been consistently interjecting after you were given a warning. You are out for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 10.59 am.

Mr MILES: We will continue to deliver programs that prevent crime in the first place, that intervene early when offending starts and that unapologetically use detention as a tool for those violent reoffenders who need intensive programs for rehabilitation and whom it would be not safe to have on the streets. That is what our laws are all about.

North Queensland, Jobs

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Following the minister's inspection of the CopperString line in January, can the minister outline to the House how the Miles Labor government is delivering clean economy jobs in North Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question. He, like all North Queenslanders, knows that our significant investment in CopperString is delivering jobs for North Queensland—in fact, 800 direct jobs and hundreds of thousands of new jobs in industries such as new critical minerals and manufacturing.

The last time I was in Townsville I was there with the member for Mundingburra, and he was announcing more CopperString jobs. In fact, on that day he was adding another 22 jobs to the CopperString office in North Queensland, in Townsville. He was announcing an additional 24 apprentices. He was announcing an additional 11 graduates. He was announcing 50 works packages worth \$320 million of investment into the North Queensland community—jobs for North Queenslanders.

All of North Queensland is welcoming those CopperString jobs. In fact, from Townsville all the way to Mount Isa and everywhere in between they are welcoming those CopperString jobs, especially in the shire of Richmond, which I visited a couple of weeks ago. Incidentally, Richmond's mascot is the kronosaurus, a dinosaur that has been extinct for 123 million years, I am told. North Queenslanders know that CopperString would be as extinct as the kronosaurus under the LNP.

North Queenslanders want to know what the Leader of the Opposition has against jobs in North Queensland. We know that the former member for Mundingburra did not want his job in North Queensland. They want to know why he does not want anyone else to have jobs in North Queensland. North Queenslanders know that the member for Mundingburra, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa will deliver jobs for North Queenslanders.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. It has been revealed today that the former chief justice will conduct a review into the CCC's powers. How much will this review cost taxpayers?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Clayfield for his question. He will be aware that Ms Holmes has not yet started work, but I will be happy to report to the House how much the process costs at the end.

Ambulance Service, Performance

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. With reference to the recent Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services, can the health minister please update the House on the performance of the Queensland Ambulance Service compared to other Australian states and territories?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. For the benefit of members of this House who may not know, the member for Thuringowa is a former paramedic!

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Ninderry, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: As a former paramedic, I have no doubt he will be thrilled with the Productivity Commission's recent Report on Government Services, which tells us three things about our wonderful Queensland Ambulance Service: first, the Queensland Ambulance Service is by far the busiest in the nation, responding to 1.2 million call-outs; secondly, it has the best response times in the country despite being the busiest; and, thirdly, we are the only mainland state in the country to have an ambulance service that is free—something that will never change under a Labor government.

Trad, Ms J

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Premier. What has been the total cost to the government of the Jackie Trad matter to date?

Mr MILES: As the member would be well aware, or should be well aware, we have previously indicated that that will be disclosed at the conclusion of that matter.

Winchester South Project

Mr BERKMAN: My question this morning is to the Premier. Last week this government approved Whitehaven Coal's Winchester South coalmine, which plans to extract 17 million tonnes of coal for the next 30 years. Does the Premier accept the Coordinator-General's findings that this decision will impact human rights, in particular the human rights of children and First Nations people in Queensland, due to its climate impacts?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. That project, like all projects that apply for approvals, goes through Queensland's rigorous environmental assessment process. I, of course, have confidence in our Coordinator-General and the Office of the Coordinator-General.

What the member would also be aware of is that, in order to address climate change, there is a series of global treaties that allocate emissions to the location in which those largely fossil fuels are burned. What we announced yesterday was a very strong plan to reduce the emissions for which Queensland and Australia are accountable under those treaties. We will continue to do our fair share to address climate change. We will continue to do our fair share to reduce emissions here locally. If the world is going to achieve those ambitions then industrial and resource states like Queensland need to be able to demonstrate that it is possible.

Many of those projects do have local emissions profiles—things like the diesel that they use on site, fugitive emissions and freight impacts. They are accountable here, and we will take steps to work with that industry to develop a sectoral plan to manage and reduce those emissions. That is really important and we will do that work.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, member for Maiwar, I wanted to provide some clarity. I allowed that question, but for future reference I believe there were elements of that which may have been seeking a possible legal opinion and also a general opinion in terms of whether the Premier agreed. That is for future reference, member.

Police Service, Funding

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Will the minister update the House on how important it is for the government to properly fund the Queensland Police Service, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. He is an outstanding member. He is probably the best member for Barron River that the Queensland parliament has ever seen. He does not play the fiddle like a previous member for Barron River, but he is still our best member for Barron River.

It is great to be here to once again celebrate this government's investment in the Queensland Police Service—record investment, record numbers. This is a government that supports the Queensland Police Service because they support our community.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr RYAN: It is good to welcome back the member for Ninderry to the shadow portfolio as well.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Ninderry, you are on a warning. You can now leave the chamber for one hour.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will not need any assistance from you, member for Pine Rivers.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 11.07 am.

Mr RYAN: It is disappointing to see the member for Ninderry back in the corner over there. He is the architect of the 2020 LNP police cuts plan.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are under a warning. You are continually interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour. I can do this all day.

Whereupon the honourable member for Currumbin withdrew from the chamber at 11.08 am.

Mr RYAN: The member for Ninderry was the architect of the 2020 LNP police cuts plan that they took to the election—1,000 fewer police. I will repeat: 1,000 fewer police. We know it is in the DNA of the LNP to cut police budgets, to cut police numbers. The very architect of the plan that they took to the 2020 election is back in the seat. LNP DNA—cut, cut, cut to the Queensland Police Service.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I believe there is a great deal of passion and emotion in the room, but you will direct your comments through the chair or you will be asked to leave the chamber.

Rural Fire Service

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services. With reference to the proposed amendments to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, is the government planning to require Queensland's rural fire brigades to hold off from fighting fires until an urban red truck has arrived at the scene? If so, what is the reasoning behind such a change, given these trucks can take hours to arrive in areas in my electorate?

Ms BOYD: The answer is no.

Youth Crime

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister inform the House of the successful early intervention programs that are preventing and breaking the cycle of offending, and is the minister aware of any other plans?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I know how proud he is of the South Brisbane Youth Co-Responder Team, which is one of many rolled-gold early intervention programs we have on our side, including Intensive Case Management and Project Booyah. There are also broader programs like free kindy, alternative education and Putting Queensland Kids First. These will all be game changers.

I know that the opposition reckon they have rolled-gold early intervention programs, but it is impossible to find out what any of them are. It does not matter how many times he is asked, you cannot get him to name even one of them. I do not know if he does not know or if he is just not telling. In the absence of any explanation I am going with what the member for Toowoomba South said last night: 'Past behaviour is the best predictor of future behaviour.' That means that what they mean by rolled-gold early intervention is that they will cut rolled-gold early intervention—like they cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work, youth justice conferencing, the court diversion program, the Murri Court, job placement programs and the homeless youth support scheme. What they mean is less gold standard and more substandard.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's ministerial statement this morning. Can the Premier guarantee the retrospectivity of the release of CCC reports?

Mr MILES: We will take the advice of the reviewer.

Police Service

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Will the minister update the House on the support the government is providing to the Queensland Police Service, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: Once again, it is a pleasure to get a question from the best member for Caloundra this parliament has ever seen. He is an outstanding member and a strong advocate for his community and community safety. The member for Caloundra, the Premier, the Police Commissioner and I met with a number of stakeholders yesterday, including members of the Stewart family from the Balin Stewart Foundation. They are lovely people. It is sad that such a tragedy brought about their connection to this parliament and the community. We would again like to extend our condolences to them and commend the member for Caloundra for his advocacy for that foundation. This government has put community safety front and centre. We have a strong commitment to community safety, a strong commitment to the Queensland Police Service and a strong commitment to delivering safer and better communities. That is a commitment we all hold.

I want to take this opportunity to wish the member for Burdekin well. He is no longer the shadow minister for police but he has forgotten to update his social media. Maybe the member has not been informed yet, but his social media still says that he is the shadow minister for police and corrective services. One thing—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I am pretty sure you know what I am going to say. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not a laughing matter, members. I know I like to be jovial, but not in this case.

Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 11.14 am.

Mr RYAN: One thing he has been consistent on is their failure to deliver a crime plan—it has been over 1,130 days—but I did discover his homework. I will give it to the member for Ninderry later on. When you look inside the folder for the LNP crime plan, you see that the pages are blank. I will pass that on to the member for Ninderry, along with the LNP calculator, so the member for Ninderry can work on that election commitment to cut, cut, cut the Queensland Police Service.

Gold Coast, Railway Station

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The 2023 budget documents showed that the new Gold Coast train station's indicative total budget was \$500 million, yet the Auditor-General reported the budget has increased to \$573 million. Can the minister advise why he did not disclose the \$73 million further cost increase and whether he has broken his promise to be open and transparent about cost increases on transport projects?

Mr MELLISH: As the member indicated, in my first week in this job I outlined an intention to be open and transparent about our costs going forward, program time frames and cost contributions from the state and federal governments. I am happy to get back to the member on that specific project.

What we have committed to is that twice a year, at the budget and around the midyear budget, we will update the people of Queensland on the costs of our projects and cost pressures. We will also update the costs when they reach significant milestones such as contract award. I am happy to get back to the member on this specific project.

Neighbourhood Centres

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Communities. Will the minister update the House on any new neighbourhood centre builds and the Miles government's support for neighbourhood centres throughout the state and how this investment is helping Queenslanders with the cost of living?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. He, like all of us, knows that neighbourhood centres play an important role in our community by helping people navigate services. That is made all the easier by the fact that we have been able to support the employment of Community Connect workers and access the Emergency Relief Fund, which our government has recently expanded—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH:—by an additional investment of \$3.3 million. We know that emergency relief funding was completely cut by those opposite when they were in government. Whether it is learning new skills through our government's investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, we are ensuring that we are funding more opportunities through our neighbourhood centres. We are building more in places like Atherton, Bowen, Gladstone, Inala, Kallangur, Thursday Island, Wilsonton Heights, Yeronga and Yarrabilba, and we are starting more work at Bribie Island, Caboolture, Manooora, Ripley and Rockhampton and—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders already and you continue to interject. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 11.17 am.

Ms ENOCH: I recently had the opportunity to turn the first sod on the \$3.8 million Manunda Neighbourhood Centre in Cairns with the member for Cairns. We know that this investment is incredibly important for our local communities. Our neighbourhood centres are at the heart of our communities. What we saw from those opposite when they were in government were cuts, cuts, cuts to our neighbourhood centres. They cut emergency relief funding, they cut essential programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and they gagged the organisations that worked in those centres. We will continue to support neighbourhood centres because they are an important part of our community.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. You are interrupting your own member trying to ask a question.

Rural Fire Service

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery. Three thousand Rural Fire Service volunteers who were involved in the 2019 Black Summer bushfires feel betrayed and undervalued following significant delays in recognising their bravery through the awarding of the National Emergency Medal. Can the minister advise what is delaying the awarding of these medals to these dedicated volunteers?

Ms BOYD: I thank the member for his question. Given that these are national medals, I am happy to look into the matter and get back to the member for Burnett around time frames.

Housing

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for Housing. Can the minister please update the House on how the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders will support first home buyers, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: Can I say in this question time that the boys club of those opposite is in fact real. They have halved the number of women they have on that side just in this question time. I want to thank the member for Bundaberg for the question.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is a clear reflection on your rulings, as you are the one who makes the decision to eject members from this chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you can please sit down. It is not a reflection.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is reflecting on your rulings.

Mr SPEAKER: What the member, as I heard her, was referring to was the behaviour that led to those members leaving the chamber. I must adhere to the standing orders, as must all members. They have been removed from the chamber because they were clearly warned that if they continued to interject they would be leaving the chamber. I cannot be any more clear than that. I appreciate your point of order but it is not a valid point of order.

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. He is a registered teacher and a renter as well. I know that is something that triggers those opposite. We have the old housing minister over there who has a go at people literally half his age in this House just because we are renters. I am not sure it is a particularly winning strategy—but you do you.

On this side of the House, we will focus on supporting renters and we will also help first home buyers get into the market. One of the ways we can do that is by legislating the Help to Buy scheme to roll out here in Queensland. I would have thought that was something those opposite would wholeheartedly support, particularly given that it was the big announcement in the Leader of the Opposition's Media Club speech. He said he was going to look at a shared equity scheme. Well, it turns out that even the Leader of the Opposition had forgotten about what he had announced, because only moments later, when of course their mates in Canberra decided to block it, he conveniently forgot about that announcement. It is weak, and that is what we see from the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP every day of the week. They say one thing and then they do the complete opposite. It is only our Labor government that will stand up for renters and stand up for first home buyers. Those opposite will not pick up the phone to Peter Dutton and the LNP to help low- and middle-income earners get into the housing market.

Residential Care

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Given that Queensland has double the number of children in residential care of any other state and the residential care road map has no new funding, as the minister confirmed on ABC Radio, why should Queenslanders believe that vulnerable Queensland children are a priority under this Labor government?

Mrs MULLEN: I would like to thank the member for the question. There are currently 1,807 children and young people in residential care in Queensland, and that represents 15 per cent of the overall number of children in out-of-home care. I acknowledge that is too high. Whilst residential care is an important part of the placement mix for Child Safety, I do believe it is over utilised. We know that many children and young people would be best served in family placements, in either foster or kinship care. Those growing concerns around the utilisation of residential care is what led to this review. I want to acknowledge the former minister for child safety, the member for Barron River, who not only instigated this review but actually completed the review during his time.

This was an operational review. Our peak bodies have contributed to this review. The road map for residential care sets a very ambitious target—and it is an ambitious target—to halve the number of children and young people in residential care over the next five years. The road map makes it very clear that, yes, in the first year of that residential road map there is no additional funding because we are able to do the work within our funding envelope. However, as I also made very clear on ABC Radio, I will consider that residential road map and look at additional funding as needed. We are very committed to this residential road map. We are looking to halve those numbers, and that is something only a Labor government is committed to doing.

Rockhampton Ring Road

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road project, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. The Miles government is delivering for Central Queensland. The fully funded Rockhampton Ring Road will transform the entire region, delivering a pipeline of construction for local workers and game changing infrastructure for Rockhampton. It will mean a safer and quicker drive for locals and more productive travel for our transport sector, moving freight more efficiently around our state. This is what happens when state and federal governments work together. This commitment from our government will deliver the full 17.4-kilometre Rockhampton Ring Road, with an increased Australian government—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Please resume your seat. Member for Buderim, you are on a warning. I am starting to feel that members are not listening. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Buderim withdrew from the chamber at 11.24 am.

Mr MELLISH: Those opposite do not want to hear. This will deliver, as well as a new roadway, 18 new bridges and vastly improved flood immunity, and it will increase the number of access points to the great city of Rockhampton. Last month, along with the Prime Minister, Premier, federal Minister for Infrastructure, the hardworking local members and our new candidate for Rockhampton, Craig Marshall, we checked out progress of the construction, and wasn't it great? There were plenty of local workers who are really proud to be part of such a significant project.

There was also a strange visitor who seemed to be lurking around the perimeter of the project site for about an hour in a weirdly branded vehicle. Upon closer inspection, it turns out it was a federal senator. It seemed a bit strange that there was a federal senator lurking around the site. He did not come in, and he did not ask to come in. It turns out it was actually the Rockhampton Ring Road role player Matt Canavan, watching from the sidelines and learning how to deliver Labor projects. The reality is we had a federal LNP government for a decade who dragged their feet on this project. It was Labor members on the front line advocating for it despite the false and slightly crazed campaigning by the LNP. The member for Rockhampton, the member for Keppel and our new candidate will deliver this project.

Cohen, Ms D

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Why did the government appoint the Premier's former chief of staff, Danielle Cohen, to a new position in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet without advertising the position?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maroochydore for her question. As has been extensively canvassed publicly, I had no role in that appointment.

Far North Queensland, Disaster Recovery

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister advise how the Miles government is assisting the disaster recovery in the Far North, especially in isolated communities like Cape Tribulation?

Ms BOYD: I thank the member for Cook for her question. She is a champion of Far North Queensland. I have been absolutely privileged to visit the community of Cape Tribulation, along with her and the Premier, who I know has been there a couple of times. We plan to go back again shortly. The recovery efforts in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Jasper have been extensive and ongoing. We are committed to standing with those communities in the recovery every single step of the way. We are here for the long haul.

I have been to Cape Tribulation, as I said, and I hope to get there again soon with the member for Cook. The road to Cape Tribulation and the Bloomfield Track are critical arteries for these communities, and they have been significantly impacted. These are council roads; they are the responsibility of the Douglas Shire Council. I have advised both the Douglas shire mayor and the CEO that any requests for assistance through the Department of Transport and Main Roads to assist in the repairs of the road to Cape Tribulation would be eligible for funding through joint state and federal Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements under restoration of public assets. It is great to see some progress in this area. I encourage the council to keep on using the resources that are being made available.

The Cape Tribulation community needs this road open. I say to the Douglas Shire Council: let's work together. While the timing of the repairs to both roads is a matter for the Douglas council, I would urge the council to clearly communicate with the Cape Tribulation community. This is a community that will need support until the Cape Tribulation road is open. I encourage council to work together with the Queensland Police Service as the lead agency responsible for resupply. I also encourage Douglas Shire Council to continue working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to use the DRFA funded \$1 million local recovery and resilience grant to help address localised social and community recovery needs.

I can also confirm that we are working closely with the federal government to further support isolated communities. I know the member for Cook has been a great champion in that regard, as has the member for Hill. Those are concerns for communities in their electorates that we have been listening to and that we will act upon. The Miles government will always stand with communities through this recovery, and communities like Cape Tribulation should not be politicised, punished or left behind by the LNP.

Crime; Cost of Living

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Labor's secret polling has just been released in the media. It found that fewer than one in five Queenslanders are satisfied by the state Labor government's handling of crime and cost-of-living pressures. Does the Premier admit that the longer Labor are in power the worse the crime and cost-of-living crises have become?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for his question. It is pretty ironic to say—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, my apologies. It is 11.30 am. There remains one minute for the response, to 11.31 am.

Mr MILES: As I was just observing, the member's question suggested there was secret polling that had just been released. The polling is not secret anymore! It has all been released. It is all on the website, because that is the kind of government the Miles government will be.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Members, the level of interjections is far too high. Please, have some decorum in the House. Premier, you have 39 seconds remaining.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have nothing further to add.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended during this day's sitting to extend question time by 15 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Infrastructure Funding

 **Ms McMILLAN** (11.32 am): Mr Speaker—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Questions will be heard in silence, regardless if it is an extension of question time or regular question time, Leader of the Opposition.

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member. Questions will be heard in silence. I have just given you a direction, Leader of the Opposition. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms McMILLAN:—how much the Miles Labor government is spending on delivering the hospitals, roads, schools and other infrastructure our growing state needs?

Mr DICK: I am pleased to take the question from the member for Mansfield. I can inform the member for Mansfield and the House that the Miles Labor government is investing \$96 billion towards our record Big Build infrastructure program.

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Queensland Hydro was due to present its detailed analytical report for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project by the end of 2023. Has the minister received this report, and if not why not?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. I thank the member for his interest in what are nation-building assets. Yesterday we made one of the most significant commitments to the economic transformation of this state by introducing the Clean Economy Jobs Bill to this House. Queenslanders have been clear: they will expect to hear from the Leader of the Opposition whether he supports the reform that this will make to our energy system—whether they will support the decarbonisation of industries in a way that creates jobs, protects our environment and grows our

economy. We know that the reform of the energy system is absolutely fundamental to decarbonising Queensland. You cannot do that without deep storage, without those pumped hydro storage assets. The Queensland government will respond to the detailed analytical report at the point at which it is finalised.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the extended question time will conclude today at 11.46 am.

Cost of Living

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services. What is the Miles government doing to support seniors with cost-of-living pressures, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs MULLEN: I thank the member for the question. Older Queenslanders are now living longer than any other generation. They have more time and more opportunities, but we know that with that comes more costs. We are providing older Queenslanders with practical assistance so they can live their best lives. Almost 90 per cent of those aged 60 and over hold a Seniors Card, Seniors Card +go or Seniors Business Discount Card. These cards provide a range of discounts and other savings, but we know that cost-of-living pressures remain a major challenge. That is why this government has invested \$1.8 billion for concessions and rebates on energy, utilities and rates bills.

For our seniors and pensioners, we have provided a \$700 cost-of-living rebate on electricity bills. With the Queensland electricity rebate scheme, this saves them \$1,072 on electricity bills this financial year. Our seniors and pensioners could also be eligible for up to 18 concessions and rebates. Importantly, we are also connecting seniors to each other and to their communities through our \$4 million investment in more than 40 senior social isolation services across the state.

Our seniors deserve respect and help to age well, but they also deserve to know whether the LNP will commit to keeping progressive coal royalties or whether they will cut subsidies and services to seniors, as they did when they were last in government. We know that the reason David Crisafulli is not revealing his plan for cuts is that he believes—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you need to use correct titles.

Mrs MULLEN: Sorry. The reason the Leader of the Opposition is not revealing his plan for cuts is that he thinks he has already won.

Watch Houses, Children

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Can the minister confirm that no children have been sexually assaulted by another detainee whilst being held in custody in a police watch house in the past 12 months?

Mrs MULLEN: I thank the member for the question. That is not information that would be provided to me. I would really appreciate the opportunity to perhaps meet with the member to have his allegations verified through the department. Thank you.

Residential Tenancies

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Minister for Housing. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles government's Homes for Queenslanders plan will support renters, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. I know that he is a strong champion for the 13,500 renters in the Redlands area. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan has a \$160 million rent relief package as well as strong law reforms to help renters in this state. We will ban all types of rent bidding, we will bring in a portable bond scheme, and we will establish a code of conduct to crack down on dodgy and unprofessional practices in the rental sector.

I point out the code of conduct because we used to have one here in Queensland, except it was abolished. It was abolished by the LNP; in fact, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was the person who got rid of those laws to protect renters. In fact, not only did they get rid of that function but also they completely defunded the service that looks after renters' rights, a service that we re-funded and which last year helped 100,000 renters in this state. None of those people would have been helped if the member for Everton were the housing minister in this state, and that is a job that the Leader of the

Opposition wants to give him again. This is someone who has such disdain for renters that not only did he cut funding but also he said no to Commonwealth government funding for this service. A *Brisbane Times* article at the time stated—

Tim Mander said he would reject the Commonwealth's \$2.5 million emergency funding offer to keep the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service open because it did not fit with the government's policy.

It did not fit with the government's policy to help renters in Queensland. It is clear that an LNP government will not only cut renters' protections but also cut renters' support services, just like they will cut social housing like they did last time.

Housing, Indigenous Communities

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning. I refer to the recent Productivity Commission report, and I table a copy of table 18A.33 'Proportion of overcrowded households at 30 June—Indigenous community housing'.

Tabled paper: Extract from document, undated, regarding Productivity Commission report data [\[201\]](#).

What is the minister doing to improve overcrowding in Indigenous community housing, with the government having spent \$1.655 billion between 2018 and 2022 yet we have the worst figures of any state, at 23.5 per cent?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. We have explained at length the actual facts of that data, which you continue to mislead Queenslanders about.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, Minister.

Ms SCANLON: Sorry; that the member continues to mislead Queenslanders about. I want to be very clear: we have increased housing in remote communities in this state by hundreds of homes. We could have done more if his mates in the Liberal National Party had not discontinued the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. The LNP's track record is to gut funding for housing in remote Indigenous communities. It is shameful. I cannot even believe he has the audacity to come into this House and ask that question.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms SCANLON: It is pathetic. Our government is delivering—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Maryborough is warned under the standing orders. Member for Logan, you are also warned under the standing orders—not immediately, take your mind back to 30 seconds ago.

Ms SCANLON: Our government will deliver thousands and thousands of homes through Homes for Queenslanders—a plan that those opposite have suggested is too much. We know that that is code for cuts. We know that because that is exactly what they did last time. Whether it is the state or the federal LNP, every time they are in government, they cut. They are not interested in closing the gap. If they were interested in closing the gap they would have done something, but they gutted funding. It is shameful. Only a Labor government will deliver homes in remote Indigenous communities because that is what Labor governments stand for.

Electricity Prices

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on which state is driving down electricity prices because they kept electricity assets in public hands?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. Queensland.

Watch Houses, Children

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Premier. A whistleblower has provided information that a young girl was sexually assaulted by another detainee in the Cairns watch house. Can the Premier confirm this is under investigation, and what action has been taken?

Mr MILES: As the member would be aware, that is not the kind of incident that would be referred to me, but I would urge the member to refer it to police because it is very serious.

Health System, Workforce

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Health. Can the minister update the House on how many healthcare workers the Queensland government has hired since 2015, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Stretton for that question because I am absolutely delighted to inform him that since 2015 our Labor government has hired 20,000 more full-time doctors, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and paramedics. In fact, our 2024 junior doctor intake—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I wish 'da boys' club would quieten down and let me finish when I am talking about junior doctor intakes because I would really like the House to know that this year's junior doctor intake was our largest yet. A record 838 medical interns were deployed across 20 of the state's rural, regional and metropolitan health facilities. I am pleased to report to the House that, as part of our nation-leading \$42 million investment in regional and rural maternity services, we are partnering with RANZCOG to support GPs to undertake advanced obstetric training. We have 13 qualified and trainee rural generalists taking up that offer in areas such as Mackay, Rockhampton, Mount Isa and Townsville, which will make a big difference.

In recognition of the importance of compassionate end-of-life care, I am pleased to announce that the Miles Labor government is investing \$102 million in growing the capacity of our specialist palliative care workforce. I am proud to inform the House that \$350,000 has been allocated this month to fund postgraduate palliative care education for 57 health workers across Queensland. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Greenslopes—a former nurse in palliative care—for being a committed and tireless advocate for further support. Of course, this is in contrast to the record of those opposite who sacked 4,400 health workers.

Economy

Mr WEIR: My question is to the Premier. The respected CommSec report has Queensland as the worst performing state economy in the country. Can the Premier explain why Queensland is the last state in the nation on this key economic measure?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have one minute to respond.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for his question. His timing could not be more perfect because the Australian Bureau of Statistics have just released their workforce and labour force data, so I can advise the House that in Queensland another 6,000 jobs have been created. In fact—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr POWELL: The question was about the CommSec report and not about ABS statistics.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member; that is not a point of order.

Mr MILES: The member for Glass House might not want to hear this fantastic news for Queensland, but I know that Queenslanders do, because we have maintained our record low unemployment. Eight out of 10 jobs created in Australia were created right here in Queensland. This is a direct result of the economic plan that our government is delivering. We are supporting 58,000 jobs with our Big Build, but the trend unemployment rate remains steady at just 4.3 per cent in January.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Unemployment



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (11.47 am): I have some further data from the ABS workforce statistics that I am sure everyone in this House wants to hear. As I indicated, the trend unemployment rate remains steady at just 4.3 per cent in January. When we came to office we inherited an unemployment rate of 6.6 per cent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Queensland has come down from 4.3 per cent to 4.2 per cent. It is evidence of the strength of the Queensland economy. It is evidence of the success of the economic policies that we are pursuing. It is evidence of what a great state we are in.

MOTION

Amendment to Sessional Orders



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.47 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. The sessional orders be amended to the following:

Shadow Minister Diary Extracts

15. (1) Shadow Ministers are required to publish on the Queensland Parliament website, on a monthly basis, information in relation to official Shadow Minister related meetings with external parties listed in their diaries, including as a minimum, the date of the meeting, name of the organisation or person and the purpose of the meeting.
- (2) For any meeting with a registered lobbyist or any person working for the lobbyist in any capacity, other than administrative staff, the diary must also include details about all attendees and a short description of the subject matter of the meeting.
- (3) Consideration should be given to the Information Privacy Principles contained in the Information Privacy Act 2009 in determining what material is to be published.

2. The requirements in sessional order 15 are to be effective from 1 March 2024, with the first publication in April 2024.



Mr BLEIJIE (11.48 am): I move the following amendment—

That all the words from 'Shadow Minister Diary Extracts' to 'to official Shadow Minister' be deleted and the following words inserted—

'Diary Extracts

15. (1) Shadow Ministers and Portfolio Committee Chairs (excluding Ethics and PCCC) are required to publish on the Queensland Parliament website, on a monthly basis, information in relation to official Shadow Minister and Committee Chairs'

We support the diaries of shadow ministers being released publicly, but we also think, in the interest of transparency and openness, the diaries of chairs of portfolio committees, who get paid an additional \$70,000, should be published on the parliamentary website. I would be very interested to see the member for Miller's future meetings. We know that the member for Miller was subjected to a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation with respect to 30,000 secret emails in the mangocube scandal. We also know that the member for Miller was liaising with ETU officials about future government appointments—and, I might add, who would get the sack under a Labor government in the Public Service if they were not aligned with the union movement. I note that the member for Miller, who has disgraced himself so as not to be—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Chair.

Mr BLEIJIE:—appointed a minister—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Chair.

Mr BLEIJIE:—is now—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Chair!

Mr BLEIJIE:—on a \$70,000—

Mr BAILEY: Point of order, Chair!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Miller, I appreciate that you were trying to get my attention, but we were also changing occupants of the chair and I was seeking advice from the Clerk.

Mr BAILEY: That's fine.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr BAILEY: I find those comments personally offensive and disgraceful and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice from the clerks at the table. Member for Miller, I will grant the point of order. However, the standing orders do not refer to the term 'disgraceful'; they refer to the term 'offensive'. I would ask members to restrict their language to the correct terms when they are taking points of order. Member for Kawana, I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The member for Miller was previously a minister and is not serving in the ministry of the Miles government for whatever reason. We can only assume why that is the case. I would be very interested in—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the numerous interjections—‘incompetent failure’ and all those sorts of things. I take all of those interjections. The member for Miller is now serving as chair of a portfolio committee—I think it is the education committee—attracting additional salary of some \$70,000. The government thinks it is okay to publish the diaries of shadow ministers; however, it cannot make government decisions in opposition or spend government money. Committee chairs are actually government members, so I think Queenslanders would be far more interested to know what the member for Miller gets up to and who he meets before committee meetings and what lobbying the member for Miller may receive from lobbyists and so forth. The motion that the government has moved does not include the lobbyist obligations of chairs of portfolio committees.

You would know, Mr Deputy Speaker, that portfolio committee chairs are quite powerful; hence they get paid the additional money. They set the agendas, the meeting times and places and have influence over the voting record with the casting vote. Other than on the PCCC, it is the government members who control the committees. I have excluded the Ethics Committee and the PCCC for obvious reasons: they are not portfolio committees and so are not responsible for education, industrial relations, state development and so forth. I think this is a very good amendment that we are moving today to the government’s motion. If we are serious about having the discussion about openness and transparency, let the sunshine in on committee chairs’ diaries.

The Leader of the Opposition stated in a media interview that the opposition would be very happy for our shadow ministers’ diaries to be released. I would be very interested to see the Premier’s diary when it is released to see the entries for the six days before parliament sat when he went missing in action. We will see that when it is finally released.

I might also add that the opposition leader has not been consulted on these amendments. He made the comment publicly, which is great, that the Premier wrote to the opposition leader and basically said, ‘It’s going to happen.’ We have not been consulted on this. The difference to understand is that shadow ministers do not come under Ministerial Services Branch; they do not get the support of Ministerial Services Branch. It is their electorate officers who will now have the administrative burden of going through the shadow ministerial diaries and their publication on the parliament’s website. The Leader of the House might say, ‘No, the opposition office can do it.’ Here is the difference: the government have some 250 staff—

Mr Crisafulli: Two hundred and seventy.

Mr BLEIJIE: They have 270 staff; the opposition has some 22 staff. In terms of also disclosing the Leader of the Opposition’s diary and my diary, there are no worries. We already keep a note of lobbyist activities anyway. The passing of this motion will result in a big administrative burden. Who is going to do this? It will be the electorate officers of the shadow ministers; this will take time away from serving constituents as they view diaries for publication. If the government were serious about openness and transparency it would have been good for it to look at the resources attached to this. It will not necessarily be the opposition office; it will be the Clerk’s staff in the electorate offices who will be doing this. I am not sure if the Parliamentary Service is going to furnish electorate offices with additional resources to do this. If you do it, you want to make sure you do it right.

This is the sort of politicking and rushed decision-making that we have just seen in this government, extending question time to try to catch the opposition out—and I can tell honourable members that the opposition will never be caught short of questions for this bad Labor government. I can assure them of that. If they had kept this going all day, my only fear is that we would not have run out of questions; we would have run out of members who had not been thrown out to ask the questions. That is the only concern I would have had.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: I return to this motion, which is about transparency on diaries. Can honourable members recall who introduced the amendments for ministerial diaries to be published? It was an LNP government that first disclosed ministerial diaries. I recall at the time there was also a review of the Right to Information Act, and this is what should happen in this process. We want an amendment to

this motion, but we will support it. This is what should have happened, like when we reviewed the RTI Act. Some submitters to the former LNP government said that the opposition office should be subjected to right to information. At the time we consulted with Annastacia Palaszczuk as the then opposition leader and came to the conclusion that, because the opposition do not make decisions of government, it was not appropriate. We did not proceed with it. What we did do was consult with the then opposition. This Labor government under Premier Miles conducts no consultation; it is just going to do it. Why? Nine years in office—the arrogance and hubris builds up after nine years in office. That is what we have seen here today. That is what we saw with the shambolic question time of this government and the chaos.

If the new Leader of the House is serious about openness and transparency, let's see the member for Miller's diary come March when he takes over the position of chair of a very important committee. Let's see the diaries of the other portfolio committee chairs and who they are meeting with. It raises the point that if lobbyists are meeting with chairs of portfolio committees to advocate a particular position on a bill or advocate for amendments to particular pieces of legislation then those meetings should also be disclosed.

If the government does not agree to my amendment, that shows it is not serious about transparency and openness. All it is trying to do is wedge an opposition. We are not going to be wedged. We will comply with the laws. We will comply with the new standing orders. All I would ask is: did the Leader of the House take into consideration the additional resources required for electorate office staff of shadow ministers, because shadow ministers do not come under Ministerial Services Branch? Shadow ministerial travel does not come under Ministerial Services Branch. Shadow ministers' administrative arrangements are made by our electorate staff. Have the electorate office staff been consulted about this new additional requirement being put on them? What are the penalties if an electorate office staff member make an administrative error? What happens to the electorate office's staff? What are the penalties?

Mr Langbroek: Some people are part-time.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. Many of our electorate staff are not full-time; they are part-time, casual and relief staff. Whose requirement is it in terms of the electorate office staff?

I simply make the point, as I did at the start: the opposition will support openness and transparency because it is the LNP that has led the reforms for openness and transparency in this state. If the government were serious it would also agree to my amendment, which ensures that if the member for Miller is meeting with lobbyists and so forth that is absolutely disclosed. Why, you may ask, Mr Deputy Speaker? Here is why I think it is so important, particularly for the member for Miller. It is because I do not trust the member for Miller. I do not trust him because of his record. I do not trust the member for Miller because of the blowouts that we saw under his watch in his ministerial portfolio. He was a minister but a failed minister. The government did not have confidence that the member for Miller could be a minister—


Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again the member for Kawana is using personally offensive terms quite deliberately. I find it personally offensive and it is not in conformity with the spirit of this House and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the member has found your comments personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I would encourage the government to support the opposition amendment. We will comply with the new standing orders. I hope there are additional resources provided to our electorate offices.

Mr McDonald: Let the sunshine in.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: let the sunshine in on committee chairs like the member for Miller, because I do not trust the Labor government.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.00 pm): I am sure the members in the gallery got to see a demonstration of the unbecoming character of those opposite in that contribution and were pleased to see it come to an end. The government will not be supporting the amendment.

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

AYES, 30:

LNP, 28—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, 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.

Pair: Lauga, Perrett.


Resolved in the negative.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Rural Fire Service

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.06 pm): In relation to the question from the member for Burnett, I have been advised that the bushfires of the summer of 2019-20 were declared a national emergency in December 2020. QFES left the nominations open for a year to capture the most number of members and then processed approximately 3,000 nominations. This highlights the tremendous efforts of our heroic Queenslanders during that event. I want to take this opportunity to place on record our deep appreciation for those fires once again. All nominations were submitted to the Governor-General's office by May 2022. To date, no medals have been disseminated to QFES members despite regular contact with the Governor-General's office. The Governor-General's office has seen a significant number of nominations for individuals alongside many bulk nominations for emergency services and similar organisations from other states.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.07 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010, the Public Sector Act 2022, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[202\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[203\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[204\]](#).

Today I am pleased to introduce the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 containing a package of reforms to improve the operation of the Crime and Corruption Commission through amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and related legislation. The CCC plays a critical role in Queensland's anti-corruption and integrity landscape and has various other important functions in combatting and reducing major crime, witness protection and civil confiscations.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption recognises the importance of remaining ever vigilant against corruption. The UN notes that the diversion of scarce resources by corrupt parties affects a government's ability to provide basic services to its citizens and encourage sustainable

economic, social and political development. Moreover, it can jeopardise the health and safety of citizens, thereby impacting on the most vulnerable people in our community. The UN convention highlights that, most fundamentally, corruption undermines the prospects for economic investment and that widespread public suspicion that systems are corrupt and that criminal offences are committed by elites in both private and public spheres undercuts government legitimacy and undermines the rule of law. The ramifications for civil society if serious and organised crime is left unchecked are equally detrimental. The Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC, KC in his report on the commission of inquiry into official corruption in Queensland observed that—

Civil liberties are of limited worth if society is so altered by crime that they cannot be properly exercised or enjoyed.

The majority of the bill's amendments respond to various recommendations across three Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee reports relating to the activities of the CCC. It also responds to a recommendation of the commission of inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission established by this government and undertaken by Tony Fitzgerald and Alan Wilson. The commission of inquiry found that, while the form and function of the CCC has changed over the past three decades, the organisation still has a central role in Queensland's integrity landscape as envisaged in the 1989 Fitzgerald report and remains fundamental to combatting major crime and corruption in the state. For that reason, the commission of inquiry noted it is imperative the CCC must remain an independent, fair and impartial body trusted by the public to achieve its important statutory functions.

One of the key reforms in this bill is to provide enhanced oversight of decision-making in corruption investigations by requiring that the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions be sought about a decision to bring charges arising from a corruption investigation. The commission of inquiry highlighted the complexity of cases investigated by the CCC and the harm that can eventuate if after a prosecution has been commenced criminal charges are subsequently withdrawn. Sound charging decisions are essential to the reputation and continued good standing of the CCC, and the commission of inquiry concluded that external oversight of decisions to charge in respect of matters arising out of a corruption investigation is essential to ensure the decision is made without reference to impermissible considerations.

While various options were considered, the commission of inquiry was firmly of the view that, exceptional circumstances aside, the DPP's advice should be required before a charge arising from a corruption investigation is laid. The DPP ultimately holds the discretion about whether a charge proceeds or not and can provide genuine independent advice. The commission of inquiry considered that the DPP is best placed to identify gaps in evidence, have the CCC follow up on evidentiary issues, assess the sufficiency of evidence and scrutinise potential defences that are open on the material to hand. The commission of inquiry highlighted, however, that the feasibility of this approach required the DPP to receive adequate funding. The government has delivered on this commitment and announced additional funding relating to the commission of inquiry in last year's state budget.

The bill provides that the CCC must seek the written advice of the DPP on whether a person should be prosecuted arising from a corruption investigation before a charge is laid by a prosecuting authority, including a police officer seconded to the CCC. The CCC must provide a report to the DPP on its investigation with all relevant information known to the CCC. The bill clarifies that the report can include compelled materials and is not limited to material that would necessarily be admissible in a prosecution. As reinforced by the commission of inquiry, it is critical that the DPP has access to all relevant information to ensure it can make an informed decision about the decision to charge in accordance with the director's guidelines. However, I am assured the DPP has strong and effective processes and procedures in place to ensure this does not compromise a person's right to a fair trial.

I note that commencement of a prosecution before seeking the DPP's advice will be allowed in exceptional circumstances. To ensure flexibility, 'exceptional circumstances' is not defined but, as noted by the commission of inquiry, may include where arrest is necessary to ensure the person's appearance before a court—for example, where an alert notifies investigators that a target is at the airport with a one-way ticket to a non-extradition country. Exceptional circumstances must be determined having regard to the particular facts and circumstances of the individual matter. Where exceptional circumstances exist, the CCC must still seek the DPP's written advice as soon as reasonably practicable. Where the DPP provides written advice to the CCC that a prosecution should be commenced and the prosecuting authority declines to commence the prosecution, the CCC must inform the PCCC and Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner.

The amendments make it clear that legal professional privilege will attach to the DPP's written advice and confidential communications between the CCC and DPP. The CCC and DPP must enter a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the operation of the new process for the prosecution of corruption offences, and the amendments set out the types of matters which must be included in that MOU. The CCC must provide advice to the minister as soon as practicable after the MOU is entered into and then report regularly to the minister, PCCC and parliamentary commissioner on the effectiveness and utility of the MOU. To ensure transparency and accountability, the MOU must be published on the CCC's website.

While on the topic of the commission of inquiry, I am pleased to note that the CCC's implementation of other recommendations in the commission of inquiry report are also well underway. The chairperson provides regular progress reports on the implementation and delivery of these recommendations to government, as well as the PCCC and parliamentary commissioner. Quarterly progress reports are also published on the CCC's website.

Turning to other provisions in the bill, a longstanding, significant and highly complex piece of work has culminated in amendments contained in the bill relating to recommendation 6 of PCCC report No. 97. This recommendation was for a review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act to develop uniform provisions for CCC powers with generic application to the CCC functions where appropriate and to clarify what specific privileges are abrogated or unaffected by the provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act.

The CCC has extraordinary powers which are not normally available to law enforcement bodies. This allows it to effectively perform its functions. The coercive powers in the Crime and Corruption Act broadly fall into two categories: first, allowing the CCC to require various forms of information to be provided upon the giving of a notice; and, second, certain powers allowing the CCC to compel the giving of information during a hearing. Currently under the CC Act, different enforcement processes apply depending on the particular function being exercised by the CCC. This has led to significant complexity and potential confusion. The bill contains amendments designed to: provide single processes outside a hearing for the discovery of information and production of documents and things across all relevant functions; ensure consistency across functions for attendance and consideration of matters at a hearing; and streamline related offence provisions for failure to comply with the exercise of enforcement powers. These amendments are not intended to provide additional powers to the CCC. Rather, they are designed to reduce confusion and augment comprehension of the application of the powers and privileges. However, to achieve uniformity some changes to the current provisions were inevitable. In these circumstances, regard has been had to the need to appropriately balance giving the CCC necessary powers to do its important work against safeguarding individual human rights. The amendments are also not designed to substantively change the existing powers and processes provided for under the CC Act in relation to confiscation investigations.

In relation to claims of reasonable excuse, including privilege, the bill contains a new chapter 4A to: simplify the definition of privilege across all CCC functions; clarify the abrogation of privilege for specific functions; provide uniform processes applying across all relevant functions for the determination of claims of reasonable excuse, including privilege; and provide uniform provisions for the safekeeping of documents or things where a claim of reasonable excuse, including privilege, is raised.

Under the current act, claims of reasonable excuse and privilege are generally dealt with in two separate ways. For corruption matters and confiscation related investigations, claims are dealt with by the Supreme Court after initial consideration by the commission officer. For crime investigation matters, intelligence function and the witness protection function, claims are considered by the presiding officer at a hearing with a right to seek the leave of the Supreme Court to appeal the decision of the presiding officer. The new process in the bill continues to provide for claims to be considered by the CCC but distinguishes claims made outside of hearings and claims made in hearings.

Consolidated provisions for CCC consideration of claims will apply across all functions, with the exception of confiscations. Preliminary consideration by the CCC, whether in or outside a hearing, is intended to provide an option for the consideration and acceptance of claims by a suitably qualified and experienced CCC officer, thereby saving persons the expense and inconvenience of having the claim dealt with by a court in every instance. If a claim is not accepted by the CCC, a person retains the right for consideration by the Supreme Court.

As part of the chapters 3 and 4 review, the government gave consideration to the application of journalist shield laws to the CCC. The bill delivers on our commitment to establish a statutory framework under the CC Act to protect the journalist-informant relationship, known as shield laws, by creating a qualified journalist privilege applying in CCC investigations and hearings consistent with the approach in the Evidence Act 1977. Consideration of claims of journalist privilege are incorporated into the new procedures for dealing with claims of privilege in new chapter 4A of the Crime and Corruption Act and will apply across all CCC functions, including confiscation matters.

The bill also contains amendments to provide the CCC with the ability to give notices by email and allow the appearance of a person via audio or audiovisual link at CCC hearings. These provisions are designed to ensure that the CCC has sufficient flexibility to continue to perform its functions in the public interest. A range of safeguards are included to ensure that these provisions are only used in appropriate circumstances.

As members would be aware, the CCC is headed by a five-member group comprised of a full-time commissioner who is the chairperson, a part-time commissioner who is the deputy chairperson, and three part-time ordinary commissioners. To support increased diversity and inclusion in the CCC and ensure its leadership is not dominated by lawyers, the bill implements recommendation 1 of PCCC report No. 106 by amending section 225 of the Crime and Corruption Act to insert a revised provision dealing with the composition of experience of ordinary commissioners.

Under the new provision, at least two persons are to have a demonstrated interest and ability in community affairs, public administration or organisational leadership to be qualified for appointment as ordinary commissioners. Section 228 of the Crime and Corruption Act provides for the PCCC's involvement in the nomination of a person for appointment as the chairperson, deputy chairperson, ordinary commissioner or chief executive officer.

In recommendation 3 of report No. 106, the PCCC recommended that, for the consideration of nominees for appointment as commissioners, including the chairperson and CEO, the government give consideration to developing a mechanism to ensure nominees are appropriately considered by the PCCC and any delay in progressing consideration of appointments be able to be publicly discussed. The government supported this recommendation in principle.

Under the Crime and Corruption Act there are currently no explicit provisions relating to the time frames for bipartisan support of the PCCC for appointments or specifically enabling publication of related information. The bill will introduce a 30-day time frame, with possible two-week extension, within which the PCCC must notify the minister whether an appointment has bipartisan support and provide for the PCCC to publish, as part of its annual report, information about the PCCC's participation in the appointment process.

The bill will also introduce a seven-year fixed non-renewable term for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and ordinary commissioners consistent with recommendation 4 of the PCCC report No. 106. No change is made to the current requirement for appointment of the CEO as the current 10-year cap applying to the position is considered an appropriate balance between the retention of corporate knowledge and the need for renewal.

In relation to senior officers, the current appointment provisions will be retained apart from relaxing the precondition on extending tenure from 10 to 15 years. The bill also includes a provision allowing tenure limits to be reset after 10 years has elapsed for a person who has permanently left the CCC. The bill provides that the requirement to give notice to the PCCC will arise where a senior officer has been appointed to a further term and that term will result in the senior officer holding office for a period in excess of 10 years. These proposals aim to enhance the independence of the CCC while providing some increased flexibility in senior executive appointments to allow for retention of corporate knowledge and a succession pipeline, particularly having regard to its current and extensive reform and renewal agenda.

The bill also includes amendments to implement recommendations 5, 9 and 28 of report No. 106 and recommendation 27 of report No. 97 by: enabling the CCC to give directions for the performance of duties by CCC officers who are engaged under section 256 of the Crime and Corruption Act to meet temporary circumstances; allowing the parliamentary commissioner to investigate on their own initiative corrupt conduct of a CCC officer; and ensuring CCC officers can make lawful disclosures and be afforded the same protections under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 as those engaged in a unit of public administration.

The Inquiry into the Future Role, Structure, Powers and Operations of the Criminal Justice Commission, known as the Connolly-Ryan inquiry, was established in October 1996 but terminated in August 1997 following the issuing of an injunction by the Supreme Court. The records and data of this

inquiry are currently in the custody of the parliamentary commissioner under section 374 of the Crime and Corruption Act. The documents are not regarded as public records under the Public Records Act 2002.

To address ongoing storage issues here at Parliament House, the bill amends the Crime and Corruption Act to enable the Connolly-Ryan inquiry records to be stored at Queensland State Archives. However, access to the records will continue to be governed by the parliamentary commissioner under the current test in the Crime and Corruption Act having regard to the nature of the records. To ensure consideration is given in the future to the reclassification of the records as public records and transfer to a suitable public authority at an appropriate time, the bill includes a review requirement.

The bill contains amendments responding to recommendation 3(b) of the CCC's report, *Culture and corruption risks in local government: lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council*, the Windage report, aimed at ensuring council controlled entities are brought within the oversight of the CCC. The bill recognises the broad range of entities controlled by councils and the state and provides non-binding criteria to guide the prescription of entities as a unit of public administration so that they may be subject to additional transparency and oversight, on a case-by-case basis, without instituting a blanket and inflexible approach.

A range of miscellaneous minor and technical amendments are also included in the bill. This includes an amendment to the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 to ensure the parliamentary commissioner and Public Interest Monitor can report on contraventions of conditions or restrictions in telecommunications interception warrants issued under part 2-5 of the Commonwealth Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979. The bill also amends the Public Sector Act 2022 to broaden the scope of persons to whom the Premier may delegate a ministerial function.

The majority of the bill's provisions will commence on a date to be set by proclamation to allow necessary implementation activities to occur. In particular, the amendments arising from the review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act will require extensive change and work within the CCC to support commencement.

The reforms contained in this bill address complex issues and have required detailed and proper consideration. The bill has been developed in close consultation with the CCC and the DPP as well as other stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge and thank all organisations and agencies for their feedback and contributions to developing these important reforms.

The measures in this bill deliver a range of critical reforms. However, our work is not over and we know there are a number of important PCCC recommendations still to address. This work will continue in consultation with the CCC and other stakeholders alongside various other reform activities underway to enhance the integrity framework in this state. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.26 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee

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

CRIMINAL CODE (DECRIMINALISING SEX WORK) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Criminal Code, the District Court of

Queensland Act 1967, the Liquor Act 1992, the Local Government Act 2009, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, to repeal the Prostitution Act 1999 and to amend the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee to consider the bill

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [205].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [206].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [207].

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. This bill serves to implement a number of the recommendations made by the Queensland Law Reform Commission in its report No. 80, *A decriminalised sex-work industry for Queensland*. The recommendations provide an evidence-based path towards the decriminalisation of Queensland's sex work industry. That path leads to improving the safety of sex workers, while balancing the needs and expectations of the community.

I want to first acknowledge the work of Respect Inc, #DecrimQLD, Scarlet Alliance and the Queensland Council of Unions. I acknowledge the representatives from these groups who are present in the gallery today. I wish to acknowledge the advocacy that has been led by these groups for many years—advocacy for reforms to improve the safety and the rights of sex workers in Queensland. I also would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the QLRC, under the leadership of the former chairperson, the Hon. Justice Peter Applegarth AM, for their in-depth and thorough review of Queensland's sex work industry.

The QLRC's task was to recommend the legislative framework to implement the government's commitment to decriminalise the sex work industry. The framework was to be based on a simple idea: to regulate sex work as work, not a crime. The QLRC's review into our state's sex work industry was informed by research and evidence and guided by the key principles of safety, health and fairness. The QLRC made a total of 47 recommendations. These recommendations cover a range of areas including decriminalisation; licensing; health, safety and workers' rights; planning and local laws; protection from coercion and the exploitation of children; implementation activities; and other matters including education and training.

The QLRC recommendations were developed following extensive consultation including several consultation round tables with key people and organisations, and 160 submissions. Many submissions were from individual sex workers across different sectors of the industry. The QLRC also heard from various government agencies, non-government and community organisations and other interested individuals. Most submissions to the QLRC supported decriminalisation and an end to the current licensing framework, but it is acknowledged that some others held equally strong views for retaining some sex work-specific regulations. However, the review found that the aim of the current licensing system to ensure workers' health and safety is better met by work health and safety laws rather than through licensing laws that create a two-tier industry.

Under the current framework, there are two legal forms of sex work in Queensland. Sex work that occurs in a licensed brothel is lawful, and sex work performed by a private sex worker who works alone is also lawful. In Queensland, all other forms of sex work are illegal. The QLRC found that only a very small portion of the sex work industry has adopted the brothel licensing system, with the majority of sex work occurring outside the licensed sector. Many sex workers said that they want to be able to work in private with other sex workers where they can look out for and support one another.

The commission identified that the current regulatory framework stigmatises sex workers and increases a sex worker's vulnerability to exploitation and violence. The regulatory framework fails to protect their human rights. The report also noted that current sex work laws are highly restrictive and difficult to comply with. The current laws undermine a sex worker's autonomy and privacy. The current framework creates incentives to avoid the attention of authorities, causing sex workers to be isolated, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and violence.

Sex workers should not have to choose between working lawfully and working safely. Decriminalisation treats sex work as work rather than as a crime. Decriminalisation aims to facilitate safe work practices, support health and wellbeing, help address stigma and discrimination, and improve access to protections under general laws and regulatory frameworks that apply to everyone, including work health and safety laws.

Decriminalisation does not mean no regulation at all. The review found that regulating sex work can be achieved under the same general laws as other work, including laws that govern work health and safety, anti-discrimination, public health, advertising and planning. The general criminal law also continues to apply.

The QLRC also recommended that there should be strong criminal penalties for coercion or involving children in commercial sexual services. The bill delivers on these recommendations. The bill proposes a legal framework for a decriminalised sex work industry in Queensland. The framework aims to improve the health and safety of sex workers, promote their human rights and provide for legal protections.

The bill largely implements recommendations of the QLRC report by:

- updating discrimination protections for sex workers in the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991;
- amending the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 to restrict local governments from making local laws which prohibit or regulate sex work to ensure local government regulates sex work like any other business;
- inserting new offences in the Criminal Code to protect children from involvement in the provision of commercial sexual services;
- amending an existing offence in the Criminal Code to guard against the use of coercion and exploitation in relation to providing commercial sexual services;
- amending the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to ensure the serious and organised crime circumstance of aggravation applies to the new offences inserted into the Criminal Code;
- amending the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to provide for a legislated review requirement to assess the effectiveness of the new regulatory framework for the sex work industry;
- repealing sex work-specific offences in chapter 22A of the Criminal Code; and
- repealing the Prostitution Act 1999 and Prostitution Regulation 2014.

Ultimately, the bill delivers on the QLRC's recommendations to treat sex work as work and not as crime. The QLRC found that sex workers experience barriers to exercising their rights along with significant stigma and discrimination. The QLRC noted that areas where sex workers are discriminated against include housing, banking and employment. Decriminalising sex work will remove some of these barriers and is a necessary first step to addressing stigma and discrimination.

The bill proposes that protections under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 be strengthened to address these issues and safeguard the human rights of sex workers. The bill amends the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 by repealing the protected attribute of 'lawful sexual activity' and replacing it with 'sex work activity'. The bill defines the new attribute to mean the provision by an adult person of services for payment or reward that involve the person participating in a sexual activity with another person; or services that involve the use or display of the person's body for the sexual arousal or gratification of another person; and includes being or having been a person who provides those services.

Consistent with the principle that sex work should be treated the same as any other business, the bill repeals section 106C in the Anti-Discrimination Act which allows accommodation providers to discriminate against someone if they reasonably believe that the person is using, or intends to use, the accommodation for sex work. Accommodation providers will still be able to control the use of their premises in the same way that they can for any other person, including to comply with land use and planning laws.

The amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act are consistent with recommendations 12 and 13 of the QLRC report. The QLRC also recommended the repeal of section 28(1) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. Section 28 will be repealed by the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023 when part 12, division 3 of that act commences.

The bill also amends the Criminal Code to give effect to recommendations 1 and 25 to 32 of the QLRC report. The QLRC report noted that existing chapter 22A, 'Prostitution', of the Criminal Code contains offences that make many forms of sex work a crime. Recommendation 1 of the QLRC report is that offences that criminalise sex work other than in licensed brothels or that require sex workers to work on their own should be removed. The bill proposes that chapter 22A of the Criminal Code be repealed.

Decriminalising sex work does not mean the removal of criminal laws that guard against exploitation. The QLRC report considered that Queensland's criminal laws should differentiate between sex work which is between consenting adults and exploitation. Exploitation in this context refers to sex workers coerced into performing sex work and sex work that involves children. The bill inserts three new offences in chapter 22 which relate to the involvement of children under the age of 18 years in commercial sexual services. The bill also amends the existing offence at section 218 of the Criminal Code regarding procuring sexual acts by coercion.

Proposed new section 217A of the Criminal Code creates the offence of obtaining commercial sexual services from a person who is not an adult. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment. If the child is under 16 years of age, the maximum penalty increases to 14 years imprisonment, and if the child is under 12 years of age the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

Proposed new section 217B of the Criminal Code is an offence of allowing a person who is not an adult to take part in commercial sexual services. The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment. Proposed new section 217C of the Criminal Code is an offence for conduct relating to the provision of commercial sexual services by a person who is not an adult. The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment.

The intent of these offences is not to criminalise the child. Rather, the focus of the offences is the acts of those people who involve children in commercial sexual services. The purpose of these offences is to safeguard the vulnerability of children from exploitation.

The bill amends existing section 218 of the Criminal Code to ensure the offence captures coercion in the context of commercial sexual services and provides a safeguard to ensure that participation in the sex work industry is voluntary. The maximum penalty for this offence will remain 14 years imprisonment.

The amendment to existing section 218 specifies that coercion includes, for example, coercion by intimidation or threats of any kind, or assaulting a person, or damaging the property of a person, or making false representations or using false pretence or fraudulent means. The definition of coercion provided at section 218 is an inclusive one.

The examples of coercion included in the bill are not exhaustive and would not prevent a prosecution where a person is coerced by the improper use of a position of trust, the taking advantage of a person's vulnerability, or the supply or offer to supply a dangerous drug to the person. The serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation in the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 will be available in relation to each offence.

The bill inserts a definition of 'commercial sexual service' in section 207A of the Criminal Code, as a service involving a sexual act engaged by a person for payment or reward under an arrangement of a commercial character. The existing definition of 'sexual act' currently defined in section 218 of the Criminal Code is used to ensure the offences capture both physical and non-physical contact.

The definition also includes services involving 'use or display of the person's body for the sexual arousal or gratification of another person', guarding against the involvement of children in sex work and the use of coercion to induce the performance of sex work, including adult entertainment such as stripping.

Furthermore, the bill amends the District Court of Queensland Act 1967 to ensure that the District Court has jurisdiction in relation to the offence under new section 217A 'Obtaining commercial sexual services from a person who is not an adult' as the maximum penalty of life imprisonment applies where the child is under 12 years.

The QLRC did not make any recommendations about the supply or consumption of alcohol on sex work business premises or the regulation of adult entertainment under the Liquor Act. The QLRC noted these are complex policy issues which require consultation and government consideration. The government is commencing a review of adult entertainment on liquor licensed premises as part of a separate process.

The bill removes extraneous references to the Prostitution Licensing Authority and Prostitution Act and related terms such as brothel licence and interest in a brothel. The bill also amends the Liquor Act to remove the Police Commissioner's role in co-signing the Adult Entertainment Code, with the sole power for the code to rest with the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming.

The QLRC recommended amendments to the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 to ensure that local laws about sex work should be restricted to make sure the aims and benefits of decriminalisation filter down to local government areas throughout Queensland.

The bill proposes to insert new sections into the Local Government Act 2009 and the City of Brisbane Act 2010 to prohibit local governments from making a local law that prohibits or regulates sex work or the conduct of a sex work business.

As I mentioned earlier, the bill ensures that the serious and organised crime circumstance of aggravation applies to the new offences in the Criminal Code. The bill therefore amends schedule 1C 'Prescribed offences' of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to include the offences in proposed new sections 217A, 217B and 217C of the Criminal Code. Existing section 218 of the Criminal Code, which the bill also amends, already prescribes an offence to which the circumstance of aggravation applies.

The government acknowledges that decriminalising the sex-work industry will be a significant change to the current regulatory approach in place in Queensland. The QLRC recommended that there be a legislative requirement to ensure that the operation of the legislation giving effect to the changes is reviewed by a committee no sooner than four years and no later than five years after decriminalisation is implemented.

The bill amends the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to provide a legislated requirement for a review of the new regulatory framework. The bill also amends the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to include transitional provisions which relate to the repeal of the Prostitution Act 1999.

The bill will repeal, in its entirety, the Prostitution Act 1999. Repealing the Prostitution Act 1999 gives effect to recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 22 and 25 of the QLRC report. Repealing the Prostitution Act 1999 addresses much of the concerns identified by the QLRC in that the current regulatory framework stigmatises sex workers, increases their vulnerability to exploitation and violence, and fails to protect their human rights.

The repeal of the act will, amongst other things, have the effect of removing public solicitation offences; removing the current prostitution licensing provisions and abolishing the Prostitution Licensing Authority; removing sex work specific advertising provisions; and repealing sex work specific health offences.

The QLRC also found that licensing can be a useful regulatory approach, but it is not suitable for all industries. Ultimately, the QLRC report noted that sex work licensing does not ensure the health and safety of workers and does not keep criminal elements out of the industry. Rather, the QLRC report concluded that, as most existing licensed sex workers currently operate outside of the existing licensing scheme, the introduction of a widespread licensing scheme will undermine any efforts to afford protection and access to work rights. No replacement licensing scheme is proposed for the sex work industry.

I want to acknowledge and thank the board and staff at the Prostitution Licensing Authority for their dedicated work with administering the brothel licensing framework. I would like to acknowledge the PLA's chair—the Hon. Colin Forrest SC—for his leadership, along with members of his board. I also want to make clear that no public sector jobs will be lost as a result of the abolition of the Prostitution Licensing Authority.

In relation to public health, existing requirements that provide for the use of prophylactics by all sex workers and their clients and prohibitions on sex workers at licensed brothels from working with a sexually transmissible infection are not needed and will be removed. The QLRC report found that sex work specific health offences criminalise and stigmatise sex workers and are not consistent with the aims of decriminalisation. Existing public health laws and policy approaches apply to protect public health and promote the health of all Queenslanders including sex workers and clients.

The QLRC report recommended matters to be addressed in the planning framework to support the decriminalisation of the sex work industry in Queensland. In response, draft changes to the Planning Regulation 2017 are being prepared to give effect to the intent of the QLRC recommendations. The government is preparing a draft amendment regulation and explanatory notes which will be consulted on.

Queensland is not the first Australian jurisdiction to decriminalise sex work. Sex work is decriminalised in New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Victoria and also New Zealand. While each of these jurisdictions have taken a slightly varying path towards decriminalisation, the common theme of decriminalisation is that they all recognise and regulate sex work as legitimate work, rather than as a crime.

The Miles government is proud to introduce a bill to decriminalise the sex work industry—a step towards improving the health, safety and rights for sex workers while meeting the expectations of the community. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee


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

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 February (see p. 184), on motion of Mr Mellish—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.47 pm), continuing: I understand that there were some submitters who were also of the view that the road safety provisions would negatively impact on cyclists, with suggestions that it will deter people from cycling due to the subjective nature of the offence, that the offences were disproportionate to other jurisdictions and that the penalties were not proportionate to the nature of the offence. In responding to these submissions, I note that the Transport and Resources Committee stated that they—

... support the view that the consequences of riding without due care and attention can be equally severe regardless of where incidents may occur, particularly given that road-related areas are also used by pedestrians of all ages and abilities. We agree that rider obligations should be applied consistently regardless of the type of vehicle or location of offending. Furthermore, we note that the proposed provision to ride with due care already exists for PMD and bicycle riders on roads under section 84(2) of the TORUM Act, and the Bill would extend the requirement to road-related areas.

Since I was first elected to the Queensland parliament in 2015, I have consistently and strongly championed the enhancing of road safety and road and transport infrastructure for the electorate of Moggill. I have especially and repeatedly called on this state Labor government to live up to its objective of improving road safety, particularly for our local cyclists, pedestrians, and active and public transport users. Improving road safety should not just be a key objective of this legislation. It should be an ongoing key objective and a key deliverable of this state Labor government, particularly for the electorate of Moggill.

If the Labor state government is truly genuine in wanting to improve road safety, particularly for cyclists and other road users, it should look at the state controlled Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road. In my ongoing productive and positive engagements with local bicycle user groups and resident cyclists, all too often I hear of the dangers that exist as cyclists travel along these roads. As articulated in the explanatory notes, this legislation specifically seeks to improve road safety for road related areas, which include footpaths. The Labor state government must deliver enhanced footpath and pedestrian infrastructure along both Moggill Road and Mount Crosby Road to enhance the safety of these road related areas. This includes: pedestrian access to the Moggill District Sports Park; safe pedestrian travel between the Bolton Clarke Fairview residential aged-care facility and the Pullenvale Marketplace; delivering pedestrian safety from Vyner Street to Grandview Road at Pullenvale and the Bellbowrie Community Church between the outbound Sugars Road bus stop and Bellbowrie Shopping Plaza; improving pedestrian safety at the Sugars, Moggill and Lather roads intersection; and safe pedestrian infrastructure along Mount Crosby Road at Anstead.

Unfortunately, in my electorate of Moggill there have been too many near misses and even tragic deaths involving cyclists and pedestrians, including the death of 25-year-old musician Richard Pollett as he cycled along Moggill Road in 2011. This state Labor government, which is regularly supported by the Greens political party, continues to ignore space for Cycling Brisbane and the Brisbane West Bike Users Group with respect to cyclist safety, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane. There has

been a lot of talk by the Labor government but no practical action over many years. I note that on Monday of this week a man in his 20s had to be taken to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital after a vehicle and pedestrian collision in Kenmore.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the interjections from the former minister for transport, who did nothing for road safety in the western suburbs of Brisbane let alone for cyclists, particularly cyclists on Moggill Road. There have been fatalities in relation to cyclists on Moggill Road, and there has been a failure to progress any solutions for cyclists' safety and road safety under the former minister. We can only hope that the new minister takes some action and learns from the mistakes that were made by the former minister. On page 2 of this legislation's explanatory notes it states—

... Queensland's transport related legislation must continually evolve to: accommodate changing risk profiles within the community; cater for the adoption of new and emerging technologies; and ensure that enforcement authorities have appropriate powers and can impose meaningful sanctions to positively impact behaviour change to improve safety for all users of roads and road-related areas.

When it comes to improving safety for all users of roads and road related areas, as I have said, it has been very disappointing that the Labor state government has not acted on these matters over a long period of time. There are still unresolved issues relating to the Our Lady of the Rosary School at Kenmore. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has taken some action, but there is still a lot more that needs to be done at that intersection to ensure the safety of not only school students but also the wider public. I have written to the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads about that. I acknowledge the member for Aspley in his new role in relation to that, and I wish him success in his new endeavours. I would urge him to look at that correspondence and particularly what it means for safety.

Finally, in concluding my contribution today I want to thank and acknowledge all stakeholders who contributed to the Transport and Resources Committee's consideration of this legislation as well as all committee members from both sides of the House. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the deputy chair, the LNP member for Gregory, as well as the members for Toowoomba North and Callide for their work in scrutinising this legislation.



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (12.53 pm), in reply: It is my pleasure today to speak for the final time on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. It is pleasing that support for this bill has come from such a broad range of members in the House. I extend my appreciation to all of you for your endorsement of this important bill.

Tragically, last year we lost 278 lives on our roads. While this was 19 less lives lost than the previous year, every life lost and every person seriously injured on our roads is an absolute tragedy. The Queensland government's road safety public education program StreetSmarts aims to improve road safety by impacting the attitudes and behaviours of Queenslanders. These include behaviours such as driving around heavy vehicles and driving on regional roads. The 'fatal five' are addressed through strategic, targeted campaigns and engagement activities as part of this program.

The goal of this bill is to enhance road safety outcomes in Queensland and to make our roads safer. One of the ways to achieve this is by managing safe interactions between vehicles and other vulnerable users. In particular, the bill expands the application of careless riding offences to e-scooters and other personal mobility device riders as well as bicycle riders on road related areas such as footpaths and bikeways. This aligns with the increasing use of these vehicle types on this infrastructure and the ongoing need to protect vulnerable users such as the elderly, people with disability and children.

In addition, the bill applies consistent post-crash obligations on all drivers and riders. In particular, e-scooter and bike riders involved in a crash will now be required to stop and render medical assistance to another injured person and exchange relevant details. Consistent obligations for drivers and riders on roads and paths will ensure that everyone receives equal treatment before the law and it protects our most vulnerable path users. The bill also introduces important safety protections for vulnerable persons who feel that exchanging their personal information may expose them to harm. In this scenario a vulnerable person, such as a victim of domestic violence or a child, could report the crash to police instead.

These amendments build on the recent reforms that have been implemented as part of the PMD Safety Action Plan. The action plan also commits to long-term action to investigate ways to crack down on drink riding on e-scooters. This investigation is currently underway, with the department currently consulting with road safety experts and the community on potential measures. It is anticipated that a package will be progressed for my consideration following this investigation.

E-scooters and other personal mobility devices such as bicycles are a great way to get around, but it is critical that we have a regulatory framework in place to support the safe use of vehicles without compromising the safety of other road and path users. Everyone deserves to feel safe on our road and path network. This bill is the next step towards achieving this, and I am proud that Queensland continues to lead the rest of Australia in this space.

The Queensland Police Service undertakes the regular, proactive and high-profile enforcement of personal mobility device rules. E-scooter riders who do the wrong thing should expect to be caught and receive a fine. Sweeping reforms to e-scooter rules commenced 1 November 2022. In the 11 months post these reforms, up until September 2023 police issued more than 3,800 infringements for a range of offences. Failing to wear a helmet, riding on prohibited roads and speeding are the most common infringements issued. I am encouraged that this enforcement is taking place right across Queensland as we see e-scooter usage boom across the state. These amendments will be supported by a tailored communications campaign to ensure that all Queenslanders and tourists are aware of the changes and their obligations when riding.

I noted that the member for Toowoomba North mentioned the Toowoomba bypass during his contribution. It is important to remember that the Miles government inherited the Toowoomba bypass contract from the previous Newman government when we took office in 2015, and the lowest price dominated considerations.

The *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2023-24 to 2026-27* outlines a steady and sustainable pipeline of road and transport infrastructure, with \$32.1 billion of investment programmed over the four financial years. It is estimated it will support over 25,000 direct jobs over the life of the program. The current four-year allocation for maintenance, preservation and operations is over \$5 billion.

The Queensland government is committed to maintaining a safe and resilient road network for all travellers, and this is our government's eighth record QTRIP in a row. Building on the previous \$29.7 billion 2022-23 QTRIP, our \$32.1 billion QTRIP provides an increase of over \$2 billion across the four-year program. Our investment in roads and transport infrastructure will sustain 25,200 direct jobs across Queensland. Of this, approximately 57 per cent will be spent outside the metropolitan region, representing an increase of over three per cent when compared to the previous QTRIP. This level of investment in regional Queensland is estimated to support an average of 16,220 direct jobs over the life of the program.

The transition of certain regulatory services from the Department of Transport and Main Roads to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is the final step of the National Services Transition program. As I mentioned in the introduction of this bill, operational provisions of the heavy vehicle national law commenced in 2014, and the regulator relied on state and territory agencies to deliver most of the frontline heavy vehicle regulatory services. The transition program commenced in 2017, when participating jurisdictions transitioned these services to the regulator.

Considerable consultation was undertaken with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Together union and Transport and Main Roads employees to ensure the best possible outcomes for the transfer of regulatory services, employees—importantly—and assets. The transition provides for the delivery of heavy vehicle regulatory services under the heavy vehicle national law to the regulator, which leads to greater national consistency in the regulation and enforcement of heavy vehicles.


Further, the bill ensures efficient delivery and quality service outcomes for industry. It provides authorised officers of the regulator with the ability to undertake state-based, non-national law regulatory services and the delivery of Queensland's programmed vehicle inspection scheme. The consultation for the transition ensured that the legislation provided a fair and seamless transition for employees moving. They will have their rights protected through the creation of ministerial transfer schedules that include relevant Queensland Public Sector Act directives that will apply to these staff. There are also provisions to ensure benefits, entitlements, remuneration, superannuation and all forms of leave—

Debate, on motion of Mr Mellish, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Miles Labor Government; Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): This has been the first parliamentary week for Premier Steven Miles, and what absolute chaos has ensued. We have had juvenile parliamentary behaviour and juvenile parliamentary tactics. This clearly shows that Premier Steven Miles is not up to the job and the seriousness of being Premier of this state. We know many Queenslanders have many names for him, and I think it has been on show this week. Nothing has changed. Since Annastacia Palaszczuk left, nothing has changed. The juvenile antics in parliament continue and the chaos in parliament continues.

They announced today a big CCC review into the Jackie Trad matter. As the honourable shadow Attorney-General rightly pointed out, this was meant to have happened months and months ago. Now they are doing a review. Why? They are kicking it into the long grass because they do not want the CCC inquiry into Jackie Trad released before the election. That is their priority—to hide that information from Queenslanders, despite the fact that Queenslanders have been paying Jackie Trad's legal expenses. We know that Minister Fentiman is best friends and skiing buddies with Jackie Trad and was the attorney-general who authorised the expenditure on the legal affair. Is it any wonder they are trying to protect Jackie Trad from the review and from Queenslanders? As I said, there have been juvenile attempts, and the chaos and the crisis continues under the government.


I read an interesting media report last week on the Premier's Media Club address, which he completely botched up. I would say to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that anyone who has to have their staff write in their speech a reminder to smile is not authentic and is not up to the job. Maybe he took the advice a little too seriously, because when he was asked about youth crime he giggled and laughed at the question. It was a serious question about youth crime and the Premier giggled the question away. He was just a little late because his staff did say 'smile'!

He is a fake. He is a phoney. The Premier is a fake. He is trying to give this perception that he is this suburban dad, but the reality is that he was behind every bad decision this Labor government made in the last nine years. Be it housing, health, cost of living or the youth crime crisis, Premier Miles was at the heart of all of it. How do we know this? Because Annastacia Palaszczuk endorsed him. She wanted him to continue her bad legacy, and he has done exactly that. Anyone who laughs at youth justice is not up to the job of being Premier.

In my remaining time, I want to say how unfortunate it is that the Labor government have now cut the Mooloolah River Interchange. This was a road safety upgrade project which created huge anxiety in my electorate because people had to sell their homes to the government, only to find out now that they are not even needed or wanted. What a disgrace this government is.

(Time expired)

Housing

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (2.03 pm): A secure home is a fundamental need for everyone in our community. Every Queenslander deserves a place to call home. For a long time, doing everything we could to support people into a secure job has provided the basis for secure housing. Unfortunately, in the face of some extraordinary global and national circumstances, even being in secure work is not enough to ensure a roof over an individual's or family's head at the moment.


I have spoken in this House on many occasions over the years about housing being a multifaceted issue, but it seems that the facets are multiplying. The Miles Labor government is making a huge contribution to addressing this most important of issues for my constituents and for all Queenslanders. The Homes for Queenslanders plan puts Queenslanders first and is all about delivering more homes and making sure renters have a fair go. The Miles government's plan reflects five key priorities, and I want to acknowledge them in the House today and comment on them.

The first priority is building more homes faster, because we know that more supply is ultimately the greatest answer to both accessibility and affordability of housing. I am very pleased to see that this includes \$350 million for incentives to fast-track development, especially where already infrastructure-rich infill is stalled usually by a lack of local government support for housing. The second is supporting renters through direct cost-of-living support so they can save to buy a house if they wish or make sure their life is more comfortable. Measures such as the Renters Relief Package and a portable bond scheme will make a huge difference to the renters I have been speaking to in my local community.

The third priority is helping first home owners. While Queensland already enjoys the most generous first home owners grant in the country, the Miles Labor government is doing more to help more Queenslanders become home owners through the doubling of the grant, to \$30,000 for new homes until 30 June 2025. The fourth is more social homes. The Miles Labor government is boosting our public housing big build, with a target of 53,500 social homes by 2046 and a commitment to growing the community housing sector. This is necessary for the whole of the system to work.

The fifth priority is working towards ending homelessness. The plan's 20 per cent increase in frontline homelessness services as well as a critical response team in all regions will make a huge difference. Locally, I have seen how these services can make a big difference to getting people out of tents at Cabbage Tree Creek and into secure housing. However, more needs to be done, and we know that. The Miles Labor government is doing just that with this plan. As I said from the outset, every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home and the Miles Labor government has a great plan to deliver on that. What we need is for all people to lean in to supporting a good plan.

Miles Labor Government; Crime and Corruption Commission, Legislative Reform

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.06 pm): Today we saw the juvenile, infantile behaviour of a tired, out-of-touch Labor government when there are important matters to discuss in this House. We saw the new Leader of the House for some unknown reason extend the period of question time. The opposition was very happy to extend question time—there were many more questions—but the issue is that, although there were another 15 minutes of question time, there was no 15 more minutes of answers. We had the same cover-up, the same obfuscation, the same refusal to answer questions.


It follows on the announcement we heard this morning, targeted and leaked to the media, in relation to an investigation and inquiry into the powers of the CCC. This is in relation to the release of reports under its corruption function. This is a matter that involves a former deputy premier of Queensland, the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad. A report has been prepared; its contents we do not know. We did not even know about its existence because the government and Ms Trad were so keen to cover it up. I am not saying that Ms Trad has committed a criminal offence, but there is obviously important information in that report that should be made available.

A power that everyone in this state—on both the Labor side and the LNP side—thought had existed for almost 30 years has been found not to exist. The government now says that it wants to investigate the matter so it appoints a chief justice at a cost they cannot tell us, despite a direct question in question time this morning, to investigate this matter—to kick the can another three months down the road, until May.

The terms of reference are interesting, because they say 'unless otherwise extended'. The reviewer can come back and say, 'I need more time to do it.' This is kicking the can down the road when there is already a bill before the House that I introduced that would make it legal for the CCC to release its report—as well as the report into Labor mate and Labor appointee, former public trustee Peter Carne, as well as the report into the appointment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll and the government's process in doing so and Ms Trad's process in doing so. You would think a government that says it is committed to openness, transparency and accountability would agree to that change. That bill has been in the House since October. I can guarantee that if that bill was brought on for debate it would be passed in a nanosecond. We would pass that bill. We would say, 'Vote for it,' but this government refuses to do so. It kicks the can down the road, as it kicks the can down the road with the shield laws. An amendment I introduced in 2022 to allow the shield laws was deferred and deferred and only now comes in. This is a government that is still focused on how things look rather than how they are.

(Time expired)

Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.09 pm): During this sitting week we had Valentine's Day. I will not be too sentimental, but I was hoping for a question from the member for Gympie. It has been a long time since the Liberal National Party has shown any love for the agricultural sector in this place. That is why the LNP has no admirers in regional Queensland, secret or otherwise. That is why I am 'Furner the farmers' friend', and not just on Valentine's Day. This is because of what the Miles Labor government delivers for the agricultural sector. From bouquets to biosecurity, we support Queenslanders.


I would like the House to know that our RED grants—the colour of love—and the latest round of EOIs are now open. That is up to \$200,000 for agribusinesses across Queensland. Over five years, our RED Grants program has provided a total of \$13.3 million in funding. This funding has supported 59 successful regional agribusiness projects worth more than \$52.4 million. These projects are estimated to have created over 2,500 new direct and indirect jobs.

Earlier this week, I encouraged local Queenslanders to get their flowers for their Valentine's Day gifts because it is not only good for local jobs but also better for biosecurity. The last surprise any gift needs to be is a bouquet with biosecurity bugs attached. Those opposite do not understand biosecurity. It is on the record that, when they were in government, they cut 26 per cent of biosecurity staff in this department. Also federally, they were the nemesis of the Department of Agriculture as 25 per cent of biosecurity staff were cut. Truly, they are the thorns in the side of agriculture.

They cannot support the good news when we announced 150 public service jobs in the fire ant program—a program that the LNP cut when they were in government. That is right—45 frontline workers were let go and \$1.1 million was slashed from the program. We still have not seen those opposite place on record what they plan to do with the Queensland biosecurity responsibilities if they get in.

Let's compare. We have demonstrated our credentials over the last nine years. Every Queenslander knows what Labor stands for. Every Queenslander knows that we back the bush. Any person who works in the agriculture sector needs to place the LNP under really strict scrutiny over the next nine months. The secrets of the LNP need to be revealed this side of the election, for the last thing this state needs is another LNP biosecurity bungle.

Community Safety

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.12 pm): It was six years ago in my maiden speech that I spoke of my lifelong desire to be a policeman. For over 20 years I proudly served in that role doing my very best to serve and protect the community. I believed back then, and still do today, in three inescapable truths that should guide our police policy: innocent people should be protected; perpetrators of crime should be punished; and our police should be provided with what they need to get that job done. Today, it is unfathomable just how far removed those principles have become. We are in the midst of a crime crisis. Queenslanders are living in fear while youth criminals no longer fear the law. The thin blue line has never been thinner. There are now 232 fewer police than there were only 18 months ago. Police are calling in sick or hiding in their stations, fearful of being targeted by repeat youth offenders who know they are untouchable. According to a senior police officer quoted in the *Courier-Mail* today—


There isn't appropriate punishment and police are sick and tired of being the last line of defence and bashing our heads against brick walls because we are doing everything in our power and nothing gets done. No wonder police are leaving in droves.

I was on the front line in 2015 and 2016 when this Labor government started watering down the youth justice laws. Since then, crime has soared, sending the number of repeat serious, violent young offenders and unfortunately the number of victims, skyrocketing. Since Labor was elected nine years ago, there has been a 116 per cent increase in stolen vehicles, a 54 per cent increase in unlawful entry, and a staggering 225 per cent increase in assaults. Police are tearing their hair out that the weak laws of this state are preventing them from doing their job. They have even been forced to keep a secret spreadsheet to track all the hours they spend plugging holes in other failing government services.

From my first speech in this House, I have said that I believe a government's highest priority should be the safety and security of its citizens. Labor has the wrong priorities and do not take youth crime seriously. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, including making our community safe. We have put solutions on the table to start tackling Queensland's youth crime crisis, including creating consequences for actions, unshackling the judiciary by removing detention as a last resort, and delivering gold standard early intervention, and just this week we have seen Labor block critical reforms that would have made a real difference.

For as long as I am in this place and particularly in this role, I will use these as my guiding principles to develop policies that rebalance the scales of justice to keep Queenslanders and our police officers safe. If this government will not keep communities safe across Queensland, we will.

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.15 pm): With respect to the contributions we just heard from the member for Kawana and the member for Clayfield, if you think about what the member for Toowoomba South said in terms of past performance is the best indicator of future performance, what

you have seen today is six members of the LNP punted from this chamber for bad behaviour. So I would totally concur: past performance is a very good indicator of future performance. You can put that in the light of what our government is doing to deliver, particularly out in the Redlands.

When I think about the last six years, versus the 10 years before that where it was LNP representation, Redlanders can be assured that past performance is a very good indicator of future performance. On education, we have just opened the brand new Scenic Shores State School—what a fantastic, lovely school. Principal Hendriks is absolutely amazing, as is Deputy Principal Bunce. The students were so thrilled to be there. They already have a strong P&C up and running. We have delivered so much in the education space such as air conditioning for all of our classrooms, which the LNP were not going to look at until 2026. We have been consistently meeting our obligations and delivering for our community. We have a new \$11 million STEM and hospitality building at Victoria Point State High School. We have built an \$11 million new learning precinct at Redlands District Special School. We are delivering free kindy right across Queensland. We are delivering kindy in the state school at Russell Island. We have unique locations with very tailored and specific responses for my community. The work that has been happening in the education space is unparalleled to when the LNP were in government. Look at their track record. In regards to the Alexandra Hills TAFE, they will talk about the box men that came in getting ready to close that facility down, yet it is delivering incredible training opportunities, particularly in the health space.

Talking about the health space, you have never seen the amount of investment as that which has occurred in the Redlands in the last few years. The satellite hospital, as we have heard today, is taking pressure off the Redlands emergency department. We did an expansion at the emergency department. We opened the new lagoon ward there at the back end of last year. Construction of the new intensive care unit and additional bed wards is underway with ADCO. We have employed more doctors and more nurses. Again, when you talk about past performance, the past performance of the LNP is to sack nurses, to sack frontline healthcare workers. Therefore, I do not take this nonsense that the LNP is proposing. They try to rewrite their history. They try to rewrite their past performance and Queenslanders know better.

Mr Hart: Rewriting history is what Labor does.

Ms RICHARDS: No. You cannot rewrite your history, member for Burleigh. You cannot rewrite your history—

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

Ms RICHARDS: The member for Burleigh cannot rewrite the LNP's history in the Redlands—he cannot—whether it is health, education, transport, infrastructure—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time has expired.


Mr Hart: The truth is the truth.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms RICHARDS: The truth is the truth.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Child Safety

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.18 pm): We hear a lot about performance in this House. Here are some sobering facts of performance by the state Labor government and the new Miles Labor government. The latest data, released in September last year, shows 1,807 children are now in residential care. Of those, 315 are under the age of 10 years—a tripling of the numbers since 2019. It is not just the LNP saying that this government has the wrong priorities, it is not just the LNP saying that this is not acceptable, I quote Tom Allsop from PeakCare who also outlined that Queensland provides 40 per cent of Australia's residential care placements, despite having only 21 per cent of the nation's children in care.

This government should hang its head in shame. Now we see the third minister for child safety in one year. Former minister Crawford outlined a child safety review that sought to solve some of the issues and provide a road map. The minister called for a focus on how children under the age of 12, First Nations children and disabled children are handled in the state's residential care system. The road map that was released was disappointing, because it did not address any of the issues for children

under the age of 12. This government had an opportunity to make a difference by working with the sector and listening to those with firsthand experience on the ground—those who are concerned about the behaviour that they are witnessing by children in the system, those who have suffered assault and those children who are in harm's way from the system itself.

The residential care system was not designed for how it has been utilised. I look forward to releasing my diary in the coming months. It will show all of the stakeholders I meet with across this state. It is reported to me that there are now babies in the residential care system. This government has failed, but the LNP has the right priorities after the Leader of the Opposition and I met with over 60 representatives from the sector. They are: an emphasis on personal responsibility; insistence on attending school; and insistence on extracurricular activity. This will give these kids an opportunity for pride and respect, an opportunity for employment and training for our younger youth and a focus on transition to foster care.

I have met with so many of the foster care services across this state. Some of the most incredible people have chosen to walk away from the broken system that this government has created—the system that has been a funnel into youth justice. I have heard many ministers opposite deny this fact. I look forward to exploring this further in the coming months because the LNP has the right priorities.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Community Safety



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): I rise today to speak on the excellent work of our hardworking local police, their partner agencies in youth justice and the street uni team on what they have done to combat crime in Townsville. Sadly, in December we saw a spike in crime. Over a week, a significant number of cars were stolen and people were assaulted as a result. After meeting victims of crime, I requested immediate support from our police minister and Premier Miles to combat that increase. More has to be done, and I am determined to make change and make our community safer.

Making our communities safer is an absolute priority of the Miles government. Within four weeks of my request, and with the assistance of the Premier and the work of local police Taskforce Guardian and its partner agencies, we have seen a new police helicopter delivered for our city. This has made an immediate difference. As we heard in the House from the police minister yesterday, we have seen a 50 per cent reduction in offending. I table the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* dated 2 February which carries the headline 'Kid crime offences halved'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 2 February 2024, titled 'Latest stats show drop in crime: Kid crime offences have halved' [\[208\]](#).

Over the last few days I have listened to the contributions of many members on the summary offences bill, particularly in relation to knife crimes and the recent tragedy we have seen in our state. Some of the LNP members, particularly the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Ninderry, are using this to try to identify a point in time at which—according to them—youth justice laws were watered down and trying to blame the government. I table an article titled 'Out-of-control kids terrorising Townsville residents'.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 22 February 2013, titled 'Out-of-control kids terrorising Townsville residents' [\[209\]](#).

It states that our regional city has been turned 'into a war zone and authorities say they are powerless to stop them'. It is dated 22 February 2013, when the LNP were in power. Mr Crisafulli, the member for Broadwater, said that there was 'no denying action was needed' to address the youth crime problem in Townsville. He went on to say—

... the sad part is that it is always the same small percentage of protected species doing the damage.

What did the LNP do? They sacked 130 police, including some in Townsville whom I personally knew, they reduced funding to police training and they cut funding to the Murri Court. Then they had a failed boot camp. Then there was their failed breach of bail. Then they tried to sell our police academy. I say to the opposition: do not come in here and play politics with some point in time as a cause, because it was happening under their watch and they did nothing. The LNP failed.

We have a vehicle for change with the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. I echo the sentiments of many who have come before us and called for a true bipartisan approach, to stop the politics. As the Premier said in his first speech, youth crime is a serious and complex issue and he cannot fix it by himself. It will take all of us to work together to enable change.

Lake Eyre Basin



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (2.24 pm): I rise today to speak about the atrocious decision made by the Premier on 22 December last year on the future of oil and gas in South-West Queensland. It is a fact that Queenslanders are currently in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. There would not be many Queenslanders who have not turned the tap on a gas bottle when hosting family and friends for a barbecue. Many people would not know that the LPG in 17 million of those gas bottles was produced right here in Queensland. No-one knows for how much longer that will be the case. This government's own Energy and Jobs Plan says that we need more gas to be developed in Queensland to reduce emissions and lower power prices, but this government has not only abandoned its own plan; it has also abandoned Queenslanders facing a cost-of-living crisis. The decision to stop future oil and gas production in the Lake Eyre Basin and put a blanket ban on unconventional gas extraction is a decision that means less gas, job losses, higher prices for households and businesses, and a higher risk of blackouts.

The consultation regulation impact statement for the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin identified several options, including three spatial options and four regulatory options, in an effort to best protect the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin's river systems while also supporting economic prosperity across the region for the long term. It will come as no surprise to many that this government selected the harshest of the four regulatory options, effectively using a sledgehammer to crack a nut—and we do not even know if it will work. In its assessment for the regulation impact statement for one of this government's first policy decisions, the Office of Best Practice Regulation found that the CRIS 'does not contain details sufficient to inform full consideration of the options and their potential impacts' and draws particular attention to the fact that the document does not articulate whether less prohibitive measures could achieve a similar degree of effectiveness at a lower cost or whether any of the proposed options can even deliver a net benefit to the Queensland community.

What we do know is that for more than 60 years oil and gas exploration and development in the Lake Eyre Basin has been effectively and appropriately managed. We know that royalties from the region fund new roads, schools and hospitals across the state and make a huge contribution to local government via the payment of rates. No-one wants to see a reduction in the environmental value of the Lake Eyre Basin or any other area of Queensland, but the fact is that this decision fails this Labor government's own test. It is a decision that will have a significant impact on gas supply. It is a decision that means higher costs for Queenslanders at a time they can least afford it. Make no mistake: this decision was more about scoring political points than protecting the environment in this state.

Emergency Services, Volunteers




Mr WALKER (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to speak about our emergency services volunteers and Ergon. These are exceptional Queenslanders who leave their families during a time of crisis—flooding, fires and extreme storm events like Tropical Cyclone Kirrily—to help others in a time of need. These people are true community champions. State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service volunteers in Queensland are some of the best in the country. I want to take the time to thank them on behalf of the people of Townsville and the surrounding communities. They did an excellent job of helping others during Cyclone Kirrily and their service is deeply appreciated.

On the eve of 26 January this year, Townsville had an encounter with Cyclone Kirrily. We were incredibly lucky and dodged a bullet; however, there was some minor damage to property which left the city with a massive clean-up bill. There was a big clean-up, with fallen trees, debris and branches scattered right across the city. Private property was damaged as well. This clean-up is still going today, thanks to our committed Townsville City Council staff and contractors. The cyclone also left a large number of homes without power. Mine was one of those. Yes, it was stressful at the time due to the extreme heat and no breeze, but we still survived.

I want to place on public record my appreciation and that of the Townsville community for the exceptional work of the Ergon teams. Ergon were very quick to establish the early staging of equipment at Reid Park prior to the cyclone and they had professional teams ready to go and hit the ground running after the cyclone event. They really did hit the ground running. What is really impressive is that a large number of these Ergon teams had been in Far North Queensland after Cyclone Jasper, which hit just north of Port Douglas on 13 December 2023. That was just some six weeks earlier. That is exceptional. It really demonstrates the intense time frames and huge areas these teams had to cover to help fellow Queenslanders.

I want to state again my sincere gratitude for their quick response and tireless work. I must stress that we are very lucky that Ergon is publicly owned and had a professional workforce ready to hit the ground running to help their fellow Queenslanders. That is exceptional, and I thank them again.

Weather Events

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.30 pm): This is a season of disasters, and we have seen bushfires, cyclones, floods and severe storms—bushfires around the state in places like Tara, Wallangarra and many others. The rain from Tropical Cyclone Jasper has devastated North Queensland. Machans and Holloways Beach communities, Mossman, Mareeba, which had three feet of water down the main street, Wonga Beach, Degarra, Wujal Wujal, which was evacuated, and many others survived the cyclone only to be impacted by the unprecedented floods. Cyclone Kirrily flooded places like Tirranna Springs Roadhouse in the north-west, which was still recovering from the 2023 floods. No-one will forget the sight of Kynuna Roadhouse that was surrounded by water.

It was not just the north of the state. The storms that ripped through the south-east corner caused incredible devastation. The flooding also again impacted places like Laidley and across the Darling Downs at Warra. On behalf of the LNP I want to thank all of the first responders and the volunteers, the Ergon and Energex workers, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the rural fire brigades. I want to give a special shout-out to the member for Theodore, who wore out one chainsaw clearing the roads after the South-East Queensland severe storm.


I also want to thank the many mayors, councillors and local government staff who have been tireless in dealing with the disasters at the time and also their ongoing work during the recovery that in many cases is continuing. We are only just in February. We are only halfway through the disaster season. I hope many of these first responders and volunteers have a chance to catch their breath before we are faced with another disaster event.

These events have highlighted some of the shortcomings in the Labor government's disaster assistance to victims. Queenslanders are telling me that those who are homeless or living in a car due to the housing crisis are not in a position to receive the disaster assistance payments from the department of communities. They are really struggling to get those disaster assistance payments. These people are hurting yet they struggle to meet the assistance guidelines. Volunteers at the community recovery centre at Holloways Beach had to protect the community donations 24/7 from looting because that is what happens when there are fewer police and weaker laws in Queensland.

The Daintree and Cape Tribulation Road and the Bloomfield Track are a source of great frustration to the residents whose businesses rely on this essential road. Queenslanders are telling me the school buses are unable to operate, the tourists are unable to get through, and the local businesses and residents are very frustrated. That is not the only challenge the Douglas Shire Council have had. They have had to turn off the water to Port Douglas a number of times because of the boulders in the filtration system there that has been impacted by the flooding. Port Douglas businesses cannot operate without water and they receive little assistance for the business disruption. These are just some of the issues—

(Time expired)

Titles Queensland, Morecroft Family

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.33 pm): I bring great news to the House. My former constituents in Mermaid Beach Jess and Jackie Morecroft have won their court case in the Court of Appeal against the Queensland government and particularly against the belligerent and ill-formed judgement of the Queensland Treasurer, Cameron Dick. In a unanimous three-judge decision, the court rejected the mean-spirited appeal trumpeted by the Treasurer in this House against the Queensland government paying \$2.7 million in compensation awarded by a lower court as a result of the Morecrofts being defrauded of their home in Mermaid Beach. They have been homeless since the decision that was brought down meant they had to hand over their house because of the fraud, which had nothing to do with them whatsoever.

I have always lived by the mantra that public officers make recommendations but it is the politician who makes the decision for better or worse. This appeal and lengthy delay to the Morecrofts and further expense to the Queensland government could have been avoided if the Labor government had any sense of decency and compassion and abided by the original court decision. This was a one-off case with Powerball odds of setting a precedent for the government. I cannot fathom why the original

court decision was not followed to not only save the government additional legal expense on a case they could not win but also to save them from paying the Morecrofts' costs which the Court of Appeal has ordered them to do.

The Treasurer blamed the minister for natural resources for this debacle because of his control over the titles office, but we all know it is the money man who controls the direction of the government's expenditure and the buck will always stop with him. This is just another example of the Labor government's waste of taxpayers' money which will be added to Queenslanders' rapidly rising tax bill.

The Treasurer took it upon himself to berate me personally for standing up for my constituents, and his unedifying, abusive speech is symptomatic of a Treasurer and now Deputy Premier who is out of touch with the harsh outcomes of the legal world for everyday, law-abiding, salt-of-the-earth Queenslanders. It is the Treasurer who should apologise to Jess and Jackie Morecroft for dragging them through another set of courts to again prove that his backing of legal excuses by his department's advisers was totally wrong.

This shameful and unnecessary political haranguing of a Mermaid Beach constituent has overtones of a class warfare ideology. I wonder if the same case would befall a constituent in the Woodridge electorate and if the same 'knock 'em down, drag 'em out' mentality would have been applied. The salutary lesson to be gained from this sad episode of political history is that this Labor government think only of squeezing every last dollar from Queenslanders regardless of court direction and regardless of compassionate and justifiable decision-making to show a willingness to do the right thing. Congratulations Jess and Jackie on being able to buy your new house.

Weather Events



Hon. MP HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (2.36 pm): On 13 December Far North Queensland received our first cyclone for the season, as we have heard other speakers refer to. In fact, it was the first major cyclone since Yasi back in 2011. Tropical Cyclone Jasper crossed the coast as a category 2 system on Wednesday evening in the vicinity of the township of Wujal Wujal, as we all know.

The cyclone itself was different from previous cyclones experienced due to the movement and the unexpected stalling of this system. Once in Australia's area of responsibility, this tropical cyclone sat off the coast for eight days prior to crossing the Far North Queensland coast. The benefit of hindsight now tells us that sitting over the Coral Sea all that time meant the system was absorbing copious amounts of moisture.

The weekend of 16 and 17 December saw Far North Queensland hit by constant torrential rain from this ex-tropical cyclone which subsequently caused significant and major flooding and a huge amount of damage in a wide range of areas. The figures are staggering, with the Bureau of Meteorology showing that over two metres of rain fell in a four-day period around Mossman Gorge and 1.9 metres near Kuranda Range over the same period. Some of the rainfalls have been the heaviest recorded anywhere in Australia since 1958. In 40 hours the airport received approximately 600 millimetres of rain.

It is at times like this that the community really has to pull together. As I was up there, I want to commend the emergency crews who are to be applauded for their commitment to successfully completing over 300 rescues in the first 42 hours. Most of these rescues were done in the evenings, late at night, in torrential rain and in arduous conditions. I want to make mention of all of those crews. Not all were from the tropical north; a lot had come from the south-east, and they did an absolutely fantastic job.

The Far North road network was decimated. You only had to look at the Rex Range to see that. The roads into Mossman, Port Douglas and Julatten had all been absolutely destroyed. I want to recognise the work of the department of main roads. They have done a fantastic job and they worked 24/7 to open it up to ensure we got access to those areas. These things are absolutely essential. We needed to get those roads opened.

As we have also heard, Ergon Energy did an incredible job. They had over 500 field crew on the ground, some of whom had cancelled their annual leave and were relocated from the south-east, as we have heard. Because we own these assets, those crews can be redeployed. We are not seeing these things happen in other parts of the Commonwealth. We need to maintain these fantastic assets. I want to acknowledge the work they have all done to help make things a little better for those who have suffered in the north.

Port Hinchinbrook



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.39 pm): No Queenslanders should be left behind and no community should be forgotten after a natural disaster. Thirteen years ago Cyclone Yasi crossed the coast, devastating much of North Queensland. Towns like Cardwell were completely devastated. This saw federal and state funding flow their way to rebuild their communities. This was not the case a couple of kilometres down the road at Port Hinchinbrook. For residents, the destruction that was caused by Cyclone Yasi was only the beginning of the nightmare. What would follow could only be described as heartbreaking and crushing.

Residents have endured living under a failed planning document, the conformed deed, which made it the responsibility of the developer to provide services and maintenance to the roads, sewerage, lighting, parks and gardens maintenance and dredging of the marina basin maintenance as well as the dredging of One Mile Creek. With the latest company to own Port Hinchinbrook, Passage Holdings, in liquidation and no legal mechanism for any entity to rate and charge for these services, it was agreed by the then state development minister to proceed with the normalisation of the development. This also included the cooperation of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council. It has not been an easy road for those involved in the process, and I must applaud the state and federal government for their funding and technical support thus far.

As planned, the land-based problems were to be addressed first. Now that a new sewage treatment plant is under construction and the roads, parks and gardens have been taken on by the local council, we must turn our focus to a long-term dredging plan. Although a \$1.5 million commitment was made available to the Cassowary Coast Regional Council through the federal government for emergency dredging, this has been a long, drawn-out process which has left business owners, coastguard volunteers and commercial and recreational fishers frustrated beyond furious at the lack of urgency of this project.

I now turn my attention to the state government. I do not believe that it or an incoming council has the interest or the ability to execute any type—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Condamine, I just remind you of the convention of not stepping between the Speaker's chair and the member on their feet. Apologies for that, member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr DAMETTO: I now turn my attention to the state government. I do not believe that it or an incoming local council can execute this long-term dredging plan. The residents of Cardwell have suffered for 13 years and have lost faith in the council's ability to solve this problem, and I implore the state government to intervene. Recently I met with the local government minister, who suggested that I then meet with the incoming transport minister to make him aware of the possible solutions, which include adoption of a Bluewater model which is used at Yorkeys Knob north of Cairns to maintain its marina and waterway or to find a way where Ports North can take on this project. Finishing what we started here will take political will from this government and a multidepartmental and ministerial approach, but it can be done. This is the right thing to do for this forgotten community.

Ipswich Electorate



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.42 pm): Every day I am proud to serve in a Queensland Labor government that is committed to delivering better health services for Ipswich. Since our first term we have invested in a massive health infrastructure build that has expanded our capacity to deliver better health services for the people of Ipswich. The rate of construction has been nothing short of phenomenal. In August last year we opened the brand new Ripley Satellite Hospital and in January this year the hospital saw its 10,000th patient. Last month I also attended the official opening of two new recently completed health facilities in Ipswich. One of them was the new mental health acute inpatients building in a residential neighbourhood. It can be tricky doing that sort of work, but we did it. I also went to the new Ripley Ambulance Station and officially opened that.


The new \$104.6 million mental health acute inpatient service provides 64 beds for adults and older persons experiencing mental health crises. This new facility has healing and wellbeing at the heart of its design which is something really important to me. It has been designed to create a therapeutic environment that supports recovery and it has a number of beautiful features like natural lighting, courtyards, gardens, local artwork and a kitchen to support independent living. I have a word on some of those artists. Jane duRand is a ceramicist locally. She did the ceramics on the outside. She went to Paris straight after and did a huge project over there, so she is internationally recognised and it is beautiful to see her work at that facility. Rachael Sarra has done a gorgeous painting for the facility.

She has done the overpass. Ian Friend, a local artist, has done work inside the facility which is beautiful, as has Jodi Bowen. We have really fantastic local artists and it was wonderful to see all of their work displayed there.

I want to thank West Moreton Health for its engagement and consultation with the local community during the project. As I mentioned before, building in a residential neighbourhood can be tricky. The area where we built this facility is really quite built up, but we listened to the locals. We listened to their feedback. We had a really important community consultation, and everybody is just as excited as we are about this new facility. Having better mental health services close to home is really exciting. I want to pay tribute to the health minister, who came out to do the official opening. She was really thoughtful in the way that she engaged with staff. Damian showed us around, and obviously it was a project of love.

Stage 2 of the Ipswich Hospital expansion will deliver an additional 200 beds. It is back on track to begin construction shortly. This shows that the Miles government is serious about improving ambulance services and health. Further, we want to make sure that they stay in public hands and will be free of charge for all.

Gabba, Redevelopment

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.45 pm): I am going to read the speech Amy had intended to deliver this week before her accident on Monday night. If I know one thing about Amy it is that she is wishing she could be here representing her community right now. I know that she wants us to get on with the job, so here goes.

The wheels have well and truly fallen off Labor's community-wrecking Gabba stadium plans. The Premier has been one of the most ardent cheerleaders for the Gabba demolition—the project that would wipe out a school and a park and cost billions in public money. In November the Premier said—

... the demolition and rebuild provided the best possible outcome, the best value outcome for the city.

In parliament the now Premier said—

... completely rebuilding the Gabba is the best value-for-money option ...


That was even after the cost had already blown out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion. How much more will it blow out?

Last week we finally heard sense from the vice-president of the IOC as he echoed what the Greens and the community have been saying for nearly three years: we should abandon the Gabba. For nearly three years the local community has been saying loud and clear, 'We do not want this bloated stadium rebuilt. We need East Brisbane State School. We need Raymond Park.' Meanwhile, the rest of the state has stood aghast at the enormous amount of money this government will spend on a vanity project while ignoring the things that Queenslanders actually need.

Since 2021 locals have been running a huge community campaign—organising community meetings and rallies, writing letters and petitions, asking for meetings—and what has been the response from the Labor government? Utter contempt. At every step of the way, the Premier, the former premier before him and Labor ministers have put their egos first and the community a distant last. We say to the Premier: it is done. Call off the \$2.7 billion Gabba demolition now. The community does not want it. The International Olympic Committee vice-president says that it does not stack up, the Australian Olympic Committee president says that there are better solutions, and now even a former Labor premier has come out against it. Labor has to come clean with its plans for the Gabba before the council election next month; otherwise, Labor should expect a complete wipe-out and to be replaced by the Greens, because we will not back down.

The Greens and Amy's community have been fighting this absurd project for so long now—as I have said, nearly three years. As Amy would say, we will not stop fighting, we will keep going until we hear the Premier say that the Gabba rebuild is scrapped and East Brisbane State School and Raymond Park are protected. I suspect that I have not quite done Amy justice in the delivery of that but again wish her well.

Waterworks Road

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.48 pm): I represent a beautiful part of Brisbane in the inner west and it is no wonder, therefore, that the inner west has had such a great population explosion. While we welcome our new neighbours and our new friends, regrettably I have been so underwhelmed by the

lack of planning and the lack of vision by the current LNP Brisbane City Council administration and its plans for the inner west. We have had really large population growth, but there is no strategic vision for the inner west like other councils have. The Brisbane City Council has no crime prevention strategy, unlike other councils. There is no climate resilience and disaster planning strategy by the LNP council, unlike other councils.

Today I was going to talk broadly about planning but my speech went on and on and I only have three minutes, so I will confine myself to just one issue—that is, Waterworks Road. Many of us would know Waterworks Road. It is the main arterial road in my electorate. It goes from the back of The Gap all the way through Ashgrove to Red Hill in the inner city. There are 35,000 cars on that road every day. It is a really busy road. It is very congested, quite dangerous and it is a Brisbane City Council owned road. Unfortunately, it also has a tragic reputation of being one of RACQ's most dangerous roads in Australia year on year and that is only getting worse.

I want to acknowledge that last night we did have a terrible accident on Waterworks Road. I have spoken to police this morning and understand that the two drivers are now in a stable condition, downgraded from critical. My thoughts are with them and their families. I thank also the first responders who did respond. It is a sharp reminder why we need some urgent work on Waterworks Road. It has not had a major upgrade in two decades. It was a Labor government that did the expansion of Waterworks Road. Anyone driving on that road could speak to the congestion and danger. It is a council responsibility to do the work to upgrade Waterworks Road.

Whilst I enjoy a professional working relationship with our council colleagues, I would not be doing my community justice if I did not stand here and speak out about Waterworks Road today. Another complicating factor is that there are rumours that there will be an application for a sealed road to connect the back of Upper Kedron with Waterworks Road. Upper Kedron has a population of 6,000 people. While we welcome them, by ABS standards half of those people drive every day to work. That is 3,000 vehicles. A conservative estimate might be 1,000 additional vehicles onto Waterworks Road. It simply cannot cope with the demand.

I would like to know what council's plan is to look at the planning more broadly. What are they doing with Waterworks Road? So many people want active and public transport options. We have been asking council for years, but nothing is coming forward.

Paradise Dam



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.51 pm): This week we have talked a lot about the debacle and the catastrophe that was the Callide explosion, but in the short period that I have I want to talk about saving Queenslanders from paying for Labor's failures, which is one of our LNP priorities. When one talks about failures, one needs to look no further than the Paradise Dam debacle. When a government gambles with grower security, is it any wonder that grower confidence is shattered? We all know that when grower confidence erodes, the planting gets pulled back, supply reduces and inevitably the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables increases. Worst of all, those opposite simply do not get it, nor does the member for Bundaberg. Make no mistake, this government's complete mismanagement around Paradise Dam has and will continue to push up the prices of fruit and vegetables in what is one of our state's most valuable food bowls.

Mr Weir: Adding to the cost of living.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. We know that what happened to Paradise Dam is a damn disgrace. How did it get to this? An article by James Taylor of the *Courier-Mail* that was published in the *Bundaberg NewsMail* on Tuesday summed it up very well with the headline 'Mistakes, missteps, personal conflict behind flawed construction of Paradise Dam'. After almost 10 years of Labor, I guess we should not be surprised. Premier Miles needs to come clean and explain what he knew, when he knew it and if downstream communities in Bundaberg were ever at risk of harm.


Former premier Peter Beattie had to defend himself from the joke of the member for Bundaberg, who stood up and said, 'It's all Peter Beattie's fault!' The water minister was standing behind him and had a bit of a grin on his face and thought, 'Oops, no, I'd better not laugh.' You have to love it; Peter Beattie, the former premier who was the premier when Paradise was built, said, 'Well, if the problems were identified years ago why has there been such a delay?' I am on the same page as Peter Beattie. Honestly, the fake outrage by the member for Bundaberg was completely laughable. He embodies what it means to be a Labor member of parliament: everything is everyone else's fault. He is quick to blame,

but does not let the truth get in the way of a good story. That is exactly why the good people of Bundaberg need to elect Bree Watson, because she stood up for the growers and she knows that we need to show Labor the door in '24.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, member for Nanango, you used some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Brisbane City Council, Election

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.54 pm): In a month's time we will have the Brisbane City Council election where the people of Brisbane have a choice between a tired and stale 20-year-old LNP council led by a career politician who want to be in there for a quarter of a century but who have nothing to offer but cuts—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear interjections from the cutters in the LNP; they are consistent—versus a fresh and on-the-front-foot Tracey Price led Labor team. She is a candidate who has run small businesses—her legal firm and her sewing business. She has real-life experience versus the career politician that is Lord Mayor Schrinner—a lord mayor who did not even keep his promises last time. Do members remember the five green bridges? Three of them are gone. Why would anyone believe election promises from Lord Mayor Schrinner this time when he did not keep them from four years ago? We have seen, for the third election in a row, promises around the big bendy bus Metro, and where is it? It is nowhere to be seen. That is three elections, eight years and nothing to show. Not only that, they are actually scheduled to run on the existing South East Busway and 120 metres of tunnel. All Metro big bendy buses are overseas made.

Congestion has never been worse in Brisbane and yet Lord Mayor Schrinner is saying 'Keep Brisbane moving'. How out of touch can that be? It reminds me of Sallyanne Atkinson's slogan of 'Keep Brisbane shining'—and then there was an 18 per cent swing and she was gone. For 20 years an LNP council has been spending millions on propaganda and self-promotion but not on local roads in the suburbs. That is their record. They are financially mismanaging the biggest council in the country. Only three months after their budget was brought down they announced massive cuts. We need the half-price bus fares that Tracey Price is promising. We need increased bus frequency. We need better connections to active transport. We need the suburbs to be respected and invested in. That is what Tracey Price and a Labor team will do. They will invest in a billion dollar congestion fund to get Brisbane moving, get them out of gridlock. What a great job Shane Warren is doing in Holland Park with his Tarragindi traffic plan.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, table that.

Mr BAILEY: I table that.

Tabled paper: Flyer titled 'Shane Warren Labor for Holland Park: Tarragindi Traffic Plan' [\[210\]](#).

Here is someone who cares about Tarragindi. He has a plan for Tarragindi and will not ignore it like Deputy Mayor Krista Adams has done for so long.

Community Cohesion

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.58 pm): As the Minister for Multicultural Affairs I am committed to a Queensland where everyone is supported to connect and contribute to their community and to belong. More than 22 per cent of Queensland's population were born overseas and more than 13.5 per cent of Queenslanders speak a language other than English at home. This confirms the richness and diversity of our state. It is vital we continue fostering welcoming and inclusive communities. Which brings me to the shocking death of Redbank Plains grandmother Vyleen White. Mrs White's death was tragic and senseless and we know the community is hurting. Our thoughts are with Mrs White's family and loved ones at this time of deep sadness. We must now let the criminal justice system do its job.

Queensland is a diverse state and we come from many different backgrounds. Our multiculturalism is one of the greatest strengths and something that we are very proud of. We are a stronger state because of this. Individuals are responsible for crimes, not their wider communities. Right

now we are hearing of appalling incidents of racism and vilification, physically, online and through flyers into letterboxes. There is never a time for such actions. It is ugly, it is unacceptable and it is not what Queenslanders do.


These actions have no place in a diverse and multicultural Queensland and will not be tolerated. The new serious vilification and hate crimes legislation will come into effect this year. The new legislation will respond to the exact types of incidents we are hearing about. We should not engage in division. Instead, we should support those who have been deeply affected by this tragedy.

Following this tragic incident, I reached out to Beny Bol from the Queensland African Communities Council to offer my support and the support of Multicultural Affairs Queensland. MAQ has a strong and enduring relationship with the council and it is during times of crisis that these relationships come to the fore. Beny has done an outstanding job supporting the community in Redbank Plains. His leadership and the community's leadership must be commended. I also wish to thank Mrs White's daughter Cindy Micallef, who joined local African community leaders to call for unity amid rising tensions. That was an incredibly generous act at a time of deep grief.

I thank members of my Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council who made themselves available at short notice to offer their wise counsel to me on ongoing measures and support during this difficult time. I encourage every Queenslanders to stand together. Supporting one another has and will continue to get us through our toughest times.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that: the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee report on the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 April 2024; the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report on the Clean Economy Jobs Bill by 5 April 2024; the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report on both the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 April 2024; and the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 5 April 2024 and the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 April 2024.


The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that: the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 5 of 2023-24 titled *Energy 2023* be referred to the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 6 of 2023-24 titled *Health 2023* be referred to the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 7 of 2023-24 titled *Major projects 2023* and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 8 of 2023-24 titled *Local government 2023* be referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee; and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 9 of 2023-24 titled *Minimising gambling harm* be referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee.

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 259, on motion of Mr Mellish—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.02 pm), continuing in reply: An employee preference process was run in October 2023 and 183 employees chose to either remain with the department or transition to the regulator. There has been continuing engagement and communications with all affected employees and the Together union throughout this transition. This support and communication will continue in the lead-up to the transition day and for a time afterwards.

TMR has been actively engaging with employees and their union representatives on the National Services Transition for more than two years. This has included regular updates from leaders, regional road shows, a dedicated information hub and the ability to submit questions at any time. Over the course

of the past two years, more than 200 written responses have been provided back to employees in response to their questions. TMR also implemented a comprehensive change-in-wellbeing program to support its employees throughout this period, including a request for dedicated one-on-one support from change management experts.

During the engagement activities with employees and their union representatives, TMR considered 10 different proposals on how to best balance the needs of TMR, the NHVR and affected employees. They co-designed a preference process with input from not only the Together union but also transport inspectors who are delegates representing the cohort. As a result, all TMR employees were given the option to choose their preferred employer and work location.

To date, only a very small number of employees have not transitioned into either a compliance role with TMR or the NHVR. Some of those employees were unwilling or unable to relocate to secure their preferred employer and others from that cohort have decided that they do not wish to work in a compliance role for either organisation. Those employees will remain permanent employees of TMR at transition and will be actively supported by TMR to secure alternative employment, in line with the relevant Queensland government directives. TMR will be putting in place dedicated and tailored support resources to assist that small number of employees to secure alternative employment post transition.

Again I extend my thanks to the TMR's National Services Transition team and the regulator for working collaboratively to ensure the success of this program and for a smooth transition of these regulatory services. I acknowledge the contributions of various members to the debate on the bill and I appreciate their participation and support. I also acknowledge the support of the House to approve amendments during consideration in detail to increase the width of safer freight vehicles which will accelerate the adoption of advanced safety technologies in the Australian heavy vehicle fleet. These amendments will improve road safety, particularly for our most vulnerable road users, and will ensure that the heavy vehicle freight industry operates in a nationally consistent regulatory environment.

During his contribution the member for Callide inquired into permits for the Callide Power Station. I can advise that my department worked closely with CS Energy to move two very heavy loads, with a total combined mass of approximately 630 tonnes, from the Gladstone port to the Callide Power Station. Those loads, moved during December 2022 and January 2023, were amongst the heaviest loads to ever move on the Queensland road network. My department conducted significant engineering work and analysis to determine operating conditions, strengthening works and traffic management to enable those loads to safely move on the road network. I commend the department as there has not been another load of similar scope and/or mass to that of the Callide move in recent history. Finally, I thank the ministerial and departmental officers who have worked hard on this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—



Mr MELLISH (3.07 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 6 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 4A)

Page 10, line 9, 'section 34D'—

omit, insert—

section 34E

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

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Bart Mellish's amendments [\[211\]](#).

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Bart Mellish's amendments [\[212\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr MELLISH (3.08 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr MELLISH: I move the following amendment—

2

After clause 8

Page 15, after line 3—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Heavy Vehicle National Law

8A Law amended

This part amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law as set out in the Schedule to the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012*.

8B Amendment of s 5 (Definitions)

Section 5, in alphabetical order—

insert—

safer freight vehicle has the meaning given by section 153A(2).

8C Amendment of s 153A (Using restricted access vehicle)

(1) Section 153A(2), in alphabetical order—

insert—

safer freight vehicle means a single heavy motor vehicle that meets the requirements prescribed for the purposes of this definition by the national regulations, but does not include a bus.

single heavy motor vehicle means a motor vehicle that, on its own, is a heavy vehicle.

(2) Section 153A(3)(c), 'semitrailer.'—

omit, insert—

semitrailer; or

(3) Section 153A(3)—

insert—

(d) a safer freight vehicle; or

(e) a combination that—

(i) includes a safer freight vehicle, together with its load, that is the only component vehicle wider than 2.5m; and

(ii) is not higher than 4.3m; and

(iii) is not longer than 19m.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 80, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.08 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.09 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

INTEGRITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 June 2023 (see p. 2075)

Second Reading



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.10 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I acknowledge the work of the formerly named Economics and Governance Committee in considering the bill and its recommendation that the bill be passed. The bill represents another significant milestone in delivering this government's commitment to an effective, enduring and contemporary integrity framework in Queensland. This bill addresses two fundamental messages from the Coaldrake report. The first is to improve the independence of core integrity bodies, and the second is to strengthen the regulation of lobbying. The bill achieves this in a number of ways.

The report recommends strengthening the independence of the core integrity bodies to help ensure they fulfil their functions as independently as possible, with no interference nor prejudice imposed by the executive government. However, it is also important to remember that Queensland's integrity bodies are funded from the state's revenue—that is, the taxpayers' money that the executive government is entrusted to distribute fairly, wisely and in the pursuit of the policies and infrastructure needed by the community.

This bill seeks to balance the executive government's responsibility for government spending with the integrity bodies' need for independence from financial interference. It does this by introducing an independent arbiter and transparent decision-making process. Recommendation 12 of the Coaldrake report, on page 3, states—

Integrity bodies' independence be enhanced by involvement of parliamentary committees in setting their budgets and contributing to key appointments.

Each of the five integrity bodies' acts are amended by the bill to provide for funding proposals from integrity bodies to firstly be submitted to, and considered by, the appropriate parliamentary committee. The committee will be required to consider the funding proposal and provide a report to the relevant minister either approving the proposal, not approving the proposal or approving a different or amended proposal. This report will need to be provided to the minister within 20 business days of the funding proposal being received by the committee to avoid delaying funding increases for the integrity bodies. If a report is not provided within this time frame, the funding proposal is deemed to be approved. The funding proposal will then be considered by government as part of usual budgetary processes. If the government's decision on a funding proposal differs from a parliamentary committee's report, the minister will be accountable back to the parliament for that difference and must table a report explaining why the proposal approved by the committee was altered.

The role of parliamentary committees in decisions on key appointments to the integrity bodies is also to be enhanced. The bill amends four of the integrity body acts to require parliamentary committee approval for key appointments, being the Auditor-General, the Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner and the Integrity Commissioner. It is not necessary to apply these amendments to the Crime and Corruption Commission. The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee already has an approving role in key appointments for that body. For the four integrity bodies, parliamentary committee approval will be required for the recruitment and selection process, the remuneration, allowances, terms and conditions of employment, and for the final nominee to be submitted to the Governor in Council. The responsible minister and department will undertake the recruitment and other administrative processes.

The committee will have 20 business days to consider a request for approval about the recruitment and selection process, the salary and conditions of employment or the nominee. After that time if the committee's decision has not been provided, the committee's approval will be deemed. Without committee approval or deemed approval, the minister will not be permitted to submit a nominee to the Governor in Council and will need to provide a new nominee to the committee for consideration. I foreshadow that, in respect of decisions on key appointments, the government intends to move amendments during consideration in detail to provide for an extension of time, of up to a further 20 business days, for parliamentary committee approval. The extension of time would need to be agreed between the committee chair and the minister, and would apply in the event of unforeseen situations of illness, natural disaster or other disruption to the committee.

In relation to the report of the independent auditor for the Queensland Audit Office, I foreshadow that I intend to move a minor amendment to address an operational issue which has been identified post drafting. I note the comments made by the Right to Information Commissioner who stated during committee hearings—

... no matter what model you adopt under the Westminster regime, there is no such thing as absolute independence. I think we have to be realistic about that.

Ms Winson went on to say—

We have to be realistic that under the Westminster model responsible government includes that the government of the day has ultimate accountability for the Consolidated Fund.

A sound set of statements. As we all know, the Westminster system, the system under which this parliament operates, has ministerial accountability at its heart and, in short, expenditure decisions of the executive are answerable to this parliament, the representative body of the people of Queensland. While this new system will enhance integrity bodies' accountability and independence, the decision to expend money from consolidated revenue will always rest with the executive government of the day, which is accountable to this chamber. In fact, the only way that a bill can pass this chamber if it expends funds is with a message from the Governor, something which can only be obtained by government ministers.

One primary way that ministers are accountable for expenditure is via the budget process where the decisions of expenditure are scrutinised not only in this chamber but also through the estimates process—a valuable cornerstone of our democratic system. While I know that there were some alternate views in respect of implementing some of the recommendations, such as aligning financial accountability with the Speaker, these would have required constitutional change—something that was not recommended.

The government believes that the amendments, coupled with the amendments circulated, provide a sound pathway forward to empower our parliament via its rigorous committee system to have a greater involvement in the setting of core integrity bodies' budgets and oversight of key appointments and other matters.

Moving onto other elements, the Auditor-General is being provided with the mandate to audit trusts where at least one public sector entity controls the trust and either one or more public sector entities collectively hold at least 50 per cent of the trust or the assets of the trust.

In relation to the Ombudsman, I note that the Ombudsman will have the authority to investigate complaints against private organisations carrying out functions on behalf of the government. This is a direct result of recommendation 13 of the Coaldrake report which stated—

The Ombudsman be provided with the authority to investigate complaints against private organisations carrying out functions on behalf of the government.

I am advised that the Ombudsman in their submission confirmed that the bill implements the Coaldrake report's recommendation and addresses the current limitations of the Ombudsman Act which have precluded it from investigating or making recommendations to non-government service providers regarding their delivery of public services. I am advised that some stakeholders had issues with some elements of these reforms; however, I am advised that the Ombudsman will provide guidance and education to the NGO sector as we move forward with these important reforms.

I turn now to lobbying regulation. The Coaldrake report acknowledges the role of lobbying in informing good policy development, but the report also stresses the importance of sound regulation that maintains equal access to decision-makers and does not allow imposition by anyone of undue influence over a decision-maker. The bill focuses on the activity of lobbying rather than the role of the individual and indicates what is, and is not, lobbying activity. It also requires mandatory training for registered lobbyists. The bill provides a number of new powers and functions for the Integrity Commissioner to better manage the regulation of lobbying, such as the power to request information from government and opposition representatives, seek an explanation or issue a direction and warn lobbyists for alleged misconduct. On page 58 of the Coaldrake report, it states—

Lobbying regulation be strengthened by an explicit prohibition on the "dual hatting" of professional lobbyists during election campaigns. They can either lobby or provide professional political advice but cannot do both.

This is exactly what the bill, coupled with the amendments circulated, does. As noted by some stakeholders during the committee inquiry, these provisions may be too narrow to give full effect to the Coaldrake report recommendations. I therefore, wish to foreshadow that the government will be moving an amendment to this bill to strengthen the prohibition of lobbyists working in a substantial role in an

election campaign. In short, from commencement of the proposed provision, if a registered lobbyist, anytime during a term of government, plays a substantial role in an election campaign of a political party, they are banned from being a registered lobbyist for the remainder of that term. If the party they played a substantial role for wins at the next general election, then they are banned from re-registering as a lobbyist for the next term.

However, if the party they played a substantial role for loses at the next general election then they can become a registered lobbyist again, if they so desire. This removes any ambiguity or the potential loophole, as some were describing it, that a registered lobbyist would deregister just before a general election, work in a substantial role and then come back, as they were not dual hatting during the election period. The amendments which will be moved are stronger and clearer. This is a prime example of how the Miles government is taking the matters of integrity in our democratic landscape seriously—and I understand that stakeholders like the Integrity Commissioner have been consulted on this amendment and are supportive of it.

Further, the Integrity Commissioner during the committee's inquiry requested further detail be provided in the long title of the Integrity Act 2009 about the lobbying code of conduct, the power to issue directives and mandatory training. We will also do this.

In addition, I foreshadow that I will move some other amendments which I am advised stem from requests or via consultation with the Integrity Commissioner, in addition to amendments to resolve definitional issues and references to obsolete terms. The Integrity Commissioner has advised that the change of definition of 'designated persons' which stemmed from recent reviews has meant that some individuals or positions are not captured, and there is no quick way to allow them to get advice from the Integrity Commissioner without adding them via regulation. As such, the government proposes moving an amendment that will authorise the Premier to nominate a person or class of persons for a period of 28 days.

The November 2022 reforms also inserted new sections into the Integrity Act to provide for requests for the Integrity Commissioner's advice by former designated persons and by ministers or assistant ministers about ministerial advisers. Further amendments will amend those sections, firstly, to allow a chief of staff to request advice about a ministerial adviser and for a minister or assistant minister to be notified that this has occurred. The second amendment will allow a ministerial adviser to seek the Integrity Commissioner's advice on an ethical or integrity issue that arises from a post-separation obligation before their separation.

Members will also see amendments circulated in relation to the Evidence Act. I can advise that these relate to the sexual assault counselling privilege framework and are being moved as an amendment due to the urgent nature of the amendments. The framework seeks to ensure that victims or alleged victims of sexual assault are not deterred from seeking therapy through fear of having their confidential discussions disclosed during legal proceedings.

The foreshadowed amendments address some potential issues with the framework that have been raised in the courts. They will confirm the implied power of the court to consider protected counselling communications for the purpose of deciding an application for leave by expressly providing that the court may order that protected counselling communication be produced to it, may consider the communication and make any other order to facilitate its consideration of the communication. The amendments will also clarify that, if protected counselling communication is produced to the court in accordance with an order, the court must not make the communication available or disclose its contents to the parties to the proceeding before deciding the application for leave under the sexual assault counselling privilege framework.

I know that members of this chamber and indeed many Queenslanders are interested in how the government is implementing the 14 recommendations made by Coaldrake. I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that the majority of the recommendations have been completed or are nearing completion.

Passed last year, the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 strengthened the Auditor-General's independence by making them an officer of the parliament and providing staffing and operational independence, as proposed in recommendation 1. This bill builds on the lobbying amendments of the legislation passed last year and will make Queensland's lobbying regulatory framework among the strongest in the nation.

In further addressing recommendation 3, chief of staff diary extracts are disclosed on a monthly basis and a new fit-for-purpose lobbying register is now accessible via the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner's website—and we have gone further. The Queensland Ministerial Handbook

now requires publication of assistant minister diaries in the same format as ministerial diaries. Publication will commence with publication of the February 2024 diaries in March 2024. To further enhance the integrity landscape in Queensland, the Miles government will ensure that the diary extracts of not only the Leader of the Opposition and their chief of staff but also the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all shadow ministers are published.

The Public Sector Commission has been funded to realise recommendation 5 and will allow them to focus on the rejuvenation of the capability and capacity of the Queensland public sector. The government has also appointed a new Public Sector Commissioner to ensure there is a renewed and energised focus within that commission on what Queenslanders want, which is a high-performing and dedicated public sector regardless of where they are in Queensland.

The Crime and Corruption Commission engaged an external consultant to review the organisation's culture and performance to ensure that their focus is on corrupt conduct complaints, fulfilling recommendation 7. As per recommendation 8, an independent director-general and the Public Sector Commission now oversee investigations of complaints made against senior public servants of SES3 rank and higher.

In realising recommendation 9, new guidelines have been published under the Queensland Procurement Policy, and the requirements for annual reporting have been updated to ensure that more detail on consultant expenditure is publicly available. From the annual reporting round in 2024 there will be enhanced reporting via the Open Data website. With the passage of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, recommendation 10, which requires establishing a mandatory data breach notification scheme, is achieved. This scheme has been funded over four years.

A review of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 occurred, with over 100 recommendations made. Government is reviewing the recommendations which will see a completely new act created, addressing recommendation 11. Recommendation 14 has been realised, with agency chief executives now appointed via initial five-year fixed-term contracts under the Public Sector Act 2022. Recommendations 12 and 13 are addressed in this bill.

There has been substantial progress on the remaining three recommendations. I am advised that, in respect of recommendation 4, each minister and director-general has been asked to meet with their senior leadership to promote an enduring, effective and respectful working relationship between the department and ministerial office. I am further advised that codes of conduct for ministers and ministerial staff and the protocols for communication with department employees have been reviewed to ensure they align with the Coaldrake review recommendations, and changes are expected to be implemented shortly.


In respect of recommendation 6 regarding the clearing house, enhancements have been put in place, including a new complaints platform, webpage and management framework tools, in addition to guidelines to departments regarding time frames they should respond to people by. Former Judge Forde was engaged to review the clearing house complaints suggestion from the report and to report to government on ways it could be achieved, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that Queenslanders have the ability via any door to make a complaint or provide feedback.

In respect of recommendation 2 regarding the proactive release of cabinet submissions, this will occur from the last cabinet meeting in March this year. While I note that those opposite and some in the public realm have been calling for this to start sooner, it should not go unstated that this is a completely new and revolutionary idea and process not only for Queensland but also for Australia. It is complicated and it needed to be thought through and developed in a considered and methodical manner.

As some on the other side of the chamber would know, important, complex and sensitive matters go to cabinet. Therefore, a system needed to be designed to release information and submissions pursuant to the recommendation but also to ensure that matters such as individual privacy, legal professional privilege, budget matters, commercial matters and sensitive matters between states were not also released.

The infrastructure, training and processes that have had to be expended to set this up have been large. I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking and dedicated public servants not only in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet but right across government—including in my Department of Justice and Attorney-General, as we have a large volume of submissions—for their collective effort in setting up systems and processes to make this happen.

As outlined when the bill was introduced, Queenslanders rightly expect their government to provide public services that are transparent and accountable. They want to see these services delivered in a contemporary integrity framework that maintains and improves a culture of accountability. In respect of the substantive elements of the bill and the associated amendments, these reforms form part of the overall package of reforms progressed by our government. These reforms ensure that Queensland has a strong, independent and robust integrity system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.28 pm): The fact that the debate on this integrity bill has been gagged by the Miles Labor government says everything about this Labor government's lack of commitment to integrity. Labor has contempt for parliament and for scrutiny of legislation. We have seen this repeatedly. Today is another case in point. With the standing gag they move at the beginning of the week—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Callide and member for Bundaberg, stop your quarrelling.

Ms SIMPSON: The amount of time we have to address serious and significant legislation is cut into by the silly games that are played by the Leader of the House and other ministers, as we saw earlier today—all for their own political gain. Important legislation should have full scrutiny. We should have the opportunity not only to debate the legislation that was put before a parliamentary committee, including public submissions and consultation, but also to review the amendments. I thank the Attorney-General for tabling the amendments, which I understand were circulated after lunch today. We will look forward to examining those further and taking on board her advice.

Mrs D'Ath: They were here before.

Ms SIMPSON: They were not here before lunch when we were sitting in the chamber. Maybe they were not circulated to everyone, Attorney-General.

Mr Power: They were.

Ms SIMPSON: I was sitting here right through. They were not circulated to me as the shadow minister sitting here in the chamber in this seat. The lack of appropriate scrutiny of the amendments is something that goes hand in hand with the way this government has cut into the debate on this piece of legislation. Labor does have contempt for the scrutiny of legislation and parliamentary processes, and 2024 is looking a lot like 2023 under this so-called new Premier—the former deputy premier and long-term Labor minister. Nothing has changed; they have learned nothing.

Case in point: just this morning we had the Premier making claims about police numbers, as if somehow they had fixed police numbers, and he did not come clean with this parliament about the fact that there are about 322 fewer full-time-equivalent police than this time last year. That is a dramatic reduction in operational police.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have waited three minutes, but the member has yet to mention the Integrity and Other Legislation Bill and seems to be going off on yet another tangent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Logan, I imagine you are making a point of order about relevance. Member for Maroochydore, I would ask you to come to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: I am more than happy to talk about how integrity matters, and this legislation and the culture of this government relate directly to all of the crises of this government, including the youth crime crisis and the housing crisis. A record number of people are living in tents. These are service delivery failures that are directly connected to the integrity failures of this government, which wants to gag me as well.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right—member for Miller, member for Bundaberg and member for Stretton—I will hear the point of order in silence, please.

Mrs D'ATH: I take personal offence at the statement that the member just made. That is not the point of order I rose for, but I ask that she withdraw and then I will deal with my point of order.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw.

Mrs D'ATH: My point of order is relevance. You cannot take one word, being the word 'integrity', and suddenly apply that to everything else outside of the bill. The member should be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I would ask you to be relevant to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: Entirely. This is going to infuriate Labor ministers, who do not want to talk about their integrity record as part of an integrity piece of legislation that came about due to an integrity inferno, a series of crises all related to their integrity failures and pillars of administration that were broken under this Labor government. They may not want to talk about it. They may want a gag placed on revealing the integrity crises that are directly related to the issues that sparked the Coaldrake review. I will unpack that because it is entirely relevant to this legislation.

This government want to wipe out Labor's history that their ministers have all been part of, including the so-called new Premier, who is just the old deputy premier recycled. This morning the government moved a motion to extend rules to publish shadow ministers' diaries along with assistant ministers—which is fine—but then blocked a motion to extend it to committee chairs. We did not want to extend it to the Ethics Committee and the PCCC, but to portfolio chairs. They blocked that, and once again this goes to the issue of integrity, scrutiny and accountability. We have former government ministers such as the member for Miller, who is now chair of one of these portfolio committees, who can continue meeting with their lobbyist mates, but that is all secret. According to this Labor government that is okay. That is blocked. There is no right to know because they do not want you to know. They have learned nothing.

The integrity crisis under this government continues to burn, and this legislation fails to fix the failures that set the fire alight, particularly the significant damning cultural issues that have been outlined. The culture, chaos and crisis that have been hallmarks of this nine-year-old government are the same. There has been a change of Premier but not a change of government, nor of integrity issues such as the damning culture of cover-up and the misuse of power and maladministration which have a direct correlation to the series of crises blighting this administration. From the cost-of-living crisis to youth crime, housing and health, just to name some of the most substantial and significant ones impacting every Queensland, all crises have a lead time. In Queensland's case they have all taken root—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that the member come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you to be relevant to the bill. I believe you are being relevant.

Ms SIMPSON: The Coaldrake report, which sparked this substantial legislation, also came about in the context of a series of crises. They are a series of crises rooted in maladministration—and some would say corruption—but the roots of maladministration and corruption are the same. The roots and the fruits of maladministration and corruption are the same, and they go to this issue of integrity to do with the processes of government, to do with accountability, to do with transparency, to do with respect for the elected members of parliament, to do with the parliamentary regime of accountability, and to do with parliamentary committees, which we have increasingly seen used and abused by this Labor government. There were a series of crises which are quite well documented, but relevant, that sparked the Coaldrake review, which in turn sparked elements of this legislation.

We still have not seen this government address the major cultural issues, which are damning, in the way they treated the public sector in particular. I heard members opposite trying to make out that police numbers are not relevant. They are relevant, as they are the public servants who are tasked to keep our community safe on behalf of the government and on behalf of the people. The fact that there has been a revolving door of more and more police leaving—we understand there are 322 fewer police—goes to the issue of the culture of this government in the way they have refused to back our police so the police can back the community and keep it safer. They are all linked to maladministration, which are integrity issues and failures of this government.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will raise the point of order of relevance. If the member believes she is being relevant, I ask that she point to where in the bill or the Coaldrake report it talks about the issues she is talking about now with policing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to seek advice in silence, members. Member for Maroochydore, there are particular purposes for the bill. The Coaldrake review obviously is relevant to the bill as well. I would ask you to remain relevant to those purposes and the genesis of those purposes in this bill.

Ms SIMPSON: I am more than happy to list a number of the damning quotes from Coaldrake, and I have them here. They followed a series of crises that this government was mired in. It seems that Labor members do not want to talk about what sparked the Coaldrake review into the culture and

accountability in the Queensland public sector, both the interim report and the final report which informs this legislation. I will be examining those issues further. The context of how this significant report came about is entirely relevant, and I will quote segments of the Coaldrake report about that terrible culture—the bullying culture, the intimidation and the fear—in the Public Service. I will continue to do so and hope that Labor members will not try to gag me on that as well.

There were a series of crises, such as the mangocube affair where the former transport minister used private emails for official business, talking about confidential cabinet submissions with union mates, and acted to delete records, contrary to the Public Records Act, which sparked a CCC inquiry. Subsequently, there have been reviews of the Public Records Act. There was also the bullying of the previous integrity commissioner, Nikola Stepanov, after her investigation of unlawful lobbying, which is an issue we are debating before the House, and the fact that when she spoke about this interference with her role—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that the member authenticate the exact words in that report when she makes claims like 'bullying' and 'mates'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: The member is misleading the parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a well-established process for that and that is not it. I would ask you to cease from making further interjections on that basis.

Ms SIMPSON: Other crises included: the interference in the independent role of the former state archivist, who was responsible for upholding the Public Records Act, the keeping of the official record of government decisions and interactions, and the allegations about the altering of his reports by others to remove comments damaging to ministers; Labor aligned lobbyists working out of 1 William Street, the heart of the state executive government, during the 2020 election campaign helping to run Labor's campaign—maybe the government does not think that is a scandal but Queenslanders believe that was completely unacceptable; former deputy premier Jackie Trad's family purchase of a property near a Cross River Rail station, perceived to have a conflict of interest with her ministerial responsibilities; the state Labor government helping to underwrite Jackie Trad's legal bills for her to fight against the release of a CCC investigation report; the \$267,000 the state government granted to a company associated with the Premier's chief of staff; and the abuse of a parliamentary majority to change electoral laws with Labor's rushed changes, which were in 2016 but are still significant in that this government will do whatever it takes to hold onto power and has no respect for parliament.

The lack of scrutiny by corrupting the right-to-information process continues to be a concern respectfully with regard to RTI processes, with willing ministerial hacks willing to remove documents, so we hear, from searches to protect the government from scrutiny. There have been cost blow-outs and data which remains hidden. There are still blocking actions by this government to stop the real figures coming out and reasons for a number of the key cost blowouts. There is commercial-in-confidence and a range of those abuses, and the list goes on. These were just some that were particularly valid to the issue that sparked the Coaldrake report.

While the LNP called for a full royal commission, I acknowledge that Peter Coaldrake engaged with public servants, some of whom were bullied—despite ministers opposite denying they were bullied. Some of those public servants have raised extremely serious issues, and they are in the Coaldrake report. I thank him for his service by way of the interim and final report, titled *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*. Both of those reports were from 2022. I will quote from those reports to help the Attorney-General.

In his final report, Coaldrake was highly critical of 'the trivialising of parliamentary committees, lack of independence needed by integrity bodies or lack of clarity about decision making'. He also identified a 'loss of capacity in the public service' with 'an overreliance on external contractors and consultants'. In a quote directly from Coaldrake, he said that there was 'a culture too tolerant of bullying, unwilling to give life to unfashionable points of view'. Attorney-General, that is a direct quote about bullying in the public sector. He criticised 'frequent machinery of government changes', which the government continued to do, regardless of the recommendations. He also talked about the 'increasing influence of ministerial advisers', the 'unsteadiness' and 'an atmosphere of fear' in the public sector. Coaldrake said—

Public service officials can feel pressured, sometimes by ministerial staff, sometimes by more senior officers, to moderate advice ... to fit with a perceived Ministerial preference—which may or may not be real—or to avoid giving advice on difficult issues in writing. Personal interactions with some ministers and ministerial staff, and indeed some senior officers, can be disrespectful, belittling, or bullying, and long-term detriment to careers real or apprehended.

Coaldrake exposed practices of—

... a Director-General taking steps to prevent a report from 'reaching the Minister's ears' so as to ensure that the Minister could continue to plausibly deny knowledge of the matter.

No wonder Labor members did not want some of these damning quotes repeated here in the House. Here is another quote from the Coaldrake interim report—

Unfortunately, there is declining confidence that governments across the board are making the best decisions rather than decisions influenced by those with the most effective voice. In Queensland recently, this has been accentuated by the dual roles of some lobbyists—acting for clients to influence government, then acting for political parties to help them win elections. This can leave the public sceptical about even the strongest protections against conflict. The same applies to the practice of professional firms lobbying governments on behalf of clients while acting through a different arm as consultants on policy.

The interim report also states—

Aside from the recent airings involving the Integrity Commissioner, former State Archivist and the Public Service Commissioner, examples frequently cited in representations to this Review include: concerns about the influence of lobbyists on decision-making; the overreach of some ministerial staff and their lack of accountability; the erosion of functions designed to hold government to account, such as the Auditor-General; the increased use of outside consultants and the subsequent loss of capacity in the public service.

There are concerns that this legislation should go further. I do hear that there are some further amendments proposed than what has just been tabled in the last few hours and not circulated to every desk in this House, despite sitting here completely up until lunchtime.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been sitting here for 20 minutes listening to the debate and listening to what is being said and I have to say that the member for Logan is consistently yelling out across the chamber. I am very much a supporter of robust debate, but it is becoming almost impossible.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. Do you have a point of order other than that?

Mr NICHOLLS: That was my point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you have the call. I will manage the chamber, member for Clayfield, thank you.

Ms SIMPSON: We will examine the amendments which have only been circulated in the last few hours. I note that, unfortunately, they have not been back to the parliamentary committee to be examined. I acknowledge that there were a number of outstanding concerns expressed about definitions around lobbyists, about who was still captured or not captured by the legislation that was proposed. I am happy to examine what has just been tabled and circulated in the last few hours. We have been critical of the issue of cultural change and the lack of it under this government in respect to its bullying of public servants, many of whom cannot speak publicly through fear—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and the member misleading the parliament, and I will be writing to the Speaker in relation to the matter.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, Attorney-General. The member is being relevant. I take your point of order, but the member is being relevant to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: I quoted from Coaldrake in respect to public servants and his quotes about belittling, bullying and the fear of long-term detriment to careers, real or apprehended, as one example of where people felt they were being pressured by ministerial staff or sometimes more senior officers to moderate advice. I think the Attorney-General took particular umbrage when I raised the fact that the former integrity commissioner had publicly raised issues and concerns about interference in her office. It is most concerning that we heard about black ops teams going after her to try to discredit her and a backgrounding that was intended to bully and intimidate her. I think it goes quite to the culture of this government. They still do not want to acknowledge that that was not only a blight on the independent integrity officer of this state but also it was one of the issues that sparked the Coaldrake review. There have been other public servants who have come forward, that he has subsequently given voice to, who feel they have been bullied and intimidated and are living in an atmosphere and culture of fear under this Labor government. I know it might make the government uncomfortable to repeat directly the quotes from the two Coaldrake reports, but they are entirely valid and relevant to this legislation.

Since the release of the Coaldrake report, we see that nothing has changed in regard to a lack of respect for culture and a lack of respect for the independence of the public sector. We saw the Premier appoint former state Labor director and self-confessed vote rorter Mike Kaiser the

director-general of his department. He in turn appointed the former chief of staff of the now Premier to a position that had never been advertised, yet somehow they expect people to believe that the culture has changed under Labor.

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Time and time again in today's proceedings, you have attempted to bring the member back to the relevance of the bill. I ask you to instruct the member to stay relevant in her contribution to this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I hear your point of order. I have ruled that the member is being relevant. The Coaldrake review was a very broad-ranging review. In talking about particular aspects of it, the member is being relevant to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: I wonder who the director-general was who was put under the spotlight but not named in this Coaldrake review. I wonder who the minister was who worked with that director-general and whether they had taken account of the fact of those damning criticisms in the Coaldrake review. That is all a secret. We do not know who that director-general was. It is most concerning.

The culture of this government is to turn around and appoint a former state Labor director in Queensland as the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the most senior bureaucrat in this state, heading up a government department on behalf of the government that in turn appointed a former chief of staff to a newly created position that was never advertised within the public service. How many other special appointments of former ministerial staff have there been by government without any advertising? There are other public servants who are saying, 'We want to give frank and fearless advice, but nothing has changed. We do not believe we are going to be safe from that atmosphere of fear and belittling,' as was exposed within the Coaldrake report and those damning quotes that he put forward in both the interim report and the final report.

There needs to be a cultural change which respects the fearless and frank advice of an independent public service. We must also remember the landmark Fitzgerald report which warned, 'Institutional and process innovations will be sterile and impotent if attitudes do not change.' What have we seen from this government? They tick a box and say, 'We have done this,' and then they do exactly the same thing as they have all the way along, with abuse of process and power, and how they act particularly in regard to the public sector who needs to know they can give frank and fearless advice without fear of being penalised or for the future of their jobs in this place.

It is jobs for mates once again with this government. I did not get a chance to address the fact that the outgoing former premier's director-general, Rachel Hunter, was re-engaged to inquire into housing, which was also one of the substantial policy failures of this government. Policy failures in crisis tie to maladministration which ties to governance, and with this government particularly on integrity issues. They are all intertwined: from the Kaiser appointment to jobs for mates and creating public sector non-advertised roles for ministerial staffers, from Rachel Hunter being re-engaged to inquire into housing, the Callide C Power Station and the lack of openness about all the briefings, all the information about what happened. We have two choices there: a minister who had not a clue—after nearly 1,000 days was clueless about his role under—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member has clearly strayed now from the Coaldrake report, the bill and the committee report, and I ask that she be brought back.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I would ask that you be relevant to the bill and to particular aspects of it.

Ms SIMPSON: Thank you very much. To explain the elements of integrity that we are supposed to be debating in the integrity and other legislation bill, integrity matters because it is about: good decision-making; careful stewardship of public resource; openness and scrutiny of decision-making and administration; evidence that power is used with care, diligence and competence; respect for parliamentary democracy and hearing different voices; respect for an independent, capable public sector; and a commitment to serving the people and not vested interests.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton and member for Stafford, your interjections are not being taken.

Ms SIMPSON: Every single crisis faced by the current government being inflicted upon the Queensland people is directly linked to failures in integrity in government. Today the crisis in crime, cost of living, housing—and it goes on—are evidence that this government has not worked hard enough to ensure the pillars of integrity, accountability and good decision-making have been addressed—the right

priorities. Queenslanders feel less safe in their homes. They feel less safe on the streets and in their local shopping centres. They face greater challenges getting access to life-saving health care on time. They face homelessness, even as working families, as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. How is this relevant to the bill, any report—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. You have raised your point of order and I will rule on it. Member for Maroochydore, I think you may have strayed a little bit. Could you please be more relevant to the bill.

Ms SIMPSON: Entirely, Mr Deputy Speaker. Sentiment surveys are one indicator of how the public sector is treated. The government is relying only on pieces of legislation, but not on a culture change which was one of the major issues that Coaldrake raised with respect to the integrity failures in this state. I want to address this in regard to the public sector because sentiment surveys are one of those indicators that bells the cat as to how people feel they are being treated. The Coaldrake report was another substantial indicator, but that report is done, so we are left with sentiment surveys and the Working for Queensland survey which is conducted every year. The September 2023 survey results have not been released, but I refer to the 2022 results and they talked about 27 per cent of staff, almost a third, do not think there is a fair promotion process.

This is entirely relevant to the issues of the public sector that we are talking about with Coaldrake: accountability, respect for independence and good governance. Almost a third, or 28 per cent, of staff do not think they are heard by senior managers. If only they could have heard some of the backbench members of the Labor Party shouting out about how they did not think the public sector was relevant to this debate.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If I say this is getting ridiculous, would you know which point of order I am raising? Relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are being disorderly. I warn you for that reflection on the chair and previous rulings. Can I also say: you have been disorderly in gesticulating constantly. This is not a football match where you appeal to the umpire, member for Logan. If you wish to make a point of order, get to your feet and make it. I thank you for doing it. Member for Maroochydore, as I mentioned earlier, there was potentially some straying from the bill. I would ask you to be directly relevant to the bill.


Ms SIMPSON: Coaldrake's references to a culture of fear and bullying and the behaviour of ministerial staff, as well as some ministers and a director-general whose identity remains unknown have still not been addressed by this Labor government. They are relevant to this debate because we are talking about whether this government has addressed the issues in the legislation. There are some in black-letter law that are a step forward and others on which they have been completely silent. Worse than that, there is evidence that they have not addressed the cultural issues that Coaldrake belled the cat on, particularly with regard to respect for the public sector—bullying and ministerial staffers acting in a certain way. There was also a culture identified of staff not wanting to give ministers certain advice so that the minister could have plausible deniability. How are these issues relevant to crises? Callide C might be just one example. There is an air of entitlement in Labor's 'born to rule' attitude in that they can rig the electoral voting system with 18 minutes notice on the floor of the House and get away with it. In respect of legislation, there will be changes to provide for the release of cabinet records—a certain edited version. They will soon be released, after two years of us waiting for it.

We are still waiting to see the detail and the full date of implementation with regard to another key recommendation—that is, the complaints clearing house. The Premier's former boss, and the cabinet as a whole, previously defended the fact that that either could not be done or could take longer. Nearly two years later, we still have not seen an exact date and format for how that will be implemented. You cannot say they have been in a hurry to complete this; it has been very slow. It started with denials. It started with abusing people and background briefing against some of our esteemed independent integrity officers in this state. It started with this government trying to, in fact, use black-op teams to undermine their credibility behind the veil of transparency. They finally gave the brief to Peter Coaldrake to undertake these two reports.

The work is not over. We are still seeing a denial from this government about the substantial cultural issues. That is evidenced by the way this government tried to deny the elements of bullying that were referenced in Coaldrake's report—elements of abuse with respect to how public servants have been treated. These issues continue to resonate, and I have no confidence. He may be a 'new Premier', but he ain't that new; he previously sat around the cabinet table. We have a recycled Attorney-General,

who is back here again, and other senior ministers who continue to live in denial about the substantial cultural issues that were raised by Coaldrake—jobs for mates, creating political appointments for ministerial advisers in the Public Service, still blocking the release of information under RTI and still not publishing in a timely way meaningful indicators around their service delivery until there is an absolute crisis and they have to be seen to take action. Integrity is more than this government just talking about it. It is time they acted. It is time they fulfilled what was recommended and the spirit of both of Coaldrake's reports.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to endorse the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and the work of the committee. Before speaking to the bill, I want to note some things about the previous speech. There are obviously two approaches we could take to this particular legislation. There will be those who address the actual bill and the careful and worthwhile improvements in the processes of the Queensland government put forward by Professor Coaldrake and Mr Yearbury.

Mr Stevens: That would be me.

Mr POWER: I note that the deputy chair called out, 'That would be me,' and indeed it would. During the committee process the deputy chair examined the detail of the bill and took particular interest in the discussions we had surrounding a question he put during the hearings about the possibility of someone who was a lobbyist ceasing to be a lobbyist, taking on a role and becoming a lobbyist again. It was an excellent question that we discussed. The answer was unsatisfactory for the committee and we followed up on it. I am pleased to see that that serious work—a commitment to factual integrity and the examination of the bill—reaped rewards from a responsible Attorney-General who was interested in the detail and who brought forward changes that I think satisfy the concerns that we had as a committee.

There is a difference between that approach and the approach of those who are not interested in the careful work of government to make significant changes to accountability, to listen to critiques, to listen to new ideas and to put them into action. There are those who will ignore almost all of the simple and practical measures of this bill and, instead, undertake a misplaced political tirade and attempt to sling mud. This shows a total lack of commitment to the very integrity that this bill seeks to improve.

I want to remind members that this is the person who brought up all sorts of outlandish accusations about the laptop and the Integrity Commissioner. The member for Maroochydore made a mockery of her title as 'shadow integrity minister' when she did that. She misled this House about this important office, and the CCC had to take the extraordinary—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's comments are untrue and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member, thank you for your point of order. As the Speaker reflected this morning, it is personal offence that you are taking issue with. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw. The CCC had to take the extraordinary step of releasing a report which addressed all of the accusations made. You would think that at that point someone who was the shadow minister for integrity would be sacked—that would be quite simple. However, the problem was the Leader of the Opposition had made the very same spurious accusations. He had a choice: to sack the shadow integrity minister, who has no integrity, and sack himself or do nothing? Frankly, he took the weak way out, and integrity in Queensland is for the worse.

I have shown that this opposition has no genuine commitment to integrity. It has no genuine commitment to the detail of this bill.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members to my left! I am struggling to make out what the member for Logan is saying.

Mr POWER: The exceptions are those who were on the committee, who took this matter seriously and raised points that made a difference to law and to integrity in this state. They were backed up by the other members in the committee. I do not mind admitting that. I do not mind admitting that the Attorney-General did a great job in listening. That is what a committee process is for. You would also hope that would involve the opposition actually reading the bill. Although in her speech the member for Maroochydore mentioned the Coaldrake report every three seconds, in 30 minutes she did not mention any of the amendments in the bill.

Mr Lister: I am not going to get a chance to speak on this, Linus, because it's being guillotined, right?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is on standing order 251, that the member on their feet should not be interrupted. I ask for your ruling as to the member for Southern Downs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, it appeared to me that the member for Logan was taking or about to take the interjections of the member for Southern Downs. In any case, member for Logan, you have the call.

Mr POWER: I want to clarify that the member for Southern Downs will never have an interjection worth taking and I will not take them. He also has no genuine commitment to integrity because he wants to shout down statements. That reveals that this is just a mudslinging match instead of dealing with the provisions of the bill.

I would hope that this opposition that asks for so much extra time would take this bill seriously, but they do not take anything seriously. I have spoken very clearly about the initiatives related to those who lobby in this state and the changes that this committee recommended. As I stated, this bill seeks to make a number of important public sector reforms. They were responses to the review of culture in the Queensland public sector by Professor Peter Coaldrake and the Strategic Review of the Integrity Commissioner's Functions by Mr Kevin Yearbury. This follows an initial series of reforms and response to these reports in last year's Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The introductory speech states that this second bill continues the journey, building a strong, contemporary and enduring framework in Queensland by implementing the recommendations of the second report.

For the benefit of the shadow integrity minister I want to outline that it increases the regulation of lobbying activity—not mentioned. It includes clarifying what lobbying activity is and enhancing the regulatory role of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner—barely mentioned. It amends the conditions for registration as a lobbyist to reflect expectations around completing the important training and managing conflicts of interest, which are so important—not mentioned at all. It introduces a prohibition on registered lobbyists playing a substantial role for a political party in an election campaign. This was only mentioned when the shadow minister for integrity—so claimed—attacked the staff of the parliament saying that they had not distributed the amendments.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is highly offensive and untrue. It is personally offensive and untrue and I ask that it be withdrawn. It is extremely offensive.

Mr POWER: I withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I have been verbally. That is untrue and I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you have made your point of order. Member for Logan, will you withdraw, please?

Mr POWER: I withdraw, and I do expect there to be an apology to the staff who did come around and distribute those changes.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not an unreserved apology or withdrawal, and I ask that the member unreservedly and without qualification withdraw his offensive comments.

Mr POWER: I am happy to withdraw. We do note they were distributed before lunch. If members on any side were too lazy to pick them up, too lazy to read them or too lazy to understand the important changes that were made through the good work of the committee and especially the deputy chair, that is a failing on them. If any member wishes to lash out and attack the parliamentary staff, I will not have it because they did their job; they distributed the amendments before lunch.


The bill enhances the independence of some of the statutory integrity bodies by increasing the role of the parliamentary committees in the additional funding proposals and contributing more to key appointments. I think this is an important role in our unicameral parliament. We have to have that balance. We looked at how other parliaments have done it. The deputy chair and I had very strong and robust discussions about this and came to an agreed position—and I may be verballing—that this balance is about right. We have a role in ensuring oversight of their expenditure and budget, but there is still Westminster accountability and integrity over the budget process. I think that is important and I hope the deputy chair thinks the same.

We enhanced the jurisdiction of the Queensland Ombudsman to consider complaints about and initiate investigations of government services provided by non-government entities. I think this will be one of the legacies that will have a long-lasting effect. I think the shadow integrity minister could have bothered mentioning it because it will be important in the long term. We established the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body, clarifying that role that used to simply be seen as an advice lawyer into more of a statutory body and clarifying also the trusts that the Auditor-General is required to audit.

These are a group of sensible progressions that are quite detailed that took a lot of work for public servants—and cheers to the lobby who examined all of this detail. They took it very carefully. They approached ministers. They compared and contrasted the ideas that were put forward from the various reports. It strengthens the integrity of our state. I was pleased to act as the committee chair and we took this job seriously. We took this approach and the actual legislation put forward seriously.

What I am gutted by is that there will be two types of speeches: by those who take it seriously and by those who seek to throw mud, and it shows. We saw the shadow Treasurer talk about how past behaviour is an indication of future behaviour. If the behaviour of the shadow minister for 'integrity' in this debate is any indication of how she and the opposition would potentially approach integrity in office, Queensland is in a dark place because they were more interested in the disgusting mud throwing and complete ignorance. I do not know whether they had no idea—

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.15 pm): I rise to speak to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I have just familiarised myself with some of the amendments that have arisen today. It has ruined a little piece of my speech, but I will press on.

Given its genesis, we could change the name of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the 'lack of integrity bill'. I say that because there were several bad examples from the government and they were the genesis of the Coaldrake report—and I understand we will address 11 out of 14 of the Coaldrake recommendations through this particular bill—and were the cause of much negative media about the integrity of the government during the last year or so. Obviously, Mr Coaldrake wanted to shine a light on these issues, so his report is very relevant. We are pleased we are in the position today to support some recommendations. Anything is better than nothing when it comes to improving the integrity of government delivery.

As honourable members will recall, it started with the State Archivist having his reports doctored. When he became a whistleblower on the matter, there were serious ramifications for the State Archivist. That was step one in arriving at where we are today with this bill. Then we had the issue, as the shadow integrity minister pointed out, with the former integrity commissioner and her issues with the Public Service Commissioner and other matters that were a blight on the so-called integrity and independence of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. That ended very badly. Mr Coaldrake talked to the previous integrity commissioner in his investigations and in finalising his report. When we received his report we saw he was quite critical of the intimidation in the Public Service. It is just totally unacceptable for any government to have a Public Service that is fearful of its independence and fearful of giving independent and transparent advice. It is up to governments to interpret and make their decisions on that basis. That is why we have this integrity bill before us today.

We can keep going in terms of integrity issues for the government. There was the director-general, the former member for Woodridge, the former director of the Labor Party and the former NBN head appointed by the Rudd or Gillard Labor government and other similar issues that cast doubt and do not pass the pub test in the minds of the public that this is a completely independent Public Service.

Unfortunately, just in recent times—this is why we need this integrity bill—the director-general appointed the former premier's chief of staff to a Public Service role and had the temerity to say that there was nobody in the Public Service who had the capacity to serve that role. That is a totally embarrassing political statement from a guy who cut his teeth in pure Labor politics. To say that this integrity bill is going to fix every issue that we still have today is far from the truth. Rather, it will at least go some way, but we still have a long way to go in terms of integrity issues with this government and in this state.

I am not going to debate the issue of the CCC reports because it is before the House and I understand that, but the LNP has called for a bill for the CCC to release those reports. We now unfortunately have to wait until the review comes out before we can get those two important reports

released to the public. The CCC chairman himself has said that it is necessary for those reports to be released to the public and yet we are going to have to wait three months, according to this morning's announcement of the review. That in itself will delay—and the time for that review may be extended which may further delay—important information that goes to the very heart of the integrity of the government and the people who are involved in those areas that were reported on by the CCC.

One area that I am pleased with—I have just had a quick read and I think it addresses a lot of my concerns—is in relation to lobbyists. That was one of the issues that we had in our statement of reservation with regard to lobbyists, and I will give an example. The Evan Moorhead example springs to mind because I think that might have been the catalyst, if you like, for a rethink on the amendments coming before the House today to address a missing point that I was going to harp on about in terms of the bill before the House. Evan Moorhead has a firm called Anacta. I wonder why he called it 'Anacta'. To be honest, I have always thought, 'If Evan does it, Anna'll act on it.' I will be interested to see if it ever gets called 'Miles-acta', so we will see how that goes for Evan Moorhead.

The amendment being moved today would prevent Evan Moorhead, as has happened previously, from operating as a registered lobbyist and then taking a little time off—it was six weeks, but I am told that the amendment addresses that—to do his time in getting the government re-elected with his partner—I forget his name—and then going back in and doing some marvellous lobbying work. As I recall, there was a dump that had been rejected on many occasions out near Ipswich somewhere. There was an approval through Anacta as lobbyists, which was a big surprise to everyone, and then Anacta made a very sizeable—multiple thousands of dollars—donation to the Labor Party. The only thing smellier than that dump would be the smelly deal. This amendment—I am taken to believe, but I am not across the legalities of it—will address the matter of a lobbyist firm such as the one I have mentioned having access to close government contacts and getting results that probably are seen through the public eye as not being of the highest quality in terms of integrity.

We hope that the amendments as well as the bill itself in terms of a step forward in integrity start to lift this government's integrity credentials out of the gutter, where they have been for the past couple of years. From my point of view, hopefully our future government—hopefully that will be the LNP Crisafulli government because we are going to show Labor the door in '24—will be happy to abide by the integrity issues put in place, and I am sure we will. This bill will provide a great platform for a new government in 2024 to make decisions with the highest quality of integrity available to Queenslanders to ensure that those sorts of smelly deals and smelly jobs for the boys, which are quite evident through some public servant appointments, will be a thing of the past.

I will certainly be supporting the bill's passage through this House. I look forward to a fuller explanation on the amendments in terms of those matters that need to be addressed through those amendments, but I do believe that we have taken a good step forward. The reason we are here today is because of the media and the LNP highlighting the lack of integrity that brought about the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (4.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I think that I might actually focus my contribution on the content of the bill and—

Government members interjected.


Mrs McMAHON: I know, because as a member of the committee we spent a significant amount of time not only working with Mr Yearbury in relation to his report—the five-yearly review of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner—but also in examination of this bill. Obviously the committee has significant correspondence and opportunity to meet with the Integrity Commissioner as part of our oversight, so I am going to spend—shock, horror—a significant portion of my time this afternoon actually talking to the contents of the bill rather than a trip down memory lane with the history of Queensland that, I must admit, predates me being an adult.

This bill—and I highlight the word 'bill'—represents the vehicle to implement recommendations from both the Professor Coaldrake *Let the sunshine in* report and the *Strategic review into the Integrity Commissioner's functions* by Mr Kevin Yearbury. The bill is the second tranche of reforms to strengthen the regulation of lobbying in Queensland and enhance the independence of statutory bodies in Queensland, so the inference in saying that this is the second tranche infers that there is more work to do. I do not think there is anyone on this side of the House who is claiming that the work is all done and dusted and that we can put the cue in the rack. We know that ensuring the integrity of decision-making in this state is an ongoing task for every government of every colour.

There are a number of reforms in relation to lobbying in Queensland, and I must admit that the area of lobbying is one that is mostly a mystery to me and, I am going to say, the fair majority of Queenslanders. It is not something that they have anything to do with on a regular basis, but they do understand the need for transparency when decisions are made by government, particularly when it comes to the spending of taxpayer money. The bill increases regulation of lobbying activity here in Queensland and enhances the role of the Integrity Commissioner in this space. It establishes the Office of the Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body. It enhances the independence of other statutory bodies by increasing the involvement of parliamentary committees in additional funding proposals, and I note that that will probably mean some additional work to be done by committees if they have oversight of a statutory body, and there are a few pieces of legislation as well as bits that are incorporated in the amendments that go to the timings and reporting on those funding submissions by statutory bodies. The bill clarifies what lobbying activity includes and what it does not include; it amends conditions for registration as a lobbyist to reflect expectations; and it introduces a prohibition on registered lobbyists playing a substantial role for a political party and that in the event that a lobbyist does they must notify the Integrity Commissioner and they will then be disqualified from being a lobbyist for the duration of the next term of government, regardless of who wins.

This is something that we looked at in terms of a number of invocations of the Human Rights Act because to come up with a piece of legislation that prohibits someone from carrying out their primary form of employment does come with some human rights implications. However, I think the fact that it is clear from the outset will negate some of that. Again, as I said, the idea that someone can influence a political party coming into government and then actually have a role in then lobbying that government is one that may be concerning to the layperson.

There is also the inclusion of mandatory education for those who do register to be lobbyists so that they are aware and informed of the repercussions for engaging in activities such as dual hatting. I understand that there are a number of people who are on the list to speak. Some of them may actually speak to the bill. Even though as committee members we spent many days and hours considering the bill, I would certainly like to hear contributions from other members of this chamber who have actually read the bill and choose to actually debate the bill in this House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.31 pm): It gives me pleasure to rise to talk about the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 which came before the Economics and Governance Committee. The committee's recommendations are in report No. 51 of the 57th Parliament. At the time this bill was tabled, the state government said this second integrity bill would implement the outstanding recommendations from the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector* and the 2021 Yearbury *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. No, it does not entirely achieve that at all. What is missing? What about the release of cabinet documents within 30 days, the establishment of a complaints clearing house and a mandatory data breach reporting scheme, or other important integrity reforms like recommendations to strengthen the independence of the State Archivist and reform their powers to ensure compliance with the Public Records Act? The Public Records Act governs the maintenance of official government records and controls the permissible destruction of records. The then minister for transport and main roads Mark Bailey's use of private emails for official business and his deletion of those emails is a perfect example of the need to address this issue in this legislation.

In 2024 we have seen change—or have we? They say a new broom sweeps clean. Well, let us have a look at the efforts of Premier Miles so far on the integrity front. Sure, he ensured a few stubborn, lumpy bits of grime have been swept out the door. There is no doubt about that. But what else? A few weeks into the job the Miles government was quick to ensure there were jobs for mates. Mike Kaiser is in the top job as director-general of premier and cabinet. This is a man who is a self-confessed fraudster, a self-confessed individual who decides to put additional—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not in the Coaldrake report. It is not in the committee report. It is not in the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Member, there has been some latitude in the debate, but I would be asking that members tie their contributions to the particular purposes of the bill. If you are giving examples I will listen for a moment to see if I can find that tie, but if I cannot find that tie I will ask you to move on.

Mr CRANDON: The short title of the bill is Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and I am referring to integrity matters.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock again. That is the title of the bill, you are correct, and as we have directed from this chair in the past, simply latching onto one word and using that to justify the things that you say that might not be relevant is not necessarily going to be acceptable. There are a list of matters there that the bill does pertain to. As I said, I will allow people some latitude to try to give examples that pertain to the bill. If you can tie the examples that you are giving to those matters, I will certainly allow it.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The other examples that I was going to use, and I would ask you to judge them, are: Danielle Cohen, ex chief of staff of the then deputy premier—clearly a political appointment—was then given the role of associate director-general, a position that was created by the previously mentioned Mike Kaiser.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is not being relevant and also he cannot verify any of those statements he is making and I will be writing to the Speaker in relation to them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order in relation to what you are alleging, which is misleading the House. There is a process to deal with that, as you well know. Member, I am looking at the dot points on page 1 of the explanatory notes and I am struggling to find where the examples that you are referring to fit into those dot points. I would ask you to come back to the purposes of the bill and the title.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The list goes on so I will say no more. I would like to know what else is going to come out of the woodwork going forward. What about the loopholes in the lobbying laws? During committee hearings we heard that it is possible for a registered lobbyist to deregister themselves for the six-week election period with no restriction on them re-registering after the election and actively working as a lobbyist during that four-year term of government. That clearly did not pass the pub test. I see in the latest amendments that are being proposed that that could be fixed. That perhaps gives this bill a few more legs. It was a fault of the legislation and needed to be addressed as it is contrary to the spirit of public commitments to clean up the inappropriate influence of powerful lobbyists who profit from their influence and access to government decision-makers while also helping those decision-makers get elected by running their campaigns. The state government's use of key Labor lobbyists to help run their 2020 campaign from inside 1 William Street is a case in point. I believe they also managed to get free parking under 1 William Street thrown into the deal. These amendments appear to prevent this from reoccurring.

Having said that, when one considers the jobs for mates issues that I mentioned earlier, the reality is that the Miles government is no better than its predecessor. The people of Queensland deserve better. This stale old Labor government gets a fail for integrity. This bill does not go far enough to change the minds of Queenslanders. Queenslanders will have an opportunity to show Labor the door in October 2024.



Mr TANTARI (Hervey Bay—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to speak to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In doing so, I will address the bill at large and not the ramblings and rubbish that we have heard from speakers opposite. When the committee held hearings, the majority of the witnesses clearly indicated that they were in support of what this integrity bill is about.

The bill extends the commitment by the Miles government to progress public sector integrity reforms. It follows the passage through this House of the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. That bill implemented a number of reforms from the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in*, and the Yearbury report, *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*. The Coaldrake report was the product of a review focused on culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector, and it included recommendations to strengthen integrity and oversight in Queensland. The Yearbury report was the result of a five-yearly review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner and recommended proposed changes to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner and supporting organisational arrangements and regulatory provisions. This second bill is now required to implement the outstanding recommendations of the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports to strengthen the regulation of lobbyists and lobbying activities, amongst other things.

I was a member of the Economics and Governance Committee that reviewed the bill. The committee considered advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Sector Commission and detailed feedback from stakeholders that provided 16 submissions and held a public hearing in August. The committee heard from submitters including the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, the Australian Professional Government Relations Association, the Property Council of Australia, the Queensland Council of Social Service, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland

Audit Office, the Office of the Information Commissioner and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Generally, they were in support of the measures designed to increase and improve the regulation of lobbying activity. However, some submitters took issue with various aspects of the provisions, including the definition of what is and is not a lobbying activity, and the application and requirements for registration.

There was also general support for measures to enhance the independence of identified statutory integrity bodies and to enhance integrity body independence via committee involvement in funding proposals, integrity body appointments, strategic reviews and the tabling of reports. There were some conflicting views on the expansion of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction over non-government organisations and other provisions of contracted government service delivery, although the underlying principle of accountability in the delivery of all government services was supported.

The bill will make amendments to the Auditor-General Act, the Ombudsman Act, the Right to Information Act, the Integrity Act and the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. The core features of the bill include increasing regulation of lobbying activity, amending the conditions for registration as a lobbyist, introducing a prohibition on registered lobbyists, enhancing the independence of core integrity bodies, enhancing the jurisdiction of the Queensland Ombudsman, establishing the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body and clarifying the trusts that the Auditor-General is required to audit. It is interesting that the former speaker said that this bill did not go far enough, because that list is extensive. I am really struggling to understand what the former speaker was talking about.

The bill proposes to enhance core integrity bodies' legislation to give relevant parliamentary committees greater involvement in the governance decisions for those integrity bodies. That will include parliamentary committees agreeing to the recruitment process, remuneration and a number of other issues. The bill provides that where a committee approved funding proposal is altered during a budget consideration the relevant portfolio minister will be responsible for tabling a response, including the reasons for the alteration. These measures seek to balance the need to enhance the independence of integrity bodies while not placing a significant administrative burden on parliamentary committees. The bill will also expand the Queensland government's functions under the Ombudsman Act to include non-government service providers where the providers are contracted to deliver public services on behalf of government, in line with the Coaldrake report recommendations.

These issues relate to the very heart and soul of democracy and are the bedrock upon which our state functions: the concept of integrity in governance. Queenslanders deserve nothing less than a governance model that is transparent, just and free from undue influence. The bill amends the Integrity Act 2009 to enhance the regulation of lobbying activities, as I said earlier, as recommended by the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports. Core definitions will be strengthened, situations where conflicts of interest arise due to lobbyists performing roles for political parties will be regulated, and the regulation of lobbying activity will be clarified and strengthened.

With regard to professional lobbying activities, this government has a record of ensuring that those activities are managed and performed with the utmost transparency. Let us be clear: in essence, lobbying can be a beneficial activity. It provides a channel for industries, interest groups and citizens to voice their concerns and interests to those who shape policy and legislation. However, like all powerful tools, if misused it can corrode our democratic system. In times past, we have witnessed instances where lobbying has strayed from its noble purpose. Instead of representing genuine interests, some have wielded it as a weapon of undue influence to shape policies not for the common good but for a privileged few. That is not the Queensland we aspire to. Strengthening the integrity of lobbying activities is not just desirable; it is imperative. This bill takes the necessary steps to ensure that the Queensland people are fully informed and aware of the actions taken by those professional groups, to ensure the utmost transparency in dealing with the government that serves on the behalf of Queenslanders.

Consistent with the Coaldrake report, the definition of 'lobbying activity' has been broadened to include all those who attempt to influence government decision-making. The definition of 'lobbyist' has been removed as the intention is to capture the activity rather than the individual. Chapter 4 of the Integrity Act is structured to assist in understanding in what circumstances lobbying activity should be registered in the renamed lobbying registry. Notably, the bill introduces a prohibition on registered lobbyists performing a substantial and senior role in a Queensland state election campaign for a political party. They can give advice or act as a lobbyist but they cannot do both.


Democracy is not a spectator sport. It thrives when we are vigilant, informed and engaged. Queenslanders have always prided themselves on a sense of community and a shared purpose. In conclusion, tightening professional lobbying activities and enhancing the independence of core integrity

groups is not merely a legislative action; it is a commitment to transparency and fairness. It is a commitment to every Queenslander, ensuring that their voice, regardless of wealth or influence, is valued equally. When dealing with integrity legislation in Queensland, we must remember that the aim is to foster a culture of integrity for the people of Queensland. I congratulate the Miles government for the passing of these integrity laws, ensuring that this will be the case. It will be interesting to see how the LNP choose to frame their argument for integrity. It is very clear from what we have heard—

Ms Richards: Their runs are on the board.

Mr TANTARI: Their runs are absolutely on the board. We have lists of the areas of integrity that were slashed and burned under their last government. It will be interesting to hear what their next speakers will talk about with regard to how they define integrity in this state, which is well and truly documented for all to see.

Finally, I acknowledge the work of the Economics and Governance Committee in reviewing this bill and the committee secretariat for the great support they give to the committee in its work and in producing the report. I also acknowledge the former premier for introducing the bill and enhancing integrity in governance by writing into law the recommendations of Coaldrake and Yearbury. I support the bill.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. This is the second integrity bill put before the House that is designed to address the recommendations of two reports, the Coaldrake report and the Yearbury report. In his June 2022 report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, the Coaldrake report, Professor Peter Coaldrake AO made 14 direct recommendations to strengthen the integrity of the Queensland government. Similarly, in his September 2021 report *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*, the Yearbury report, Mr Kevin Yearbury also recommended a number of changes designed to guide the Labor government towards honesty and accountability. While these recommendations are eminently valuable, it is telling of a government that has lost its way. Time and time again, this third-term Labor government has proven that, at its core, it is bereft of a wholeness of character and its operations lack integrity. Queenslanders deserve better.

Integrity can be defined in a number of ways. For me, there are four ways to practise integrity: a commitment to honesty and openness; congruence of talk and action; consistency with adhering to values over time; and, lastly, coherence, which in this context is an act of doing the right thing for the right reasons and not just because it looks good.

This government is a government in crisis and, tragically, we watch as it desperately does whatever it takes to control the narrative, hide the truth and protect itself in order to look good. The government's handling of the Olympics and Paralympic games is an affront to any claim made to being open and transparent. The former premier and her deputy, the now Premier, ignored calls to establish an independent body to oversee games infrastructure, instead centralising that control in her own office. To justify that decision, Labor then spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on a report to justify that dubious decision. That report, which cost a staggering \$44,000 a page, was authored by former Labor minister Rachel Nolan whose involvement in the report was deceptively and cunningly kept out of the right to information documents.

This cluster of decision-making and actions perfectly demonstrates Labor's lack of commitment to openness, incongruous with how it otherwise claims to operate, is inconsistent with parliamentary values and incoherent in intention and behaviour. This sorry saga strikes at the heart of the integrity issues that Queenslanders continue to witness every day, despite the reshuffling of seats. Is it any wonder we saw the new Premier, who repeatedly defended the unexplained \$1.7 billion blowout of the Gabba knockdown, shut it down completely when he was—

Mr TANTARI: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. As a committee chair, what the member is talking about is totally irrelevant to this bill. My point of order is on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Thank you for your point of order. Yes, member for Ninderry, I am listening carefully to your contribution. I do need to find some link and tie it back to the actual objectives of the bill.

Mr PURDIE: I take your advice, Mr Deputy Speaker. I did hear the previous member—I served on the Economics and Governance Committee—talk in his contribution a number of times about this bill enshrining transparency, integrity and fairness. I think I am talking to that point, but I will try to make it directly relevant to the bill as per your instructions, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The government states that this bill implements outstanding recommendations from the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports; however, my committee colleagues and I heard a number of concerns from the state's key integrity officers, such as the Auditor-General and Integrity Commissioner, that the legislation does not fully reflect the intent of the Coaldrake report. In fact, the Auditor-General went so far as to say the Premier misrepresented him by claiming that he was expanding on the Coaldrake recommendation when he in fact was highlighting quite the opposite: that the government was implementing a summary recommendation instead of the full recommendation.

The government claims the bill's focus is on strengthening the regulation of lobbyists and lobbying activities and enhancing the independence of core integrity bodies; however, these claims fall short of reality by failing to address the loopholes in lobbying laws. The government says the bill will: increase regulation of lobbying activities to address the public perception of undue influence on governments, including clarifying what lobbying activity is and enhancing the regulatory role of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner; amend the conditions for registration as a lobbyist to reflect expectations around completing training and managing conflicts of interest; introduce a prohibition on a registered lobbyist playing a substantial role for a political party in an election campaign; enhance core integrity bodies' independence by increasing the involvement of parliamentary committees in additional funding proposals and contributing to key appointments; enhance the jurisdiction of the Queensland Ombudsman to consider complaints about and initiate investigations of government service provided by non-government entities; establish the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body; and clarify the trusts that the Auditor-General is required to audit.

The bill proposes to amend core integrity bodies' legislation to give relevant parliamentary committees greater involvement in governance decisions for those integrity bodies. This includes requiring parliamentary committees to: agree to the recruitment process, remuneration terms and conditions and subsequent appointment of the Queensland Ombudsman, Queensland Auditor-General, Queensland Integrity Commissioner and Queensland Information Commissioner; consider and approve, or otherwise, funding proposals from the core integrity agencies prior to government consideration; agree to the terms of reference for a strategic review and appointment of the strategic reviewer; and table integrity agencies' annual reports required under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, except for the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The bill provides that, where a committee approved funding proposal is altered during budget consideration, the relevant portfolio minister will be responsible for tabling a response, including the reasons for alteration. The bill will expand the Queensland Ombudsman's functions under the Ombudsman Act 2001 to include non-government service providers where the providers are contracted to deliver public services on behalf of the government in line with the Coaldrake report recommendations.

During the committee hearings it was revealed that it is possible for a registered lobbyist to deregister themselves for the four- to six-week election period with no restriction on them re-registering after the election and actively working as a lobbyist during that four-year term of government. I quote the Integrity Commissioner who said of the definitions around third party clients, official dealings and inconsistencies when defining what is, or is not, a lobbying activity. She said—

There are some clauses and new sections of the Bill, several of which relate to Chapter 4 (regulation of lobbying) where, in my view, the amendments are not consistent with a Coaldrake recommendation, create a vulnerability or opportunity to circumvent what is intended, or where ambiguity might make implementation in practice challenging.


The Planning Institute Australia expressed concerns about ambiguity in terms of whether the activities of planners would be captured as lobbying. Similar concerns were raised by the Property Council about the ability of other people within the industry acting on behalf of their clients to engage with government.

QCOSS requested more clarity around the definition of the non-profit entities and whether non-profit entities could be investigated by the Ombudsman. Professional Government Relations Australia raised issues such as a lack of clarity on what is not a lobbying activity, inconsistency in the four-year disqualification period of practitioners who have worked in campaigns compared to the existing two-year restriction for former senior government representatives and loopholes around lobbyists who hold a senior role in political parties but step down for the short election period.

The CCC reiterated its concerns that lobbying records should be extended to electoral office staff and MPs and that in-house lobbying should be included. The Queensland Law Society expressed its concern that restricting lobbyists from playing a substantial role in election campaigns is open to interpretation and that what is proposed is not in line with the body of the Coaldrake report. The Office

of the Information Commissioner agrees with the Auditor-General that the proposal does not go far enough on independence and pointed out that the mandatory data breach notification scheme has not been implemented.

Not even people closest to this bill will attest that it achieves this. Certainly, Queenslanders have little faith in a government that is well known for waving around flashy new rule books, while it continues to play the game it has always played where the referee is either not invited or is silenced. While the legislative reform in this bill is welcome and long overdue, until the culture of integrity issues poisoning this government are fully exposed and ministers held accountable, Queenslanders' lack of faith and trust in this government will not be restored. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise in support of the Integrity and Other Legislation Bill. This is the second tranche of legislative reform following the report *Let the sunshine in*. Before I get into the changes to the bill, I remind those opposite how it was very timely to see lobbying activity happening last night when Santo Santoro rocked up to the members dining room for dinner. Perhaps this was one last chance before these changes today. I will not go into the history of Santo Santoro—it is very well canvassed—but I will say that it is only this side of parliament that will actually bring in legislative reform and review integrity laws. What did those opposite do under the Newman government? Instead of bringing in reforms and reviewing integrity matters, in the middle of the night they sacked the PCCC.

What did they do to the poor old Integrity Commissioner? Campbell Newman sent his chief of staff down there to berate the Integrity Commissioner. Did they want to bring more reforms in? No. They attacked and sacked. That is what they did during their time. It is only this side of politics—it has always been this side of the politics, ever since the Sir Joh days—that reviews our integrity laws and brings in tougher measures for this state.

I heard the wideranging contribution by the so-called shadow minister for integrity. She had the chance this week to let the sunshine in for the people of Redlands by tabling Andrew Laming's LNP file. There was a chance for the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for integrity to be John West, because it is John West—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have heard a lot today, particularly from other members, about standing order 118 in terms of relevance in this particular debate. 'Andrew Laming' I cannot see anywhere in the papers. I ask the member to return to the bill at hand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Member for Capalaba, I would ask you to move on.

Mr BROWN: It was the first opportunity to let the light shine in for the people of Redlands, and they failed to take that opportunity this week.

I want to talk about the changes to the Integrity Commissioner. I did highlight the history of those opposite when in power. Instead of strengthening the Integrity Commissioner like we are doing—and we brought in a deputy as well—they just sent Campbell Newman's chief of staff down there to berate them.

Who could forget what the Leader of the Opposition talked about for months? Hashtag, what's on the laptop? Time after time they said, 'It was raided. It was wiped. What's on the laptop?' What did the CCC say? It was completely ordinary. It was a complete mischaracterisation of what occurred. We had two months of hearing, 'What's on the laptop?' yet we did not see a single thing. It was completely ordinary. There was nothing to see there.

The opposition leader had one chance to show integrity and come back into this House and apologise for misleading the House. Did he do that? No, he did not. Every single test that the opposition leader has had when it comes to integrity he has failed and failed dismally. It is only this side of the House that brings in solid changes, as we are doing here today, to strengthen integrity laws when it comes to our independent integrity bodies and to strengthen lobbyist laws.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjections from those opposite. We remember their history when it came to political donations. They wanted to hide every single donor who donated over \$12,000.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr BROWN: They do not like it.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, we do not need your interjections. Member for Capalaba, I have given you some latitude because you indicated on a number of occasions that you were going to talk about the bill. I ask you to come back to the bill.

Mr BROWN: I am sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. There is so much material with regard to contrasting the difference between both sides.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are many other opportunities for you to discuss that and other speaking points. There is even an adjournment debate coming up tonight. I ask you to come back to the subject of the bill.

Mr BROWN: Yes, my adjournment speech will be on a different topic because I wanted to take the opportunity now to talk about integrity and the integrity that this side of the House has in regard to bringing in reform. We will bring more reform into this place. I can guarantee that if those opposite get back into power this will not occur. I know that a couple of my colleagues have blind faith that they would do the same; they do not do the same. Instead, they do things like berate the Integrity Commissioner and sack the PCCC in the middle of the night. We do the complete opposite. We ensure that we review and strengthen our integrity laws. We are doing it again—we are reviewing the CCC laws, as announced this week. We have reviewed these laws through the *Let the sunshine in* report. We are bringing in legislation after legislation to ensure that we are strengthening integrity in this state. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I just want to caution members about anticipating a bill that is before the House. You went very close, member for Capalaba.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to address the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I hear the member for Capalaba and the hypocrisy of members opposite in relation to integrity, accountability and openness of government here in Queensland. It is just extraordinary. The unions, whether it is the ETU or the CFMEU, have been on the phone regularly to ministers and government members over the last nine years, lobbying in relation to various legislation. We had the mangocube debacle in relation to the former transport minister here in Queensland. The hypocrisy is unbelievable. What we need here in Queensland is government that is open, that is transparent and that is accountable. We need integrity restored here in Queensland.

I begin my contribution today by reflecting on what I said when the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill were debated back in 2022. At the time I said that integrity, accountability, openness and transparency were the very foundations of democratic government here in Queensland. By its own actions and through various reviews, public revelations and damning reports, it was clear that the state Labor government here in Queensland had abandoned these core democratic principles.

This legislation, as introduced by the former Labor premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, is meant to represent the so-called second tranche of legislation to address the significant recommendations made to the state Labor government from two important reviews and reports: *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, known as the Coaldrake report, which was delivered by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO on 28 June 2022; and *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions*, known as the Yearbury report, which was delivered by Mr Kevin Yearbury PSM on 30 September 2021.

It must be remembered why it was that Professor Peter Coaldrake was commissioned to conduct his review and report. It was because under this state Labor government we saw one of the darkest chapters in Queensland's integrity history in more than three decades. At the time we witnessed three of our state's most important integrity figures depart the Public Service, including the then chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner and the State Archivist, along with very damning and serious allegations levelled at this state Labor government. Queenslanders deserved nothing short of a full commission of inquiry into alleged corruption within the Queensland Labor government. Instead, this weak Labor government chose to deflect from its own failings, dubious behaviour and corruption allegations and instead decided to simply have a review into the culture and accountability of our hardworking Public Service. That was important.

Notwithstanding that, I do want to acknowledge and thank Professor Peter Coaldrake for his detailed report and considered recommendations, many of which are the focus of this legislation currently before the House. To that end, I note that the objectives of this legislation are to: increase the regulation of lobbying activity; enhance the regulatory role of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner; amend the conditions for registration as a lobbyist; introduce a prohibition on a registered lobbyist playing a 'substantial' role for a political party in an election campaign; enhance the independence of

certain statutory integrity bodies by increasing the involvement of parliamentary committees in additional funding proposals and contributing to key appointments; enhance the jurisdiction of the Queensland Ombudsman to consider complaints about and initiate investigations of government services provided by non-government entities; establish the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner as a statutory body; and clarify the trusts that the Auditor-General is required to audit.

I want to particularly reflect on the provisions that pertain to regulation of lobbying activity. I draw attention to the issues that have been raised by the Australian Professional Government Relations Association. In their submission to the Queensland parliament's Economics and Governance Committee, a number of important matters were raised which only underscore this state Labor government's lack of diligence and commitment to implementing genuine integrity reform. Those issues include: a distinct lack of clarity on what is not a lobbying activity; the inconsistency in the four-year disqualification period of practitioners who have worked on campaigns compared to the existing two-year restriction for former senior government representatives; loopholes around lobbyists that hold a senior role in political parties but step down for the election period; as well as concerns regarding the unchecked powers of the Integrity Commissioner in regulating lobbying.

I also note that the Queensland Law Society has expressed concerns that restricting lobbyists from playing a substantial role in an election campaign is open to interpretation and that what is contained within the legislation is not in line with the body of the Coaldrake report. Given the problematic history of the Labor government and its interactions with lobbyists, it should come as no surprise that once again it has failed to comprehensively strengthen the regulation of lobbyists and lobbying activities. How could we forget how lobbyists ran Labor's 2020 state election campaign, with one lobbyist even given desks and car-parking spaces so they could run Labor's then campaign out of 1 William Street while, in doing so, working alongside public servants?

These were not the only instances raised in relation to the interactions of lobbyists and the state Labor government. The 2023 budget estimates committee hearing for the education portfolio heard that back in October 2020, during the state election campaign, the chief of staff of the then education minister met with a lobbyist from Anacta Strategies on behalf of a client which then received millions of dollars in state government contracts. It was also raised during the same budget hearing that the Labor Party aligned Anacta Strategies met with the ministerial office of the former minister for education just a week and a half before a \$40 million contract was awarded by the Labor state government on a sole supplier basis for medical services at the \$220 million Wellcamp facility.


Labor's commitment to improving integrity in government and regulating lobbyists cannot be taken seriously. The decision by this state Labor government to not even support the LNP's amendments to the motion earlier today in relation to extending the publishing of diaries to parliamentary committee chairs really just says it all. The hypocrisy is astounding. Under this state Labor government former Labor ministers with powerful committee roles will not have to reveal their diaries, allowing for secret meetings with Labor lobbyists to go ahead, and all of that information will not have to be detailed publicly. If we want to talk about openness, transparency and integrity, it would have been important for that to be included. Such an arrangement is farcical, which is not surprising given Labor's track record of avoiding scrutiny. It is just another chapter in the long history of this state Labor government's integrity failures. Who could forget the mangocube affair involving the member for Miller, who was investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission for his use and subsequent deletion of emails?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I am listening to your contribution and I am struggling to find the relevance. I ask you to move on to other parts of your contribution.

Dr ROWAN: There are a plethora of other integrity as well as openness and transparency matters that have plagued this state Labor government, and many served as the genesis for this and other legislation. As we know, there have certainly been serious allegations regarding inappropriate interference in the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. There were damning allegations by a former ministerial media adviser, including that Labor government and ministerial offices were brimmed with partisan staff who put loyalty to the party and its cause above everything else, as well as the former state archivist publicly stating that his ability to act on matters of integrity was significantly compromised and unsupported.

Whilst this legislation is a step forward, it is long overdue and still does not comprehensively address what is required to ensure openness, transparency and integrity in government. That is why on 26 October this year, as all Queenslanders know, we need a new government that is going to be open, transparent and accountable and acts in Queenslanders' interests. This legislation will be a step

forward, but it is a damning indictment of this Labor government that they have taken so long to bring this legislation forward. They have not acted in the interests of Queenslanders. They have not been open, transparent and accountable. There are a raft of integrity matters that continue to plague this government and have plagued this government over the last nine years. Whilst they try and talk about being a new government, they are not a new government. It is the same faces that are sitting there on the other side. They might have shuffled around cabinet positions and there might have been a few new people who have come in, but it is the same people on the other side. It is the same Labor government, the same old tired faces lacking openness, accountability and integrity in government. On 26 October Queenslanders will be able to show Labor the door.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.14 pm): Whilst I have a great deal of respect for the member for Moggill, I have to disagree. The same party that he is hoping to elect challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. They voted against the banning of property developer donations. Despite the recommendations of the CCC, they voted against legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. They have voted against every integrity reform this government has put forward, so it fascinates me that a highly respected medical practitioner like the member for Moggill would make those suggestions. I am certainly quite challenged by what he is suggesting in relation to the party that he would propose govern the great state of Queensland.

I rise to make a contribution to the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. In 2022 the Palaszczuk government commissioned two significant integrity reports. This bill is the second tranche of legislation responding to Professor Peter Coaldrake's recommendations in his *Let the sunshine in* report and Kevin Yearbury's 2021 *Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions* report. The bill implements some of the recommendations from *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, delivered by Professor Peter Coaldrake AO. The Coaldrake report is the product of a review that focused on culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector. The report includes recommendations made by Professor Coaldrake as well as a range of other recommendations from former reviews and inquiries aimed at strengthening the integrity and oversight framework in Queensland. Professor Peter Coaldrake released his final report, as we know, on 28 June 2022, and he made 14 recommendations designed to strengthen accountability and integrity mechanisms in the Queensland government.

Strategic review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions, delivered by Mr Kevin Yearbury PSM—known as the Yearbury report—is the result of the five-yearly review of the Integrity Commissioner's functions to assess whether those functions are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently. This report makes recommendations regarding changes to the functions of the Integrity Commissioner. Once implemented, Queensland will have the most transparent and accountable government in this country.


The Coaldrake report recommended that the independence of the Auditor-General be strengthened—extending its scope and according it status as an officer of the parliament, amongst other recommendations. The objectives of this Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 are to do just this: to amend current legislation and to promote the independence and authority of the Queensland Auditor-General, the Queensland Ombudsman and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner.

Our state Labor government has a proven track record to address the integrity of our democratic political systems and machinery-of-government structures and procedures to deliver integrity reforms to improve transparency and accountability. We saw that today when the Leader of the House moved a motion to ensure that assistant ministers' diaries are released in a timely manner. In stark contrast, as I mentioned earlier in response to the member for Moggill, to date the LNP has failed to support the review of our state's integrity and accountability procedures and processes. As I mentioned, they challenged our lowering of the donation disclosure threshold in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. The LNP voted against the banning of property developer donations, despite the recommendations of the CCC. They voted against legislation that enabled the introduction of real-time disclosure. These are just a few of the integrity reforms that the LNP has challenged or voted against, not to mention they sacked and stood over the CCC chairman. They sacked the CCC parliamentary committee in the dead of the night. They have voted against every integrity measure this Labor government has put forward since they were elected in 2015.

This is a solid track record of blocking integrity reform by the LNP. This continues to be the big question that hangs over the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater. Furthermore, the LNP and the member for Broadwater supported the Path to Treaty Bill and then repealed that support for the Path to Treaty Bill. I have worked with children for many years and we talk

a lot about integrity. Integrity is about doing the right thing every time—regardless of who is watching, regardless of who is listening, regardless of who is in the room. Integrity is about doing the right thing every time. It is not about what is popular; it is about doing the right thing. I am very interested to see how the LNP will vote as we move to the end of this debate, particularly in light of their history.

I thank those individuals and organisations who have made written submissions on the bill. I also thank the Parliamentary Service staff, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and all those associated with the development of this bill. Queensland will be a better place with greater integrity and greater transparency. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this bill, which has the primary purpose of progressing public sector reforms that came from Professor Coaldrake's report *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*, which was released in June last year. This sunshine is vital for Queensland. As a unicameral parliament with no scrutiny from an upper house, it is the public conduct and integrity agencies, as well as the committee system, that take on key roles in the oversight function of government. Queenslanders should know how decisions are made and how policies are implemented and be assured that governments act with transparency and integrity.

This bill has three main components. The first is changes to lobbying laws that broaden the definition of lobbying activity to include all activities that attempt to influence government decision-making. This is welcomed. Amendments to the Integrity Act introduce a prohibition of dual hatting so that registered lobbyists will not be able to perform a substantial role in a political party during an election campaign. Greater powers are also provided in the bill for the Integrity Commissioner to manage noncompliance by lobbyists through allowing, for example, the commissioner to require training as part of registration and to issue compliance warnings and show cause notices. These changes were broadly supported by submitters, including the Australian Lawyers Alliance and the Australian Professional Government Relations Association, although they felt the power for the Integrity Commissioner to issue directives to a lobbyist on any matter was too expansive.

The second component is that the bill expands the Queensland Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include non-government entities providing services on behalf of government agencies. This allows the Ombudsman to investigate administrative actions taken by these entities and put forward recommendations. The bill makes the Integrity Commissioner an independent body for the purpose of the financial management act and associated legislation, providing the commissioner with greater independent control of the funds issued to them, which is good news.

The Queensland Council of Social Service raised concerns with the expansion of the Ombudsman's powers as it was not clear how wideranging the power is, with NGOs already being rigorously regulated. However, the committee in its report commented on the need for government to inform NGOs precisely about their obligations in this regard when they work with government.

The third component is that the bill implements changes to funding for integrity agencies and the appointment of agency heads via our committee system, and this is where I have a problem. For appointments, the bill makes two changes. The relevant parliamentary committee must approve the selection process for the agency head and then the appointment of the agency head. For funding, the bill provides that an agency can make a submission to that committee for approval, change or rejection and forward to Treasury to decide. Given that under our current flawed system government ultimately controls committees, these small changes mean the government will still control the agency funding and the appointment of heads. Almost no real power has been transferred to committees. The integrity agencies themselves reinforced this. The Auditor-General said—

I am greatly concerned that the recommendations made by Professor Coaldrake will add to this list—
of recommendations—

... if not fully actioned by government. By not ensuring the ongoing independence of the Auditor-General from the executive government, it limits the very nature of the independence, real or perceived.

The Information Commissioner seconded this view, saying—

... I consider that the Bill does not go far enough to fully address the specific recommendations made by Professor Coaldrake.

This bill is in direct contrast to Coaldrake's full recommendation—


The independence of integrity bodies in Queensland be enhanced by aligning responsibility for financial arrangements and management practices with the Speaker of Parliament and the appropriate parliamentary committee, rather than the executive government.

In addition, he also said—

... public faith is lost when there is not a serious attempt by governments to work with Opposition to make appointments which have bipartisan concurrence if not outright support.

This is not acceptable and furthers the issues I have been raising regarding the current committee system, and we continue to fight to have these reviewed as it is integral to a transparent and mature oversight mechanism. At a time when bipartisan agreements are essential more than ever to move beyond the combative focus of the chamber, the fact that we are not addressing this clearly demonstrates the flaw in all of our systems.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the minister and departmental staff and the committee and secretariat for conducting this inquiry into the bill. As well, I thank all stakeholders for their submissions and attendance at the public hearing.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I appreciate the opportunity to have a few minutes in the dying moments of this debate, but I note how many other speakers will miss the opportunity to give their contribution on what the government claims is a massive part of the solution to this state's integrity issues. It is disappointing and warrants noting. Nonetheless, the Greens will support the modest reforms in this bill. However, to pretend that the government has made significant positive strides on integrity is frankly a laughable proposition.

The most significant change in this bill is the prohibition on dual hatting for lobbyists. This was a key recommendation of Professor Coaldrake's *Let the sunshine in* report—that you should not have party apparatchiks like Evan Moorhead also acting as professional lobbyists to government. That is especially the case when they are winning contracts with government owned corporations like CleanCo, without tender, after just having helped the government win an election.

Clearly, Labor recognised that this looked bad, which is why they banned three party aligned individuals from lobbying last year. This bill makes it even clearer, I would suggest, that the government is really only concerned with keeping up appearances, not actually limiting corruption. In fact, it is right there in the explanatory notes to the bill. The objectives are, as it reads, to 'address the public perception of undue influence on governments', which is a subtle but important distinction from any more meaningful attempt to actually address undue influence. If that is your objective, it makes sense to leave gaping holes in your integrity regime, just as this bill does.

I will acknowledge that the prohibition on dual hatting is proposed to be strengthened by the amendments. It means that you cannot be a registered lobbyist if you are also playing a substantial role for a political party during an election campaign period or for the next term. I am grateful to see that the government's amendments address the loophole whereby you could just resign six months before an election and then jump straight back into your lobbying role afterwards. However, we are still ultimately just tinkering around the edges of a fundamentally inadequate regime.


It is all very well to say in this bill that registered lobbyists will be subject to conflict-of-interest management processes as part of their code of conduct, but the laws as written continue to allow the most blatant conflicts of interest, on any plain reading of the term. We all know what happens in practice. Business owners, associations, banks, resource corporations and peak bodies, casinos and the property lobby all meet with elected representatives through lobbyist mates or as part of cash-for-access schemes, which remarkably still are not considered corrupt. This bill does nothing to stop the conflicts of interest that arise when our politicians rely on big business donations for their re-election campaigns. The bill does create a requirement for registered lobbyists to undergo certain training, but who must be registered as a lobbyist? In-house lobbying does not need to be registered.

I should note the late distribution of the quite substantial amendments that are proposed. I am sure I will be pulled up by the minister if I say anything that is out of line here or that is actually addressed by the amendments. I would welcome that, but I maintain my scepticism.

In-house lobbying does not need to be registered, nor does lobbying for professional associations like the government's favourite brunch partners, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, or the former premier Anna Bligh's Australian Banking Association, nor does this framework affect lobbying most non-government politicians, including shadow portfolio holders, as I understand it. The entire backbench, almost every opposition member, and the entire crossbench, plus their staff, still will not be covered by lobbying laws. The Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission flagged this exact issue in their submission. They say that narrow definition creates a regulatory gap which is a corruption risk.

On top of this, the government and opposition representatives still only have a two-year cooling-off period to move into lobbying after stepping down from their role. Essentially, they only need to take a couple of years to catch up with family, take a holiday, maybe take a job at a not-for-profit and then they can slide right on in to the lobbying sector.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Attorney to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.30 pm), in reply: I would like to thank honourable members for contributing to the debate on the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I would also like to take a moment to thank the public servants who have worked on this bill. There has been, as I said in my second reading speech, a tremendous amount of work that has gone into developing not just the bill, but actually implementing the Coaldrake recommendations. I particularly want to thank Rachel Welch from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Jenny Lang from the Public Sector Commission and their teams for the work they have done on all of this.

As I indicated at the commencement of debate, this bill represents another significant milestone in delivering on the government's commitment to implement recommendations arising from Professor Peter Coaldrake's report, *Let the sunshine in: review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector*.

Earlier this week, members heard the member for Glass House stress that this bill represents 'one of the most important pieces of legislation this House will consider'. On this point, the Miles government agrees. The importance of this bill lies in the assurance it gives the public—the constituents of all members of this House—that current and successive governments will be accountable and transparent, and that they will act with integrity. This is the premise of Professor Coaldrake's report, and this bill demonstrates the continued commitment to that premise by the Miles government.

The bill greatly improves the integrity and oversight framework in Queensland so that it remains contemporary and maintains and improves a culture of accountability. Notably, the bill strengthens the independence of the core integrity bodies, and their statutory office holders—the Integrity Commissioner, the Queensland Ombudsman, the Information Commissioner, the Auditor-General, and the Crime and Corruption Commissioner. Parliamentary committees will be more involved in appointments to those statutory positions and with funding proposals from those integrity bodies.

The Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner will be established as a statutory body. The jurisdiction of the Queensland Ombudsman will be enlarged to capture non-government entities providing government services. The Auditor-General's mandate to order particular trusts is clarified. The bill also significantly bolsters the regulatory framework for lobbying and lobbyists in Queensland. It raises the bar to address any actual or perceived special influence a lobbyist might have if a political party they have assisted during an election campaign is in government, and to address the expectations around the conditions for registration as a lobbyist in Queensland. The framework introduced by the bill clarifies what is and is not a lobbying activity. It enhances the Integrity Commissioner's regulatory role. It prohibits dual hatting where a registered lobbyist performs a substantial role for a political party in an election campaign.

These important reforms have been acknowledged by members of the House today. I will say that, despite some of the comments, including from the member for Maiwar, they are not just tinkering around the edges. We have the strongest law around lobbyists and integrity, and transparency around cabinet and diaries, that any jurisdiction in this country has.

I will now address some of the matters raised by members during debate. I have to be honest, when I started writing down notes—I normally have pages of notes—I basically had two lines from the contribution from the member for Maroochydore because she did not talk about the bill. However, she did talk about the Coaldrake report and went to a lot of broader issues which I intend, seeing as they appear to be relevant, to touch on as well.

The member for Maroochydore criticised the lack of appropriate scrutiny of the amendments to the bill, which I find extraordinary. The member for Maroochydore said the amendments did not go back to committee for consideration. Amendments do not. The member for Maroochydore should know this because that is all the opposition does. They felt so strongly about the lobbying and a loophole that they say existed, which we are rectifying, yet they did not bring amendments in. There are no amendments here today from the opposition, despite them being so strong on integrity and this was

such an important issue. However, that would have taken a bit of effort. They do not get around to that. In fact, the only thing the opposition does when it comes to opposing government legislation is bring in assets.

They have only brought in one private member's bill so far in this entire term of government. That is either because they are lazy, they are incompetent, or they do not want to be transparent. They do not want their amendments ever to be scrutinised. They do not want to put them in a bill, because if they put them in a bill, it has to go to a committee and then the public and stakeholders get to make comment on those amendments. They criticise us bringing in amendments that directly go to submissions put to a parliamentary committee. That is the whole idea of the parliamentary process. Good government listens to the views raised through the parliamentary committee process and bring amendments to address those issues. However, those opposite just bring amendments. They do not bring amendments that they have tested out there with stakeholders; they are certainly not willing to put them in a private member's bill. The only one they want to do is a bill. That is pretty short-sighted and pretty lazy, but I think it is more the lazy. I think it is very deliberate because they do not want to be transparent around the amendments they bring into this chamber, which is quite ironic when we are talking about an integrity bill.

There was further criticism from the member for Maroochydore: twice she said these amendments were circulated late. They were circulated during question time. I am not going to apologise if the member for Maroochydore, or whoever was sitting on their side of the chamber, or whoever was acting as Manager of Opposition Business, did not bother to look at the amendments that were dropped around or let her know. That is not my responsibility. They were circulated. I want to acknowledge that because it is not fair to the attendants who did their job to say that they were not circulated, because they were. They were available to have a look at; they were circulated at the back end of question time. To say they were not circulated before lunch is just not accurate. It is just another example of the member for Maroochydore's lack of fitness to sit on this side of the chamber.

As I outlined in my earlier speech, those amendments respond to concerns raised by stakeholders and enhance the operation of the provisions in the bill, and ensure the provisions meet the intent of the Coaldrake report recommendations, many of which were raised during the parliamentary committee process, including by the member's opposition colleagues.

I thank the member for Logan, who was the chair of the formerly named Economics and Governance Committee, for highlighting to the House that the member for Maroochydore was part of the scrutiny of the bill. The member for Maroochydore will be aware from the public briefing of the parliamentary committee on 10 July 2023, which she attended as a substitute for the deputy chair, of the open and thorough process for developing this bill. The member for Maroochydore raised concerns about the perceived lack of action taken to address the culture of the public sector and bullying, raised in the Coaldrake report.

As the Premier himself stated this morning during question time, this government recognises the important role an independent public sector plays in our Westminster system. Our government also understands the importance of our public sector having the capability to deliver the services and policies the community expects now and in the future. That is why the Premier indicated that he would soon release a new strategy for our public service, to work with them to build up their capabilities, ensuring we use consultants less and doing more work in-house.

As I outlined in my earlier speech, each minister and director-general has been asked to meet with their senior leadership to promote an enduring, effective and respectful working relationship between the department and ministerial office. Further, codes of conduct for ministers and ministerial staff, and the protocols for communication with department employees, have been reviewed to ensure they align with the Coaldrake review recommendations, and changes are expected to be implemented shortly.

The government has funded the Public Sector Commission to allow it to focus on the rejuvenation of the capability and capacity of the Queensland public sector. The government has appointed a new Public Sector Commissioner to ensure there is renewed and energised focus within that commission on what Queenslanders want: is a high-performing and dedicated public sector regardless of where they are in Queensland.

The Crime and Corruption Commission engaged an external consultant to review the organisation's culture and performance to ensure their focus is on corrupt conduct complaints. An independent director-general and the Public Sector Commission now oversee the investigation of complaints made against senior public sectors of SES3 rank and higher. These matters around culture and bullying have been and are being addressed by this government.

The member for Maroochydore also spoke about incidental lobbying. This type of lobbying activity was addressed in the first piece of integrity legislation, passed in 2022. This bill goes further by defining what is and is not lobbying activity. It defines what a substantial role is when working on an election campaign. As outlined in the explanatory notes to the bill, the Coaldrake report found that a person was able to escape regulation by virtue of their position or employment. To address this, the bill clarifies that the activity of communicating with a government or opposition representative is not lobbying where it is in the ordinary course of duty of a professional or technical service provider.

The member for Maroochydore is critical of the pace at which some of the final recommendations from the Coaldrake report are being implemented; namely, the complaints clearing house and the proactive release of cabinet documents. The member for Coomera made similar comments. These are complex and sensitive recommendations to implement, and the government is taking the appropriate time to progress those recommendations. In this regard, I note progress has been made. From January 2023 a new web form and webpage have made it easier for people to make a complaint, with Smart Service Queensland quickly referring complaints to the appropriate agency. In July 2023 a new customer complaint management framework and guideline was introduced, providing for a consistent and customer focused complaint management approach across departments.

In November 2023 the government announced that retired District Court judge Michael Forde was appointed to oversee the final stage of reform in this area. When appointed, Mr Forde recognised the current complexity and was 'energised about finding ways to remove confusion and create an easier, transparent and customer-centric approach to complaints for all Queenslanders'. A clearing house will ensure that Queenslanders with complaints about government have greater transparency about how complaints are managed. The Miles government looks forward to receiving Mr Forde's report to government on ways the clearing house could be achieved.

As I advised at the commencement of this debate, the government is progressing work to realise the proactive release of cabinet documents in Queensland. Amendments to support a proactive release scheme were progressed as part of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022. I am pleased to advise members of the House that the government will commence the proactive release of cabinet documents from the cabinet meeting held on 25 March.

The member for Mermaid Beach revisited historical cases of whistleblowing. I advised the House earlier that a review of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 has occurred. Over 100 recommendations have been made and the government is reviewing those recommendations, which will see a completely new act created. The member also acknowledged the issue raised with the dual-hatting provisions. I can assure the member for Mermaid Beach that we have listened to concerns from stakeholders, including the Integrity Commissioner, that a registered lobbyist could deregister before the start of the election campaign and work for a political party during this period while maintaining the ability to register again as a lobbyist after the end of the election. As foreshadowed at the start of this debate, amendments circulated in my name will tighten and strengthened those dual-hatting provisions to address those concerns.

The member for Macalister rightly raised the human rights implications of the dual-hatting prohibition being brought in by this act. As the member also noted, this prohibition is fully justified as it ensures there is transparency and equality between professional lobbyists and others such as small community groups. I stress that this legislation will be enduring. It will continue to apply to successive governments, no matter the political party—I hope so. I thank the member for Mermaid Beach for acknowledging that and for supporting the passage of the bill.

This bill delivers on this government's undertaking to deliver a strong, contemporary and enduring integrity framework for Queensland. In reforming lobbying regulation, the government has been led by the recommendations set out in the Coaldrake and Yearbury reports. The bill is the result of an extensive implementation process led by a steering committee—chaired by the Public Sector Commissioner—and engagement with an integrity reform stakeholder reference group and directly with each integrity body. In addition to the parliamentary committee process, the five integrity bodies, the Speaker and the Clerk were consulted on a full draft of the bill. Other stakeholders were consulted on parts of the bill relevant to them or their sector.

Earlier this week, the Leader of the House told members that this House will see the Miles government introducing legislation that will support Queenslanders. They will see policy debates and ideas that are developed through thought and research and which will benefit all Queenslanders. The debate of this bill is evidence of that commitment.

Professor Coaldrake's report recognised that Queensland's integrity system was under stress, trying to keep check on a culture that from the top down was not meeting the public's expectations. His review aspired to influence a cultural shift that encourages openness from the top. On page 27 of his report he stated—

... culture, and a tone set from the top, is critical to giving effect to the spirit of the legislation.

In this bill, the Premier and his government—which I am very proud to be a member of—are leading from the top.

That is how you make a speech that is relevant to a bill. In saying that, it was disappointing—I am specifically responding to the contributions made by members in this House in this debate, so I am being completely relevant—that the member for Maroochydore used her 30 minutes, as did others, to smear, spew attacks and make assertions in this chamber. She used inflammatory language. Public servants were attacked.

Ms Simpson: Who?

Mrs D'ATH: She sounds like an owl! I will not give the member the satisfaction of saying their title because it is inappropriate, and I would have thought a former Speaker of this House would know better. There were members on that side who named public servants and who made inflammatory comments about those public servants. We have a responsibility as members of parliament to not name public servants or make defamatory comments about public servants as they are not given the opportunity to respond to those claims. The whole purpose of this bill, the Coaldrake report and the Yearbury report is to change the culture of the interaction between elected members of parliament and the Public Service. Members opposite come into this House, during a debate on integrity and on those reports, and name and attack public servants.

If the Public Service were in any doubt whatsoever about what to expect if there were a change of government, they heard it in this debate: they would be attacked again. They would find the ones they did not like. I have seen where they targeted public servants they did not like. I saw it in the Redcliffe by-election: they said our fires were fake. I saw the then premier of this state walk up to one of our firefighters and ask what station he worked at and what his number was so that there could be consequences for the fact that he was exercising his right to stand on a polling booth and voice an opinion in an election—and voice it loudly people did.

The member's speech presented an opportunity to set the scene for opposition members to say to Queenslanders what they would do differently if they were elected—and they did. They showed them exactly what they would do. They attacked hardworking public servants. If I remember correctly, the member even claimed that the amendments had not been circulated. I have already said that they were—hours and hours ago. It is not my fault if they cannot do their job properly.

The member for Maroochydore has never apologised for the opposition's claims that the Integrity Commissioner's office was raided by the Premier's 'goons'. We heard members refer to the 'black ops squad'. Honestly, how is anyone supposed to take them seriously? A number of them use that term and said that the 'black ops squad' went in. So many of the statements they made in this House are not accurate—in fact, they have been the subject of investigation and have been proven to be false—yet they still came in here and said it again. And they want to come in here and argue about integrity! I do not recall the LNP government introducing any integrity bills. I remember it stripping the political donation cap. It would have been \$15,200—walk in with a paper bag, put \$15,000 on the desk and no-one would know. That is what it would be today if we had not changed those laws.

I am very proud of the integrity reforms that this government has brought in since 2015 and we will continue to do that. We will continue to listen and we will continue to work with the public sector. We will continue to recognise their extraordinary work and make them proud to call themselves public servants. They should be proud because they do incredible work each and every day. I am proud of the amazing public servants I get to work with. I am in awe of the work they do each and every day. I strive to make sure I support them as a minister in what I do every day because they deserve it. They do not deserve to be attacked and they do not deserve to be named in this place ever and those opposite do it regularly. I support this bill. It is a great bill and I ask the whole House to—

(Time expired)

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mrs D'ATH (5.51 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 10, line 7—

omit, insert—

- (1) This Act, other than part 3A and part 4, division 2, commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.
- (2) Part 4, division 2 commences 60 days after the date of assent.

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

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, amendments to be moved by Hon. Yvette D'Ath [\[213\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[214\]](#).

Tabled paper: Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[215\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mrs D'ATH (5.52 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 9 (Appointment of auditor-general))

Page 11, line 7, after 'Minister'—

insert—

(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (4)

3 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 9 (Appointment of auditor-general))

Page 11, after line 13—

insert—

- (4) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5—



Mrs D'ATH (5.52 pm): I move the following amendments—

4 Clause 5 (Amendment of s 11 (Terms of appointment))

Page 12, line 3, after 'Minister'—

insert—

(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (6)

5 Clause 5 (Amendment of s 11 (Terms of appointment))

Page 12, after line 10—

insert—

- (4B) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

6 Clause 5 (Amendment of s 11 (Terms of appointment))

Page 12, line 12, '(7)'—

omit, insert—

(8)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—



Mrs D'ATH (5.53 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Clause 18 (Amendment of s 72 (Conduct of independent audit))

Page 21, lines 13 to 18—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 19 to 26, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs D'ATH (5.54 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

8 After clause 26

Page 30, after line 6—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Evidence Act 1977

26A Act amended

This part amends the *Evidence Act 1977*.

26B Amendment of s 14H (Deciding whether to grant leave)

(1) Section 14H—

insert—

(2A) For deciding the application, the court may do any of the following—

- (a) order a person to produce the protected counselling communication to the court;
- (b) consider the protected counselling communication;
- (c) make any other order it considers appropriate to facilitate its consideration of the protected counselling communication.

(2B) If the protected counselling communication is produced to the court under subsection (2A), the court must not disclose it, or make it available to a party to the proceeding, before deciding the application.

(2) Section 14H(3), 'For'—

omit, insert—

Also, for

26C Insertion of new pt 9, div 15

Part 9—

insert—

Division 15 Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023

171 Sexual assault counselling privilege

(1) This section applies to any of the following (a **relevant action**) done before the commencement of this section—

- (a) an exercise or purported exercise of a court's jurisdiction in dealing with a leave application;
- (b) anything else done or purportedly done by a court or person in relation to a leave application.

(2) The rights and liabilities of all persons affected by the relevant action are the same, and are taken to have always been the same, as they would be or would have been if amended section 14H had been in force at the time of the relevant action.

(3) Subsection (2) applies for all purposes, including for the purpose of a leave application made but not decided before the commencement.

(4) In this section—

amended section 14H means section 14H as amended by the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*.

leave application means an application for the leave of the court under part 2, division 2A, subdivision 3.

In doing so, I will speak to this amendment. It inserts after clause 26 a new part 3A that amends the Evidence Act 1977. New part 3A contains clauses 26A to 26C. Clause 26A states that part 3A amends the Evidence Act 1977. Clause 26B amends section 14H of the Evidence Act. New subsection (2A) provides that the court may, for the purpose of deciding an application for leave under the sexual assault counselling privilege framework, order a person to produce protected counselling communication to the court, consider the communication and make any other order to facilitate its consideration of the communication. New subsection (2B) provides that if protected counselling communication is produced to the court in accordance with such an order, the court must not make the communication—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That the Attorney-General's amendment No. 8 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note that the Attorney's amendments Nos 15, 16, 37 and 40 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the Attorney-General's amendments Nos 9 to 52, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

9 After clause 27

Page 30, after line 12—

insert—

Division 1 Amendments commencing by proclamation

10 Clause 28 (Replacement of long title)

Page 30, line 25, after 'representatives'—

insert—

including by a code of conduct, a training course and directives

11 Clause 30 (Amendment of s 12 (Meaning of *designated person*))

Page 31, line 9, 'Section'—

omit, insert—

(1) Section

12 Clause 30 (Amendment of s 12 (Meaning of *designated person*))

Page 31, after line 11—

insert—

(2) Section 12(1)—

insert—

(fa) a person, or a person within a class of persons, nominated by the Premier;

(3) Section 12(2), after 'subsection (1)(e)'—

insert—

or (fa)

(4) Section 12—

insert—

(2A) A nomination under subsection (1)(fa) ends 28 days after the start of the nomination.

13 Clause 32 (Amendment of s 17 (Request by Minister))

Page 31, after line 22—

insert—

(1) Section 17(b), 'or senior officer'—

omit.

14 Clause 32 (Amendment of s 17 (Request by Minister))

Page 31, line 23, 'Section 17(c)'—

omit, insert—

(2) Section 17(c)

15 After clause 33

Page 32, after line 2—

insert—

33A Insertion of new s 20CA

After section 20C—

insert—

20CA Request by chief of staff about ministerial adviser

- (1) A chief of staff (however called) in the office of a Minister or Assistant Minister may ask for the integrity commissioner's advice on an ethics or integrity issue involving a ministerial adviser who gives advice to the Minister or Assistant Minister.
- (2) However, a chief of staff may ask for advice under subsection (1) only if the chief of staff has given notice of the request to the Minister or Assistant Minister mentioned in subsection (1).

16 After clause 33

Page 32, after line 2—

insert—

33B Amendment of s 20D (Request by former ministerial adviser)

Section 20D—

insert—

- (1A) Also, a ministerial adviser who may become a former ministerial adviser may ask for the integrity commissioner's advice on an ethics or integrity issue involving the ministerial adviser that may arise from a post-separation obligation.

17 Clause 34 (Amendment of s 29 (Disclosure to Premier))

Page 32, lines 4 to 6—

omit, insert—

Section 29(1), ' , senior officer or senior officer equivalent'—

omit, insert—

or a senior executive equivalent

18 Clause 35 (Amendment of s 30 (Disclosure to Minister))

Page 32, lines 8 to 10—

omit, insert—

Section 30, ' , senior officer or senior officer equivalent,'—

omit, insert—

or a senior executive equivalent

19 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 33, lines 10 to 15—

omit.

20 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 35, line 32 and page 36, line 1, from 'fee' to 'reward'—

omit, insert—

commission, payment or other reward, whether pecuniary or otherwise,

21 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 39, lines 8 to 10, from 'for a commission' to 'otherwise'—

omit.

22 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 41, line 13 to page 42, line 15—

omit, insert—

49 Disqualification of individual engaged in dual hatting

- (1) This section applies to an individual who—

- (a) is a registered lobbyist during the period (the *inter-election period*) that—

- (i) starts on the day on which a general election is held (the *first general election*);
- and

- (ii) ends at the end of the day on which the next general election after the first general election is held (the **second general election**); and
- (b) during the inter-election period is required to give a notice under section 66A.

Note—

See section 66N(3) for removal of the individual's name from the lobbying register.

- (2) This section also applies to an individual who was a registered lobbyist at any time during the inter-election period.
- (3) The individual is disqualified from being a registered lobbyist, or continuing to be a registered lobbyist, if the individual performs a substantial role, during the inter-election period, in the election campaign of a political party relating to the second general election.

Note—

See also sections 66H(1)(b) and 66N(2).

- (4) If the individual performs a substantial role in the election campaign, relating to the second general election, of the political party that wins the second general election, the individual is disqualified under subsection (3) for the period that—
 - (a) starts when the individual starts performing the substantial role in the election campaign; and
 - (b) ends at the end of the day on which the next general election after the second general election is held.
- (5) If the individual performs a substantial role in the election campaign, relating to the second general election, of a political party that does not win the second general election, the individual is disqualified under subsection (3) for the period that—
 - (a) starts when the individual starts performing the substantial role in the election campaign; and
 - (b) ends at the end of the day on which the second general election is held.

- (6) In this section—

general election see the *Electoral Act 1992*, schedule 1.

win, a general election, means form government after the election.

23 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 49, line 3, 'during election period'—

omit.

24 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 49, lines 6 and 7, ', during an election period for an election,'—

omit.

25 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 52, lines 16 to 21—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies if an individual who is a registered lobbyist intends to perform a substantial role in the election campaign of a political party.

26 Clause 36 (Replacement of ch 4 (Regulation of lobbying activities))

Page 63, line 2, after 'who is'—

insert—

a

27 Clause 37 (Amendment of s 74 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 65, line 26, after 'Minister'—

insert—

(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (4)

28 Clause 37 (Amendment of s 74 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 65, after line 32—

insert—

- (2B) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

29 Clause 37 (Amendment of s 74 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 66, line 4, 'and'—

omit, insert—

to

- 30 Clause 37 (Amendment of s 74 (Procedure before appointment))**
 Page 66, line 5, 'and (4)'—
omit, insert—
 to (5)
- 31 Clause 38 (Amendment of s 76 (Remuneration and conditions))**
 Page 66, line 18, after 'Minister'—
insert—
 (the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (6)
- 32 Clause 38 (Amendment of s 76 (Remuneration and conditions))**
 Page 66, after line 25—
insert—
 (6) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.
- 33 Clause 45 (Insertion of new ch 8, div 5)**
 Page 73, line 17, 'Insertion of new'—
omit, insert—
 Replacement of
- 34 Clause 45 (Insertion of new ch 8, div 5)**
 Page 73, line 18, after 'Chapter 8'—
insert—
 , division 5
- 35 Clause 45 (Insertion of new ch 8, div 5)**
 Page 73, line 19, before '*insert*'—
insert—
 omit,
- 36 Clause 45 (Insertion of new ch 8, div 5)**
 Page 74, after line 5—
insert—
 104A Disqualification of individual engaged in dual hatting only after commencement
 New section 49 applies only in relation to an individual who performs a substantial role in an election campaign of a political party after the commencement.
 104B Individual disqualified under former section 53A before commencement
 An individual disqualified before the commencement under former section 53A from being a registrant, or continuing to be a registrant, for the period mentioned in former section 53A(4) or (5) is taken to be disqualified under new section 49 from being a registered lobbyist, or continuing to be a registered lobbyist, for the period mentioned in new section 49(4) or (5).
- 37 After clause 45**
 Page 75, after line 8—
insert—
 45A Amendment of sch 1 (Statutory office holders for section 40E)
 Schedule 1, '*Energy Ombudsman Act 2006*'
 omit, insert—
 Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006
- 38 Clause 46 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))**
 Page 75, line 15, after '*registrant*,'—
insert—
 senior officer, senior officer equivalent,
- 39 Clause 46 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))**
 Page 77, after line 6—
insert—
 (3) Schedule 2, definition *government entity*, 'public service office'—
 omit, insert—
 public service entity mentioned in the *Public Sector Act 2022*, section 9(b)

40 After clause 46

Page 77, after line 6—

insert—

Division 2 Amendments commencing 60 days after assent**46A Amendment of s 50 (Timely updating of particulars)**

Section 50—

insert—

- (3) Also, if the integrity commissioner becomes aware that a registrant is disqualified under section 53A from being a registrant, or continuing to be a registrant, the integrity commissioner must immediately remove from the lobbyists register the individual's name as a registrant.
- (4) In addition, if the integrity commissioner receives a notice under section 66B that an individual who is a registrant intends to perform a substantial role in an election campaign, the integrity commissioner must immediately remove from the lobbyists register the individual's name as a registrant.

46B Insertion of new s 53A

After section 53—

insert—

53A Disqualification of individual engaged in dual hatting

- (1) This section applies to an individual who—
 - (a) is a registrant during the period (the *inter-election period*) that—
 - (i) starts on the day on which a general election is held (the *first general election*); and
 - (ii) ends at the end of the day on which the next general election after the first general election is held (the *second general election*); and
 - (b) during the inter-election period is required to give a notice under section 66A.

Note—

See section 50(4) for removal of the individual's name from the lobbyists register.

- (2) This section also applies to an individual who was a registrant at any time during the inter-election period.
- (3) The individual is disqualified from being a registrant, or continuing to be a registrant, if the individual performs a substantial role, during the inter-election period, in the election campaign of a political party relating to the second general election.

Note—

See also sections 50(3) and 62(1)(ba).

- (4) If the individual performs a substantial role in the election campaign, relating to the second general election, of the political party that wins the second general election, the individual is disqualified under subsection (3) for the period that—
 - (a) starts when the individual starts performing the substantial role in the election campaign; and
 - (b) ends at the end of the day on which the next general election after the second general election is held.
- (5) If the individual performs a substantial role in the election campaign, relating to the second general election, of a political party that does not win the second general election, the individual is disqualified under subsection (3) for the period that—
 - (a) starts when the individual starts performing the substantial role in the election campaign; and
 - (b) ends at the end of the day on which the second general election is held.
- (6) In this section—

general election see the Electoral Act 1992, schedule 1.

win, a general election, means form government after the election.

46C Amendment of s 55 (Grounds for refusing registration)

Section 55—

insert—

- (ba) the entity is disqualified from being a registrant under section 53A;

46D Amendment of s 62 (Grounds for cancellation etc.)

Section 62(1)—

insert—

- (ba) the integrity commissioner believes the registrant is disqualified under section 53A from being a registrant;

46E Insertion of new s 66B

After section 66A—

*insert—***66B Individual who is registrant must give notice of intention to perform substantial role in election campaign**

- (1) This section applies if an individual who is a registrant intends to perform a substantial role in the election campaign of a political party.
- (2) The individual must, immediately after forming the intention, give the integrity commissioner a notice stating the individual's intention.

46F Insertion of new s 71AA

After section 71A—

*insert—***71AA Registrant must not perform substantial role in election campaign of political party**

- (1) This section applies to a registrant.
- (2) The registrant must not perform a substantial role in the election campaign of a political party.

46G Insertion of new ch 8, div 5

Chapter 8—

*insert—***Division 5 Transitional provision for Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023****104 Disqualification of individual engaged in dual hatting only after commencement**

Section 53A applies only in relation to an individual who performs a substantial role in the election campaign of a political party after the commencement.

46H Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2—

*insert—***substantial role**, in the election campaign of a political party—

- (a) means a role at a senior level, whether paid or unpaid, that—
 - (i) involves employment or engagement by the party; and
 - (ii) incorporates significant involvement in the party's election strategy or policy development; and
- (b) does not include any of the following—
 - (i) general membership of the party;
 - (ii) volunteering for, or advising, a particular candidate;
 - (iii) door knocking, placing documents in letter boxes or other campaign communications;
 - (iv) media liaison;
 - (v) handing out how to vote material.

41 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 59 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 79, line 18, after 'Minister'—

insert—(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (3)**42 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 59 (Procedure before appointment))**

Page 79, after line 25—

insert—

- (1B) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

43 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 59 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 79, line 29, 'and'—

omit, insert—

to

44 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 59 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 79, line 30, 'and (3)'—

omit, insert—

to (4)

45 Clause 51 (Amendment of s 62 (Remuneration and conditions))

Page 80, line 17, after 'Minister'—

insert—(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (7)**46 Clause 51 (Amendment of s 62 (Remuneration and conditions))**

Page 80, after line 24—

insert—

(7) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

47 Clause 64 (Amendment of s 135 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 90, line 24, after 'Minister'—

insert—(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (3)**48 Clause 64 (Amendment of s 135 (Procedure before appointment))**

Page 91, after line 3—

insert—

(1B) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

49 Clause 64 (Amendment of s 135 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 91, line 7, 'and'—

omit, insert—

to

50 Clause 64 (Amendment of s 135 (Procedure before appointment))

Page 91, line 8, 'and (3)'—

omit, insert—

to (4)

51 Clause 65 (Amendment of s 137 (Remuneration and conditions))

Page 91, line 21, after 'Minister'—

insert—(the **original period**) or within the further period agreed under subsection (6)**52 Clause 65 (Amendment of s 137 (Remuneration and conditions))**

Page 91, after line 28—

insert—

(6) The Minister and chair of the parliamentary committee may, before the end of the original period, agree to extend the original period by a further period of not more than 20 business days.

Question put—That clauses 27 to 73 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 73 and the schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the Attorney-General's amendment No. 53 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

53 Long titleLong title, after '*the Crime and Corruption Act 2001*,'—*insert—***the Evidence Act 1977,**

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Weather Events, Electricity Supply; Wise, Mr P



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (5.58 pm): I am sure we can all agree that this summer has been hot and humid, so imagine the discomfort of having the power cut off in your home right in the thick of it. This is what happened in suburbs of Sippy Downs and Palmview in my electorate two days in a row. It happened around the same time of the day during the peak of a ripper heatwave. Hundreds of homes experienced power outages for hours at a time in the late afternoon and early evening right when families were trying to make dinner, put babies and toddlers to sleep and settle in for the night. After making some inquiries, Energex advised the outage occurred during the 'peak of excessive heat and humidity, and customers seeking relief resulted in extremely high electricity use'. Put simply, the electricity network could not cope. Local electricity transmission infrastructure has not kept pace with our population growth and that lies solely at the feet of this state Labor government.

Despite Minister de Brenni's assurances that the power grid was coping with the increased demand, it seems he was being selective with the truth—selective with the truth because while there may have been sufficient power being generated the transmission network was failing. Queenslanders should be able to cool down their homes on a hot day. They certainly should be able to switch on the lights, keep their freezer cold and use the oven and stove to cook dinner with food from their cold fridge. What concerns me is that many residents in parts of Sippy Downs and Palmview rely on electricity for communications purposes. They are in a mobile phone black spot, so they need the power to run their wi-fi. When the power goes off, not only are they hot and in the dark but they are also at risk of being unable to call for help when it is needed.

It has been nearly a thousand days since Callide went out and it is still not fixed. Not only is it not fixed; the minister responsible did not even have any idea what happened until two days ago. How can Labor be trusted to keep the lights on for families in Sippy Downs and Palmview when this is the standard that is accepted by the Premier? It is 2024 and we live in Queensland. Families should be able to rely on the power being on, especially in the middle of a heatwave.

While I am on my feet I want to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Peter Wise. Peter was a well-known community advocate and farmer, safeguarding a parcel of land—a farm—in the middle of suburbia in the electorate of Buderim. Sunshine Coast locals know the area well, driving along Wises Road to buy figs directly from the farm. Peter was 82 when he passed away after a short stay in hospital late last month and is survived by his wife, Ivy. Peter was a staunch advocate on behalf of the Sunshine Coast and he will be missed by many. On behalf of the Buderim community, I want to acknowledge Peter's considerable contribution to the Sunshine Coast. Vale, Peter Wise.

Redcliffe Hospital




Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.01 pm): Today I rise to share with the chamber exciting news: early works on the Redcliffe Hospital expansion are well underway. The Miles government is investing over \$1.1 billion into this critical piece of infrastructure for the Moreton Bay region whilst supporting over 2½ thousand local jobs during construction as well. This investment is a game changer for the health and wellbeing of our community. On completion, this will deliver over 200 additional beds—204 new beds in fact—five new operating theatres, ambulatory care and significant expansion of existing services, including birthing suites, endoscopy and a range of other clinical and support services. This will almost be doubling the size of the hospital. It is absolutely extraordinary. With that expansion, we need extra parking because where that building is going is where the ground-level parking is now, so we will be going up another three levels on the hospital car park as well. There has been some concern about the chimney stack and whether it was going. No, the chimney stack is staying. It is iconic and we cannot remove that, but we are thinking it needs a bit of a nice mural or something on it for the Redcliffe Peninsula.

This project is a testament to the Miles government's commitment to delivering gold standard health outcomes and supporting our essential frontline health workers. It will benefit not just the Moreton Bay city council—and I know that all of the elected members across Moreton Bay such as the members for Bancroft and Murrumba are very excited about this—but those across the bridge at Sandgate as well, because people from all over the north side come to the Redcliffe Hospital. It was wonderful to have the Premier and Minister Fentiman joining me at Redcliffe to announce this exciting stage of the

project. I also want to acknowledge the amazing staff at Redcliffe Hospital who provide such a critical service each and every day. Their expertise and dedication are what makes Queensland's health system one of the best in the country.

The good news for Redcliffe Hospital does not end there, because the Redcliffe Hospital Auxiliary received almost \$35,000 in the recent round of Gambling Community Benefit Fund as well. The auxiliary has been supporting Redcliffe Hospital staff and patients for over 50 years, raising money through gift shop proceeds and donations, and it is pretty sure it is going to hit the \$1 million mark in its fundraising donations. This well-deserved grant will go towards the purchasing of new medical equipment and furniture, helping to improve health outcomes, making Redcliffe Hospital a better place for patients, visitors and staff. I congratulate the Redcliffe Hospital Auxiliary on its success and offer my sincere thanks for its many years of service to our hospital and community. I again thank all of the hospital staff for the amazing work they do and thank the Miles government for delivering this extraordinary health infrastructure for our region.


Ninderry Electorate, Personal Mobility Devices; Meals on Wheels

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.04 pm): There is no doubt that the top concerns of residents in my electorate are cost of living, youth crime, housing and health. Another issue that is striking fear into the hearts of many residents is the reckless behaviour of young people riding e-scooters and e-bikes. I acknowledge this form of transport is rapidly gaining favour as a low-cost alternative and, while the average age of a rider is apparently closer to 30, there is a growing number of younger people taking it up. As a result, I have been receiving many complaints from locals about younger riders showing complete disregard for rules, including speeding and riding on footpaths, not wearing helmets, weaving in and out of traffic, doubling and generally risky behaviour. E-bikes pose an even greater threat due to their size and greater speeds but fall under the same rules that apply to e-scooters. Earlier this week my local bowls club reported a person on an e-bike caught speeding across the green. They were reprimanded by the greenkeeper and the issue was reported to the police, but without any evidence little can be done.

Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable to the erratic actions of young and inexperienced riders who display no fear and no road-sense. I have heard from a number of older residents who have escaped serious injury after close encounters with these electric devices. They are genuinely fearful of being caught off guard or being hit by a reckless young rider travelling at speed. Queensland's Injury Surveillance Unit has revealed a six-fold increase over the past 3½ years in the number of children presenting at our emergency departments due to injuries from e-scooters and e-bikes. Our police are doing the best they can to enforce the rules, but in the midst of a crime crisis when they are already seriously under-resourced tasking them with this growing problem is not the answer. Education is vital, particularly for the parents of teenagers who are the worst offenders when it comes to the rules, but the government also needs to do more, including fast-tracking actions identified in the 2022 PMD safety action plan to ensure the safety of our community, particularly our older residents.

On another topic while I am on my feet with relevance to my electorate and I am sure other electorates, earlier this week it was alarming to read that Meals on Wheels has reported a \$3 million loss in revenue and nearly 10,000 volunteers in the past year. Combined with the drop in volunteers following COVID and increasing demand from those aged under 65, Meals on Wheels needs our help. Locally, we are very lucky. Coolumbia Meals on Wheels has a wonderful crew of around 150 dedicated locals together with the amazing staff who deliver more than 21,000 meals every year to our community. However, the pressures facing this service statewide serve as a reminder of the importance of volunteers. If you have any time to spare, please give a thought to helping out.

Bancroft Electorate, Homelessness

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.07 pm): I want to start by describing the great work that my community and government services are doing to help the homeless people in my area. I want to describe specifically how the effort will be strengthened by the new Homes for Queenslanders plan from the Miles government. In our local area a number of us work together to help out those people who are enduring homelessness. There is a joint team visit to a lot of those areas involving the police, council and our Housing Service Centre as well. They go down and see what the people need and encourage them to apply for temporary accommodation and refer them on and help them on to the next step. I want to pay tribute to the hardworking staff of the Housing Service Centre at Caboolture which does great work—incredible work—through the Moreton Bay area.

It is clear that we have a great local system in our area and a really good and effective local network to help out those people who are enduring homelessness, and often it starts with my electorate office. A lot of people come through the electorate office requesting help. I think every second day or so we have people coming in who are living in a tent or in a car, and they are also referred from the Lighthouse Centre, which is a Foodbank in Deception Bay, or the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre. Sometimes people just simply drop in. They know that they can drop into my office and we can help them out.

I want to pay tribute to the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre and the Lighthouse Centre run by Pastor David which gives referrals and helps distribute food to those people who need it most. Not only that, we have other community groups pitching in such as the Deception Bay Lions and the Deception Bay Meals on Wheels. Every week they run a dinner at Apex Park to help people out and other groups like Fill Your Cup have dropped in to help out, as have other people from our community.

We have a good local system for people enduring homelessness, but it will get better because of the Homes for Queenslanders plan from the Miles government. That will see a 20 per cent increase in capacity for our homelessness services in Deception Bay and Moreton Bay. We will see our critical response teams in Moreton Bay strengthened by this plan from the Miles government and we will be expanding the immediate housing response package, which has been helpful in putting people into temporary accommodation for the short term. In conclusion, I thank my community for helping out and not condemning those people who are living in cars and tents in our area. We will see more support from the Miles government.

Nanango Electorate, Housing and Police Resources



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (6.10 pm): In the middle of the ongoing housing crisis, where 40,000 Queenslanders are desperately waiting for social housing, there is still a state government owned home in the town of Nanango which has remained empty for nearly four years. I have asked questions of the various ministers, I have stood in this House and I have talked about this issue, yet this four-bedroom home sits empty while families in my region desperately search for a way to put a roof over their heads. Labor claim they are swooping on homes for social housing, but this is a classic case of the government caring more about how things look than about how things actually are.

I am appalled by Labor's lack of action on this issue. Labor's former minister for public works could not make a decision on how to utilise this home. I now call on the new public works minister to do something about this forgotten housing asset. They should either make the home available for social housing or prepare the property for a return to the private market if they cannot do anything about it. It is a four-bedroom home sitting completely empty.

Interestingly, that empty home in Nanango was formerly occupied by a respected Nanango doctor, Dr John Robinson, who left the residence in June 2020 on his retirement. I want to thank Dr Robbie for his service. I note that, while he did retire, he works now as a private GP in Nanango because, like in so many other regional areas, there is a continuing chronic shortage of GPs across this electorate.

While I am on the topic of chronic shortages, how about giving the police in Kilcoy a go? I would like to mention two issues in relation to our hardworking coppers. First of all, Blackbutt police need a new police station. It is an old one-man/woman station from back in the 1920s—a bit of an exaggeration there. Even the Police Union have said that the Blackbutt Police Station is—

Mr McDonald: A dump!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is a dump! It is highest on the list of those needing a new station. Offenders are sitting in the middle of police desks. DV victims are sitting two centimetres away from perpetrators. It is absolutely unacceptable. It is unacceptable for those hardworking police officers in Blackbutt to have to put up with this. It is unbelievable. Members should see the Blackbutt Police Station house. It has paint peeling off it everywhere. They want a new police station so they do not want to complain about the house, but they should. Those opposite can sigh all they like but, seriously, they should get off their green seats and come and look at these regional communities. I want to assure the Kilcoy community that I will continue the fight for more police officers in Kilcoy. Kilcoy is underserved by the QPS given the level of need and growing population in that beautiful area.

Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival; Holi Festival



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.13 pm): Chuc mung Na moi! I am thrilled to rise in the House and speak about the recent huge celebration in my community, in the neighbouring electorate of Inala: the Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival, which is organised by the Queensland Chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia. This is a longstanding event in the south-west suburbs and it is something that I am really proud has been going for around 40 years. That is a significant period of time when you consider that 40 years ago many of the people celebrating the event in our community were arriving on boats. It is now celebrated by thousands of people right across our community who come together to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This year we have ushered in the Year of the Dragon. Members can see that I am wearing my traditional Vietnamese ao dai, which I am always very proud to wear when I attend this celebration.

Attendees were treated to fantastic food prepared by hundreds of volunteers, but special mention must go to the huge number of snacks turned out by Pastor Hua's team. When I caught up with the Vietnamese Grace Church the next week for their follow-up celebration I was delighted to hear that the food ran out early, which means they all got to go out and enjoy the festival a little bit for themselves.

One of the highlights of this event is that all of the high-achieving high school students of a Vietnamese background get to come up on the stage to be formally acknowledged by the many politicians who attend and to be celebrated by the community. This is a longstanding tradition, and I assure the House that there were many proud parents in the crowd. This year, for the first time, the entire organising committee came onto the stage. It was a big stage but they took up the whole thing. I counted 23 members of the organising committee, each of whom puts in countless hours to make the event a success. I place my thanks on record, because they have been working on this event to make it such a success for around 40 years now. Special mention must go to the amazing Dr Bui, whom everybody in this place would know is an amazing advocate for the Vietnamese community.

I would now like to extend an invitation to all members of the House to attend another fantastic event in my community on 24 February this year. The Holi Festival is a signature event in my community. It starts at 11 am. If you have not been, it is a can't-miss event. It is organised by the fantastic committee from the Indian Cultural and Sports Club. Paviter and his team put in such a lot of effort. I will be there with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I invite all members to join us for this fantastic event. Both of these events receive state government funding and wonderful community sponsorship.


Coomera Electorate



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (6.16 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and talk about the state seat of Coomera on the northern Gold Coast. In the time since we last met we have seen the best of times and, some would say, the worst of times on the northern Gold Coast, as alluded to by the member for Theodore yesterday evening. We have seen confirmation of the Police Citizens Youth Club land thanks very much to Mark Hamill, division 1 councillor, and Mayor Tom Tate, who moved a special mayoral minute at the last meeting prior to the election to ensure that that land was locked away. We have seen new Australian citizens take the oath of allegiance on 26 January, meaning growth to the more than 53,000 electors on the northern Gold Coast and something like 97,000 residents. We have seen confirmation of the imminent delivery of a new bus to Esuarve, who work with youth on the northern Gold Coast and further afield, by the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama. That is happening on 20 February at six o'clock down at the Pimpama City Tavern. All members are welcome. Come on down. It will be a great night.

We also saw the Christmas Day tornado and the new year floods. They were terrible weather events. In 25 years I have never seen anything like it. They were challenges, to say the least. Sadly, a life was lost, as the member for Theodore mentioned last evening. It brought the best out of our local community. The community spirit was there. Wongawallan Drive seemed hardest hit of all of the roads. I am sure the member for Theodore would argue with that. It was amazing to see that in just four hours on Boxing Day the whole of the road had been cleared by the residents. It is hard to believe that they managed to do that. I spoke to many people, but one man comes to mind. He had a tree go right through the middle of his house. He told me that it was fortunate it did not keep going, because there was a 12-year-old girl sleeping in the house below that tree. He said what most people I spoke to said: 'We were luckier than others. There are a lot of other people out there who are really doing it tough.' There were people who had lost the roof off their house. The community spirit prevailed. I thank Energex, the SES, our rural fires, police and all the other helpers who assisted us in that time of need on the northern Gold Coast.

Rookwood Weir

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.19 pm): Our fantastic new Rookwood Weir began spilling over on Wednesday, 27 December following significant downpours. This milestone comes just a month after the region-changing project was officially completed in November last year. The weir is the biggest piece of bulk water infrastructure delivered in Australia in the past decade. It will shore up the region's water security and drive growth and job creation for generations to come.


The last time I was at the weir, I was celebrating its completion alongside the federal minister, Minister Plibersek, the Queensland Treasurer and Minister Butcher. Rookwood Weir is part of the Miles government's record \$5.2 billion investment in water infrastructure, which has created 3,400 jobs across Queensland. Seeing it now completed and spilling is proof that we are a government that delivers for Queensland, especially regional Queensland.

I am proud to say we are already seeing the economic benefits of this project flow into the Central Queensland economy. We saw nearly 350 workers on the weir at the peak of construction and more than 30 apprentices and trainees. We also saw \$270 million injected into Central Queensland in delivering the weir. On top of that, it is estimated that at least 500 full-time jobs will be created because of the agricultural growth that we will see with the Rookwood Weir.

More than 36,000 megalitres of water has been sold for agricultural use, bringing new businesses to Central Queensland and allowing existing businesses to expand their operations. That includes big players like Rural Funds Management and Argyle Capital Partners, as well as 21 smaller and medium sized operators. This allocation will benefit growers planning commercial cropping such as grains as well as tree crops such as dragon fruit and macadamias. This project will leave a legacy impact by providing improved water security for irrigators, industry and urban water users. It will underpin economic growth in Central Queensland for years to come. I am particularly excited about the food manufacturing and processing opportunities that the weir promises to bring to Rockhampton.

The Miles government is continuing to deliver for our community with other major water infrastructure projects underway such as the Mount Morgan pipeline. I am so proud to be part of the Miles Labor government that continues to roll up its sleeves and deliver long-term infrastructure and good jobs for Central Queensland.

Parole Board Queensland

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to seek answers about how victims of crime are treated by the Parole Board Queensland. Brett and Belinda Beasley are well known to many Queenslanders for their advocacy against knife crime and youth violence after the tragic murder of their 17-year-old son Jack in 2019. Two young offenders were convicted of Jack's killing, one pleading guilty to murder and the other to manslaughter. Both were subsequently sentenced to years in prison.

On 18 December last year, Belinda received a phone call from Corrective Services as she is on the victims register. She was told that the offender convicted of manslaughter had applied for parole and that she could make a submission outlining her concerns. A follow-up email the next day confirmed that, as an eligible person, Belinda was, and I quote, 'entitled to inform the PBQ of any concerns you may have in relation to the potential release of this prisoner ... within 21 days from the date of this letter.' Belinda did not tell her husband, Brett, or her son Mitch, Jack's older brother. It was too close to Christmas to break such shocking news and she had weeks to provide a submission anyway.


However, just a few days later, on 22 December last year, Belinda received a phone call to tell her that the decision had already been made. The young offender convicted of manslaughter over her son's death was granted parole. The offender would be freed from prison after serving barely half of their sentence for actions that devastated a family and many people in our community.

Belinda was distressed by this news. She could not bring herself to tell Brett over Christmas. When she did tell him just before New Year's Eve, Brett spoke out. He raised this injustice and the chaotic and confusing process in the media. Like so many things with this government, within a day the decision to grant parole was overturned.

I thank the minister for responding to my letter on this issue and for meeting with the Beasleys, but still the question has not been answered: how was this allowed to happen in the first place? The 21-day submission time frame is not just a guide for the Parole Board; it is in its legislation. The Corrective Services Act says that each eligible person in relation to the prisoner, the victims of the crime, must be given notice of a parole application and that they have 21 days to make a submission for the Parole Board to consider.

Why was a decision made when the submission period had barely begun? Why was a decision made at all without receiving a submission from the victims impacted by this crime? How many other victims has this happened to? If the Beasleys did not have such a huge profile, it could have easily continued without being overturned. We need answers to make sure that this never happens again to any other Queenslander.

Laming, Mr A; Capalaba State College

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.25 pm): We have come to the end of the week and the Leader of the Opposition has failed his test with regard to being open and transparent. Andrew Laming is running in the mayoral election in the Redlands. Along with a lot of Redlanders, I want to know what is in the LNP's dirt file. Why is he not fit enough to run in Canberra? Why is he not fit enough to run in this House? I know it is normally a low bar to be an LNP candidate but it must be really low to say no to Andrew Laming.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection. It must be truthful because we know that Andrew Laming is so litigious that if the LNP had said anything that was wrong or defamatory then Andrew Laming would have taken them to court. We know it is bad and we know it is truthful, but we are not allowed to table it in here so that every Redlander can know what is in the dirt file.

It is the fish that John West rejects that makes John West the best. The Leader of the Opposition had that chance, but now we are going to get a fish like the one in the *Simpsons*: three eyes and covered in nuclear waste. It is an absolute disgrace. We should be able to know what is in that file. Why is he so bad that he is not able to run for election in Canberra or in this House but in the Redlands he is good enough to be their mayoral candidate?

I will move on to some positive news. We are delivering yet again in my local community. We have just delivered the brand new Capalaba State College hall. I thank all the ministers involved. With the help of former minister Kate Jones, I went to the last election promising to build a hall for that fantastic school. That was supported by the former minister, Minister Grace. Last week, Minister Farmer officially opened the brand new hall. The hall can cater for the whole school. It is where they hold their assemblies and it also supports their basketball and volleyball excellence programs with two brand new courts. The larger community can also use those courts outside of school hours.

The LNP council has neglected basketball in our local area. They have built absolutely no infrastructure. We delivered for Cleveland District State High School with the Paul Bancroft Centre, which is used by RedCity Roar and now we have delivered for the Capalaba State College with the provision of four extra courts. We have done the heavy lifting because of the failure of the LNP council to deliver any new basketball infrastructure.

This Monday, we will have a grand opening with the P&C and the wider community. I cannot wait to show them through the brand new facilities. It will be the heart of the Capalaba State College, linking the junior school and the senior school. I cannot wait for Monday night.

The House adjourned at 6.28 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, 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