



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 7 March 2024

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THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 20 November 2023, the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the then deputy premier and minister for state development, local government, infrastructure and planning and minister assisting the premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure and now Premier deliberately misled the House on 16 November 2023. The matter relates to an answer provided by the Premier during questions without notice in relation to plans to locate a desalination plant on Bribie Island. In response to a question by the member for Pumicestone, the Premier stated—

The only party that ever proposed putting a desalinisation plant on Bribie Island was the LNP—
and—

The only party that has ever planned to put one there is the member's own side, the LNP.

The member for Glass House argued that these statements are misleading because a ministerial statement from 2009, during the period of the Bligh government, notes that Bribie Island was being considered as a second priority site for the desalination plant. As such, Labor also had a plan to place a desalination plant on Bribie Island. I sought further information from the Premier in accordance with standing order 269(5). The Premier submitted that his remarks were made in the context of which party had a definite policy for a desalination plant at Bribie Island.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is my ruling. It may be others' words. I hope that you will listen to the ruling.

The Premier argued that the Bligh government ruled out Bribie Island as a potential site in 2009 and that the ministerial statement submitted by the member for Glass House does not contain a commitment to house a desalination plant at Bribie Island and, as such, cannot be considered as government policy or a plan to do so.

Standing order 269(4) requires that, in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. In considering the referral, I had regard to the purpose of standing order 269, being that it should be reserved for serious, unresolved matters and not matters that are of a trivial or technical nature.

The matter is fundamentally a question regarding the characterisation of policy. Indeed, in this case, we have reached the stage in which members are debating the fine distinction of at what stage an investigation of options becomes a 'plan' or 'policy'. As per my previous rulings on 6 April 2022 and 7 October 2022 on similar matters, I reiterate that I am loath to send such matters to the Ethics Committee. I consider the matter is in the realm of 'technical' and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.


This is now the eighth allegation of deliberately misleading the House made since the beginning of 2023 that I have not referred to the Ethics Committee for similar reasons. The examination of such allegations by my staff and the Parliamentary Service is a time and labour intensive process reflecting the seriousness this Assembly takes the allegation of contempt by deliberately misleading the House.

While I implore all members to take great care to make sure their speeches are accurate, members should nonetheless expect that party policies will be characterised differently by members from opposing sides of the House. This is part and parcel of parliamentary debate and a reflection of the fact that members, quite legitimately, hold different views to one another which should be prosecuted on the floor of the House. Treating matters of privilege as an avenue in which to pursue partisan disputes traduces the entire process to the detriment of all members of the House. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt by the former Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, and Minister assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Infrastructure and Member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles [322].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Xavier Catholic College in the electorate of Hervey Bay, Calamvale Community College and Algester State School in the electorate of Algester, and McDowall State School in the electorate of Everton.

PETITIONS

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

Dogs, Supervision

753 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement and/or tethering of a dog [316].

Dogs, Electric Collars

716 petitioners, requesting the House to remove any provisions in the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 that permit the use of an electric collar on a dog and implement legislation to prohibit the use of electric or e-collars [317].

Dogs, Choke Collars

657 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use and sale of choke dog collars [318].

Self-Defence Items

2,563 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise non-lethal self defence items such as pepper spray, stun guns, tasers and batons for law abiding Queenslanders [319].

Deongwar State Forest

1,068 petitioners, requesting the House to transition Deongwar State Forest to the conservation estate prior to 31 December 2024 [320].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[321](#) 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—

Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023'

Insert—

'Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024'

Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals) Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals) Amendment Bill 2023'

Insert—

'Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals) Amendment Bill 2024'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Women and Girls



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.37 am): On this side of the House we care about women and the safety of women. That is why during Queensland Women's Week we have made some monumental announcements for the women and girls of this great state. We released the \$1 billion Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy to improve the healthcare experiences of the women and girls who live in Queensland. We announced that more than \$46 million will be invested in free walk-in nursing clinics that will offer women and girls more choice about their health care and easier access to care where they can feel safe, heard and supported. For the first time, we will publicly fund IVF services for people experiencing complex medical conditions. Yesterday another historic moment happened right here in this chamber—we passed legislation that will protect victims of domestic and family violence.

Under our government, coercive control will be a criminal offence. Coercive control can be subtle but it is insidious and it is abuse. What we know is that coercive control is the most common factor that leads to domestic violence murders. These laws will save lives—lives like Hannah Clarke and her three beautiful children; lives like Allison Baden-Clay. I want to thank all the brave victims, survivors and advocates who worked so hard to see this change happen. We have made strides to help people identify and report coercive control and we know that by criminalising this offence we can help more women and families to protect themselves.

Yesterday also saw affirmative consent written into law as well as the recognition of stealthing as rape. I want my children to grow up in a state where consent must be affirmative and now I know that they will. These are important changes. It was really special to join with advocates in celebrating these big wins yesterday and again last night at our International Women's Day reception here at parliament. Hundreds of people came together to give women the recognition they deserve this week and every week.

We have more to do to make the lives of Queensland women safer and more equal. I pledge to continue down that path. I do want to celebrate and acknowledge the long way we have come. The Women's Week theme here in Queensland is 'Count her in'. In Queensland we will count her in for education, count her in to the economy, count her in to the workforce and count her in to leadership roles. My government will make sure Queensland continues to be a place where we count her in today, tomorrow and every day.

Maternity Services




Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.39 am): Queensland women deserve access to high-quality, reliable birthing services closer to home. That is why our government is investing \$42 million for regional, rural and remote maternity services. Because of this investment, we are expanding midwifery-led models of care and expanding virtual care to provide clinicians in rural and remote hospitals with 24/7 access to specialist advice.

We are working with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to support GPs and rural generalists to complete an advanced diploma of obstetrics. We are also providing incentives for rural GPs to undergo anaesthetics training. Unlike what those opposite would have us believe, when it comes to challenges in maternity services in our regional communities, there is no one silver bullet, but we are making the investments our system needs to futureproof birthing services over the coming years.

Today I can announce that, as part of our Women and Girls' Health Strategy, we will be investing a further \$4.4 million to deliver even better care for mums and bubs here in Queensland. We heard from almost 12,000 women and girls who made it clear that they wanted safe and reliable birthing services. We heard firsthand from women who had experienced care and procedures conducted without informed consent. That is why part of this new funding will go towards better births with consent workshops to promote a deeper understanding of respectful, trauma informed maternity and birthing care among doctors and obstetricians.

We will also provide the opportunity for rural and regional midwives to develop their skills through rotations at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. These rotations will offer hands-on experience and exposure to complex patient care, and our funding will cover travel, accommodation and backfill costs to ensure frontline services are not impacted. We will deliver additional workshops for regional, rural and remote healthcare workers in neonatal stabilisation, because a mother's postcode should not determine how safe birthing services are. This is just one more example of our government investing in the healthcare needs of women and girls here in Queensland through our nation-leading \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy.


Women, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (9.42 am): This Queensland Women's Week we commit to aim for equal pay, leadership and opportunities for Queensland women, especially in the clean energy sector by 2030. I can announce today as part of Queensland Women's Week the Miles government signed on to the international Equal by 30 campaign—a public commitment to accelerate the participation of women in the growing clean energy sector.

We know that as the energy transition gathers pace, enabled by the policies and investments of this Labor government, the energy workforce in Australia and Queensland is set to rapidly expand. Queensland, as it establishes itself as the nation's clean economy superpower, will see significant workforce growth in the coming years. Already job numbers in the sector are growing, but we know that it is still a male dominated industry. That is why we are investing in engineering, apprenticeships, traineeships and degrees, upping the number of women in renewable and clean economy jobs. Because you cannot be what you cannot see, we have appointed women to powerful positions of the chairs of Powerlink, Energy Queensland and publicly owned CleanCo. In fact, as the Premier announced yesterday, as of December women make up 54 per cent of all Queensland government boards.

Within the Queensland Department of Energy and Climate itself, the deputy director-generals of hydrogen and climate are both women. Our apprenticeships, graduate and degree programs, schools and training centres are preparing Queensland women and girls so we can get to Equal by 30. Today there are women and girls training at institutions delivered through support from this Labor government such as the Gateway to Industry Schools Program—Hydrogen, which is delivered in more than 30 schools across the state, engaging more than 2,000 students. Women and girls are training in hydrogen courses through TAFE Queensland. We have Australia's first Hydrogen Centre of Excellence in Beenleigh. Then we have the Pinkenba Renewable Energy Training Facility, and publicly owned Energy Queensland have inducted more women than ever who have graduated from our major universities including from the University of Queensland, QUT and Griffith University. The Miles government is committed to creating a pathway to better jobs, better pay and better futures for Queensland women.

Women, Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.44 am): This week we celebrate International Women's Day. The theme of this year is 'Inspire inclusion', emphasising the importance of diversity and empowerment in all aspects of society. On 8 March each year we pause to acknowledge the incredible achievements of women across the globe. This year I would like to recognise the tenacious, creative and innovative women who work in agriculture. Whether it is breeding beef, growing bananas or beans or farming capers, cotton, camels or crocodiles, Queensland women are leading the way. Historically, the contribution of women in the agriculture sector was not recognised and was often underpaid. Times are changing.


Queensland's primary industry commodities are forecast at \$23.67 billion for 2023-24—the second highest on record. Queensland exports contributed over \$12.49 billion worth of agriculture and food products to the Queensland economy in 2022-23. Women are estimated to represent over 30 per cent of the workforce in agriculture in Queensland.

Within my Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, women hold several senior positions including Bernadette Ditchfield PSM, Acting Director-General and Deputy Director-General of Agriculture; and Rachel Chay, Chief Biosecurity Officer, not to mention Dr Allison Crook, who is Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer and was recently honoured with the Public Service Medal in the 2024 Australia Day awards. Dr Crook was recognised for outstanding Public Service during COVID-19 to animal welfare and the protection of biosecurity in Queensland. Over 44 per cent of the department's workforce are women. This is an increase of over six per cent since 2015.

Hardworking women are also leading our peak industry bodies—women like Jo Sheppard, who is the Chief Executive Officer and board member of the Queensland Farmers' Federation; grazier and farmer Georgie Somerset, the General President of AgForce in Queensland, who is a strong advocate for rural Queensland and the agricultural industry. Last night at the International Women's Day event I was privileged to join Kay Tommerup, Vice-President of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, and Jo Martin, State Secretary of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association.

Tonight there will be a celebration of the prelude to Beef 2024. In 2021 at the Beef Australia event, the Ladies Lunch, we heard from the four Penfold sisters of Four Daughters beef—Bonnie, Molly, Jemima and Matilda—from Condamine who grew their brand after a fateful meeting during Beef 2018. This May remember to be in Rockhampton for Beef 2024. I am extremely proud of the contribution women make to agriculture in Queensland.

Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (9.47 am): Every Queenslander deserves a place to call home. For women in particular affordable housing provides safety and economic security. However, research by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute lays bare the problem being faced by women right across the country—older women and women fleeing violence are more vulnerable to homelessness. We know that 66.5 per cent of social housing tenants in Queensland are women. That is why, as part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan, we are boosting funding for homelessness services and we are taking our record investment in social housing even further.

Our government's housing plan sets an ambitious target of another 53,500 social homes by 2046. That is more than double the number of applicants currently on the housing register. We will ramp up public and community housing delivery in Queensland to more than 2,000 homes on average per year. Queensland is only one of two states in the country to have increased both public and community housing in the last decade, but it is clear that we need to continue to do more to help people like Debbie, who has been the proud tenant of a social home for more than 30 years.

I joined her and the member for Ipswich recently in Ipswich West, where we are building 13 new one-bedroom homes. Having a safe place to call home has given her the opportunity to pursue her career as an artist and be an advocate for people with a disability. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is the first time any state in Australia has outlined its social housing program based on modelling and evidence. The target was guided by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute's work which incorporates historical and predictive analysis, including population growth, as well as social and economic factors. The homes will build on the more than 5,000 already delivered by our government since 2015 and the 75,000 public and community homes currently in Queensland.

This will be the most ambitious social housing program in Australian history and is something the sector has welcomed, including organisations like the Queensland Council of Social Services and Q Shelter. The managing director of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Dr Michael Fotheringham, said—

The Miles Government's commitment to addressing housing challenges is commendable.

The genuine ambition shown in Homes for Queenslanders and the work done over recent months brings a new level of sophistication to housing policy.

The coordination and cooperation across Queensland government agencies is remarkable.

Only Labor governments build the social housing homes that Queenslanders need and will deliver the investment and policies that keep women safe.

Women, Vocational Education and Training



Hon. LR McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.51 am): We know that TAFE and vocational education and training has the extraordinary potential to change the lives of Queenslanders, and with so many good jobs on offer through our Big Build and record investments in health, education, clean energy and housing, there has never been a more important time to 'count her in'. So we can give our Queensland women the best support for their new or existing careers, we are investing in free TAFE for over 70 courses and extending our free TAFE supported apprenticeships for under 25s so we can skill up more Queensland women for our state's best jobs and industries now and in the future.

So far, this year alone there are over 10,000 new Queenslanders benefiting from free TAFE. An incredible two-thirds of them are women. It is thanks to this Labor government that nearly 80,000 Queensland women have taken up a new skills and training opportunity in just the last eight months. That is equivalent to the population of Rockhampton, and I know that will please the members for Keppel and Rockhampton, who are both great advocates for working women.

Right now there are more than 36,000 women training across TAFE Queensland, and in the last five years the number of Queensland women in apprenticeships and traineeships has grown by a whopping 72 per cent. That is a record this Miles Labor government is proud of. To get even more women into careers we have also introduced the let's protect respect initiative. It is building more equitable and inclusive workplaces for apprentices and trainees in construction, and it is paying serious dividends. The number of female apprentices and trainees entering the industry has more than doubled since 2019, but we are not stopping there to count her in. The Miles government this week launched a new campaign to inspire Queenslanders to earn while they learn. It is called Apprenticeships Work for Everyone. A key emphasis of this campaign is encouraging and supporting many more Queensland women to get qualified and into a rewarding new career.

While today we are celebrating Queensland Women's Week with our free TAFE and free apprenticeships, every day is another proud opportunity for the Miles government to count her in.

Women, Manufacturing



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (9.54 am): This week marks the first birthday of the Women in Manufacturing strategy in Queensland. This is a strategy we developed to attract and retain more women in Queensland's manufacturing industry. Over the past 12 months we have been delivering on the promises that we made. We have developed and delivered the Women in Manufacturing Strategy diversity, equity and inclusion toolkit, delivering workshops to around 20 manufacturing businesses in Brisbane, Townsville, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Mackay, with more to come this year. Our Women in Manufacturing mentoring program is up and running, pairing 14 students with industry mentors and delivering regular mentoring sessions and site visits from those mentors.

Tonight we are premiering our documentary series with a VIP screening at the Elizabeth Street theatre. This docuseries, filmed and edited by Queensland filmmaking business PixelFrame, follows the personal stories of 10 women from a diverse range of businesses as they overcome hurdles and build a career in manufacturing in Queensland. Tomorrow we celebrate International Women's Day with our annual Women in Manufacturing Breakfast. This event, as I mentioned yesterday, will be attended by over 500 people. It also marks our 50th Women in Manufacturing Breakfast event. Tomorrow I will also have the honour of announcing our inaugural Women in Manufacturing Apprentice Awards. These awards recognise an apprentice who has demonstrated leadership and initiative on the workshop floor, provided support to other team members in the workplace, and shows resilience and effective communication skills.

While I am on my feet, I would like to take a moment to announce something pretty close to my heart: our ongoing partnership with Women's Rugby League in Queensland. Today I am thrilled to announce that we have signed a partnership with the mighty Brisbane Broncos to extend our promotion of Women in Manufacturing. That means our Women in Manufacturing Strategy will be promoted at every single Brisbane Broncos home game this year. Women's Rugby League started as a grassroots movement of women coming together in their communities to do something they love while facing the challenge of inadequate infrastructure and support. That is what I see with women in manufacturing—strong, resilient, determined women doing what they love and we as a government working to provide support and break down the challenges they face. It is up to us to create environments where both women and men are supported to their full potential in their workplace. Last year we partnered with the

Gold Coast Titans, and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support which will continue in the 2024 season as well. What a wonderful opportunity to promote women in manufacturing. I look forward to working with both of these teams in 2024.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing women in my life: my wife, my daughter, my director-general, and all of my female staff in both my ministerial team and my office in Gladstone.

Women, Racing Industry



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.57 am): Racing in Queensland is thriving under the Miles government. We are supporting our \$2.2 billion racing industry, which has grown over 80 per cent since 2015. Not only does racing provide economic and social benefits, particularly to communities in regional Queensland; it also provides workers with incredible career opportunities, including young women in this state. As International Women's Day approaches I am proud to say that, when it comes to racing in Queensland, the Miles government and Racing Queensland are supporting female participation in the racing industry.

It is truly remarkable how far we have come since Pam O'Neill became the first female Australian jockey in 1979. I am pleased to report that today 31 per cent of all senior jockeys in Queensland are women. Even more pleasing is that young women make up 75 per cent of all apprentice jockeys and 87 per cent of all apprentice track work riders taking part in training opportunities through Racing Queensland. The trend of increased female participation is not just isolated to the thoroughbred code. While just 21 per cent of licensed harness racing drivers are women, amongst the up-and-coming concession drivers 41 per cent are female.

At the recent Queensland Harness Awards I presented the Mini Trotting Driver of the Year Award for each of Queensland's three harness racing clubs. All three awards went to brilliant young women: Lorelei Limpus, Briana Davis and Charlee Neaves, who have a great future ahead of them as drivers. In a traditionally male dominated industry, a barrier that women in racing face is the lack of gender equitable facilities at racing clubs such as female change rooms for jockeys. Our racing infrastructure investment has delivered new or refurbished female jockey and driver facilities across the state, including: the Stanthorpe Jockey Club in Southern Downs; Marburg Pacing Association at Ipswich West; the Moranbah Race Club in Burdekin; the Birdsville Race Club in Gregory; and the Laura Amateur Turf Club in Cook.

I am proud of the many trailblazing young women who have made a career in the racing industry. The Miles government and Racing Queensland will continue to back women and build the infrastructure they deserve so they can thrive in this sport. When it comes to racing in Queensland, the future truly is female. While I am on my feet, let me confirm that the excellent Eagle Farm Racecourse is going nowhere—especially not for the ridiculous fire sale price of \$40 million. What I say is: tell them they're dreaming.

Education, Respectful Relationships



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.00 am): This week we passed historic legislation making coercive control a criminal offence and strengthening our affirmative consent laws. It was a moment I believe all of us in this House were enormously proud of—a game changer. I again congratulate our current and former attorneys-general and DV ministers for their great work in this regard.

Domestic and sexual violence are complex, pervasive, awful issues, and we must have the laws in place that send a strong message of what behaviours are and are not acceptable in our society. What the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce also highlighted is that changing community attitudes towards relationships is of critical importance, and making sure our children grow up with healthy attitudes towards relationships is key. That is why a respectful relationships curriculum is now mandatory in all Queensland schools.

National community attitudes towards violence against women surveys across 2017 and 2021 illustrate the importance of this. For example, the surveys showed: 21 per cent of people agreed that sometimes a woman can make a man so angry that he hits her when he does not mean to; 18 per cent agree that a lot of what is called domestic violence is really just a normal reaction to day-to-day stress and frustration; and 30 per cent agree that if a woman sends a nude image to her partner she is partly responsible if he shares it without her permission. These are attitudes we must change.

In the 2022-23 state budget, my department received \$15.5 million over three years to strengthen respectful relationships education in Queensland state schools, and that is exactly what we are doing: delivering in person and online professional development events and strengthening teachers' capability. We have already gone to 51 per cent of Queensland state schools with that program and we are continuing throughout 2024. Our respectful relationships education professional development hub is available to all Queensland schools and continues to be a key resource point for leaders and teachers. The program is a prep to year 12 primary prevention program with a focus on domestic and family violence, consent education, gender equality and equity, and help seeking and reporting strategies. Although our state schools can select their own provider of a respectful relationships program, every school must deliver a respectful relationships program through prep to year 12.

I want to acknowledge my predecessor, the member for McConnel, for the leadership she showed at the national level which led to all education ministers from around Australia mandating consent education in 2022 for all students in prep to year 10. We are looking forward to the Australian government's provision of \$77.6 million in grant funding over five years from this year to state jurisdictions and sectors for the delivery of evidence-based, age-appropriate consent and respectful relationships education.

We all want our children to grow up with healthy attitudes to relationships. It is what is right and good for them. Schools have such an important role to play. When we invest in our children, we are investing in our community and we are proud to lead the way.

Arts and Culture



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): Last week, the annual Matilda Awards recognised the achievements of Queenslanders in our arts and cultural sector—a sector that contributes over \$10 billion directly and indirectly to the Queensland economy and supports a multitude of talented women across our state.

Ahead of Queensland Women's Week, it was an honour to present Suellen Maunder, the CEO and artistic director of JUTE Theatre Company in Cairns, with the prestigious Gold Matilda. Suellen Maunder is one of three passionate women based in Cairns whose creative sparks combined to launch JUTE Theatre Company in late 1992. The Gold Matilda award recognises Suellen's enormous commitment over more than three decades to supporting local and regional artists to develop, produce and share Queensland's rich and unique stories.

The Miles government is committed to backing Queensland's vibrant arts and cultural sector and the many jobs the sector supports across the state. Our 10-year Creative Together road map is an important part of the Miles government's commitment to Queensland's diverse artists and arts workers, with the road map's second action plan supported by a record \$50 million investment designed to support great arts outcomes across our state.

Through Arts Queensland, we once again supported this year's Matilda Awards with \$15,000 in funding which helped broaden its reach and support regional engagement with more of Queensland's talented artists and arts workers—something that was evident in the diversity of award winners this year. The Miles government has also championed many of this year's Matilda Awards nominees and winners, including: Breathe In from Mackay's Crossroad Arts and winner of this year's Best Video Design, the Judges' Award and Best New Australian Work, which is something I know the member for Mackay is very proud of; Oombarra Productions and QPAC's *Is That You, Ruthie?* featuring Chenoa Deemal, who was recognised for Best Performance in a Leading Role in a Mainstage Production; *Bananaland*, the winner of Best Musical or Cabaret and Best Composition and Sound Design; the Queensland Theatre's *Drizzle Boy* awarded for Best Mainstage Production and Best Direction; and *Vietgone* for Best Performance in a Supporting Role Mainstage Production.

The incredible artists, arts workers and arts organisations behind these productions continue to showcase the diverse talents and breadth of Queensland's creative economy. Our government is proud to back our state's vibrant arts and cultural sector to grow, thrive and create jobs—especially as the eyes of the world begin to turn to Queensland ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.07 am): The Sunshine Coast is the largest urban area in Australia without a direct rail connection. By 2046, the region's population is expected to increase by another 52 per cent, creating an extra 800,000 local car trips every day. This is why we are building the direct Sunshine Coast rail line and why it is so important. It is why this government has committed \$2.75 billion to make the 30-year dream a reality. Our government spent \$14 million to get the business case done and submitted it to Infrastructure Australia. I table a summary of the business case now.

Tabled paper: Department of Transport and Main Roads: Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line—Business Case Summary, March 2024 [323].

At 19 kilometres, stage 1 from Beerwah to Caloundra will be the longest spur line in our south-east rail network.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MELLISH: We are happy to add in some more pictures so those opposite can understand. It is almost as long as the 20 kilometres of Gold Coast line from Helensvale to Varsity Lakes—a line that took 12 years to build over three stages. We will do it within eight years so it is up and running for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Sunshine Coast already has the second highest car ownership rate in the country. Building the direct Sunshine Coast rail line will make a trip from Caloundra to Brisbane at least 45 minutes faster than a car during peak hour. That is 90 minutes a day in a return trip, 7.5 hours a week, 15 days a year not sitting in the car battling traffic. That 15 extra days of freedom a year means money well spent. Building direct Sunshine Coast rail will also fast-track housing development, helping unlock some 3,000 new affordable homes around the rail corridor by 2032 alone. The corridor to Caloundra requires zero homes to be resumed.

Building a train line does not happen overnight. This government did the proper planning, including refining the existing corridor, selecting suitable station locations, staging and delivery time frames. While we await Infrastructure Australia's assessment, we have commenced environmental investigations along the line. We welcome the Australian government's initial commitment of \$1.6 billion towards this project. I urge the federal government to match our funding and back the direct Sunshine Coast line.

While I am on my feet, I would also like to address the member for Chatsworth's question from the February parliament sittings—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, I do not need to remind you to use members' correct titles. I would like to hear the ministerial statement.

Mr MELLISH: While I am on my feet, I would also like to address the member for Chatsworth's question from the February parliament sittings regarding the cost of building three new train stations on the Gold Coast. I am happy to advise that the figures in the budget papers are correct. The Queensland Audit Office have advised TMR they will be updating their major projects report to correct their error.

Residential Tenancies




Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.09 am): The Miles Labor government is committed to getting more Queenslanders into a suitable home. That includes being able to rent a home near where they need to work. Whether you live in Inala or Ipswich West, Richlands or Rosewood—take your pick—our Renters Relief Package is delivering over \$160 million over five years.

We know that there are some Queenslanders who need to move house at short notice to deal with their accommodation preferences. For those people, we are establishing a new portable bond scheme to allow genuine renters to transfer their bond when relocating from one rental property to another—even if it is just a quick 50-kilometre commute in the Mercedes. A new rental sector code of conduct will be explored with all stakeholders as a means to crack down on dodgy, dishonest and downright unprofessional practices. This will ensure better protection for genuine, honest renters from anyone looking to exploit the rules, no matter where they live across our great state. To further guard against dodgy behaviour, rent bidding will be banned and penalties will be enforced against those who engage in or encourage these preferences—sorry, I mean 'practices'.


With a tight property market and rental properties in short supply, our government will ensure those Queenslanders who genuinely and honestly need a place to live have the best possible opportunity to secure a home.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended for the remainder of this session for government bills, government amendments to bills and any motions moved by a minister.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.11 am): The opposition will be opposing this motion. I do not know if members or even the broader public are aware of what is being suggested here, but there is a longstanding rule in the standing orders of the Queensland parliament—and, indeed, in almost all parliaments that I have been able to research since notified of this potential change this morning—that anytime the same question is proposed it has to be considered by the Speaker, as the chair of this House, to determine whether it can be put.

Why are we in this position? Let us give the most recent example. I suspect that it is because last night the LNP moved a motion to establish a select committee to look at not only grocery prices but also electricity and all of the other living expenses that the state government has jurisdiction over. I know that the government want to move their own motion so they have to move a suspension of this standing order, but to suggest that then requires a full suspension of the standing orders for the remainder of this session shows that this government's arrogance has reached new levels. They have trashed their own integrity. They are trashing the integrity of this chamber. They do not want transparency. They do not want anyone to review the same question rule when it comes to legislation, motions or questions within the House. They do not want that kind of scrutiny.

It is not just scrutiny by the parliament. I point out that in Erskine May it says that decisions around the same question rule are finally a matter for the judgement of the chair. Mr Speaker, that is you. As we have seen in every single instance where the same question rule has arisen, that has required your consideration of the same question rule and a determination on a case-by-case basis as to whether that same question rule should be put aside. Do not get me wrong: many of the times when the government has come forward seeking a suspension of the standing orders on a case-by-case basis the opposition have supported it, but to suggest that we will agree to a blanket suspension of standing order 87 for the remainder of this session is disgraceful. Again I say that it is trashing integrity, trashing transparency and trashing accountability, and the LNP will not support it.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I am sure all Queenslanders and all members of the gallery would prefer that the parliament get on and do its job rather than see vain arguments being put up. We see the opposition use every opportunity to talk about themselves and whinge, whereas on this side of the House we want to get on with the things that matter to Queenslanders.

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

In division—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I remind members that standing orders still apply during division bells and during divisions. The time for the debate of that motion has passed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango and member for Clayfield, I have just given the House a direction. The interjections across the chamber will cease.

AYES, 45:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.


Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Reports


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (10.19 am): I table the following reports of the Ethics Committee: report No. 221, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 12 December 2022 relating to an allegation of inciting or encouraging disruption of the Legislative Assembly*; and report No. 222, titled *Report on a matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 March 2023 and re-referred by the House on 14 November 2023*. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 221, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 12 December 2022 relating to an allegation of inciting or encouraging disruption of the Legislative Assembly [\[324\]](#).

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 222, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 March 2023 and re-referred by the House on 14 November 2023 [\[325\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the TNQ delegation visiting parliament this week to promote my part of the world. The delegation is led by: Nick Trompf, Chair of Advance Cairns; Enver Selita, President of Cairns Chamber of Commerce; and John O'Sullivan, Chair of Tourism Tropical North Queensland. The delegation is made up of representatives from Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns and the Cairns Chamber of Commerce. Please make the delegation feel welcome.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.21 am.

White, Mr V

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.21 am): My question is to the Premier. Two weeks ago Victor White said the Premier 'only came to my door for one thing—to make himself look good and points scoring'; is Victor White right?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I can assure the House that I visited the White family in good faith to pay my condolences and to express my sorrow for that awful murder. I have since reached out to them and offered to meet with them again at any time they would like to. It was a terrible tragedy. I know that the Redbank Plains community is still reeling. I talk with the member for Bundamba about that regularly. Since then, we have announced a significant boost to policing resources in the Ipswich area: 40 additional police, 10 additional police cars and two mobile police beats.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you have asked the question. I need to hear the answer. I would hope that you would also want to hear the answer.

Mr MILES: We have also foreshadowed expanding police powers to wand individuals to find knives into retail precincts. All of this is in response to the community safety concerns that have been highlighted in Redbank Plains and the wider Ipswich area since that awful murder. I restate my commitment to the White family: any time they want to talk to me, I am happy to meet with them and I have left them with my personal mobile number.

Micallef, Ms C

Mr CRISAFULLI: My further question is to the Premier. Vyleen White's daughter Cindy said that the Premier 'walked through my front door, then walked out, did a press conference and laughed it off'. Was Cindy right when she said the Premier was not up to the job?

Mr MILES: I again thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. After I saw some of those remarks reported publicly from Cindy White, I contacted Cindy and reiterated my condolences on behalf of the government, my sorrow for that awful event and my commitment to her that I would be available to talk to her at any time. With regard to the time line of events on that particular day, I do not believe I did leave the home to do a press conference, but I am happy to check my diary for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition.

Residential Tenancies

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Miles Labor government is helping genuine renters get into their own home, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question. As I said in my ministerial statement, our \$160 million Renters Relief Package will provide real assistance to Queensland families who are struggling to find a place to rent—families in places like Darra in the member for Mount Ommaney's electorate and families in places like Inala and Ipswich West. When a family renting a place in somewhere like Richlands genuinely wants to move to, say, Rosewood, we will assist them with a bridging loan and, ultimately, through a portable bond scheme. We will also look to establish a rental sector code of conduct to crack down on dodgy and unprofessional practices and to ensure better protections for renters.

I am asked about alternative approaches for genuine renters. What the code of conduct will not do is support dodgy arrangements for One Nation candidates who are looking to garner more support in Ipswich West. The other day I spoke about the Leader of the Opposition heading down the Ipswich Motorway from Inala to Ipswich West to do a preference deal with One Nation. Little did I know at the time that the Leader of the Opposition could have given the One Nation candidate a lift in the back of his Mercedes for the entire journey! The LNP is helping One Nation any way they can. This is what happens to the LNP when they do dodgy deals with One Nation. It is hard for the LNP to be friends with the Vietnamese community in Inala when they are giving One Nation a lift.

Maybe One Nation learned about dodgy deals from the LNP because we all know about the LNP's candidate for Lilley, Vivian Lobo, who was falsely enrolled. We know the LNP's ex-con with the teardrop tattoo who they preselected for Deagon. This is standard form for the LNP. Once again, you cannot believe anything that the LNP and this Leader of the Opposition say—just ask every First Nations' person in Queensland. That is what you cannot believe in. They claim to be friends of the Vietnamese community. They claim to be on the side of Queensland renters, but when it comes down to it, you know the LNP and this Leader of the Opposition will never stand tall for Queenslanders.

Crime

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. At the Media Club, the Premier said that the Labor government was not considering any law changes to tackle the crime crisis. On 6 February, Victor White said that the Premier and the government did not have the conviction to do anything about it; is Victor White right?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. I acknowledge Victor and Cindy White in the gallery today. If they would like to meet with me after question time, I am of course happy to. In regard to the member for Kawana's question, if people look at the various statements I have made here and elsewhere, they will see that substantial work is under way to bolster our frontline police workforce, as we have in Ipswich with 40 additional police, 10 additional police cars and two new mobile police beats. I can assure all Queenslanders that there will always be more police on the beat keeping

Queenslanders safe under a Labor government. We have committed an additional 40 police to Ipswich. We know that those opposite reduced the number of police in Ipswich. They cut the number of police in Ipswich. There are 100 recruits graduating from the academy.

Mr Ryan: Ninety-seven.

Mr MILES: The number is 97; I stand corrected. There are 97 recruits graduating from the academy today. In fact, they are at their graduation ceremony right now. From memory, about five of those are heading to Ipswich.

There are more police under this side of the House. We know that is not everything. We know that we need to give them resources, like the helicopter we have deployed in Townsville. We know that we need to give them the right powers, like allowing them to wand in shopping centres and in retail precincts. We also know that we need to get all of the efforts of government focused on prevention and early intervention, because the more prevention and early intervention we can do the less crime will occur in the first place. We make no apologies for using detention where we need to in order to keep the community safe, to get violent offenders off the streets—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Mr MILES:—and to deliver the kinds of intensive rehabilitation programs that can only be delivered in a detention setting.

Women, Ipswich

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is listening to women in the Ipswich region, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. I am so proud that the Miles Labor government is investing in healthcare services that all women of Queensland want and need but particularly the women of Ipswich. We are giving families and women in Ipswich easier access to health care through their brand new Ripley Satellite Hospital. We are giving them more support through mental health services, with a new \$104 million acute mental health inpatient service. We are making it easier for women to access health care at their local pharmacies. We will always defend a woman's right to choose, because the Labor Party will always listen to and deliver for women and girls in Queensland.

In 2024, you would think that is the bare minimum of what women and girls should expect from people they elect to this place, yet the Leader of the Opposition has proven once again that Queensland women cannot trust him to look after their interests. In Ipswich West he has shown his true colours in doing a secret, backroom deal with One Nation.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition has made a deal with the party that takes every opportunity to wind back laws that protect women. This is the party that attacks Muslim women's right to visibly represent their religion. The party they have done a secret deal with—One Nation—defended one of their candidates, Stuart Bonds, when he said, 'The only thing worse than a gay person with power is a woman.' This is the One Nation party that the Leader of the Opposition has done a backroom preference deal with in Ipswich West. This is absolutely shameful. That same One Nation candidate went on to say, 'I don't have a woman boss and I don't have a gay boss, and there's a reason for that.' That is who the Leader of the Opposition wants to sign up to; that is who they want to do a backroom, secret preference deal with—and we know that he is too weak to tear up that deal. He is absolutely too weak to stand up to the right-wing Christian element in his party—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN:—and so he says to the women and girls of Ipswich, 'I'm going to sign up and do a deal with the party that absolutely wants to drag women back to the 1950s.' That is what the Leader of the Opposition stands for. I would call on him to tear up that deal, but we know that he is too weak. We know that he is slippery with the truth and far too weak to actually deliver and stand up for women and girls—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN:—in Ipswich West.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the volume of interjection is far too high. I am having difficulty hearing the member on their feet, and that also means that Hansard is most likely having some difficulty hearing the member.

Crime

Mr PURDIE: I have a question to the Premier. Two weeks ago Victor White said, 'The police do their job to the best of their ability but the government doesn't back them up.' Is Victor White right?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Ninderry for his question. As I have repeatedly stated, all of the government expresses its sorrow to the White family. That was an awful murder and nothing like that should ever happen in our community. I can also assure the House and the Queensland community that this government supports our police and we will do everything the Police Service tells us they need to keep our community safe. If that is more police, they will get more police. If it is more police cars, they will get more police cars. If it is a police helicopter for Townsville, we have demonstrated that we will deliver that for them.

I will not in this House politicise an awful tragedy. I never will. For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, who asked a question earlier about my day after I visited the White family, I can confirm that I did not hold a press conference later that day. I hope that assists the member in his deliberations. I can also advise the House—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, I do give you more generous quarter, as I have said before, but that is uncalled for. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr Brown interjected.

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

Mr MILES: I can also advise the House that there has been a 213 per cent increase in the police recruitment pipeline as at December 2023, which is great work by the Police Service and by the police minister. Currently we have more than 600 recruits in the academies and more than 1,800 applicants in the pipeline. These will be new police in the community keeping the Queensland community safe. That is what we will continue to do.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

Mr MILES: It has been well publicised that I also invited the then police commissioner to address cabinet to talk directly to the cabinet—

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ninderry.

Mr MILES:—about what more we could do to give them more tools and more resources to keep the community safe. We have taken on board those concerns. I am pleased to see the reports—

Mr Purdie interjected.

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

Mr MILES:—of the Acting Police Commissioner. I met with him on his first day and he has a good plan to support our police going forward.

Multiculturalism

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Can the minister outline how the Miles government is listening to and supporting multicultural communities across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs MULLEN: I would like to thank the member for the question. He represents one of the most multicultural electorates in Queensland. I recently had the privilege of attending a number of Lunar New Year events with him, which was absolutely wonderful.

More than 22 per cent of Queenslanders were born overseas. Around 40 per cent of Queenslanders either were born overseas or have one or both parents who were born overseas. We have a rich and diverse heritage here in Queensland. With great diversity of course comes a need to foster genuine, authentic inclusion because we want all Queenslanders to contribute, belong and thrive. To this end, our government, the Miles Labor government, supports multicultural events, programs and activities with \$17 million a year in funding.

Since I became the Minister for Multicultural Affairs I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend feasts and festivals from around the globe right here in Queensland. They are all amazing. Recently I had the great privilege and honour to attend the Vietnamese Tet Festival in Richlands, an event that the Queensland government has supported for over 30 years. The Leader of the Opposition was also there that night and took the opportunity to announce the LNP candidate for the seat of Inala at that event. The LNP's candidate is from the Vietnamese community. She is not from the Inala community, but she is from the Vietnamese community. What did they do? They brought her up on stage to show everyone that that was their Vietnamese candidate. They walked around so that she could actually meet people from Inala for the very first time and took plenty of selfies. It is what the Leader of the Opposition did next that really matters: he went down to Ipswich West and announced a grubby political deal with One Nation—an openly racist political party.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana.

Mrs MULLEN: An international report from the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism was released in 2022 and this is a global report that profiles the nation's most hateful and extremist organisations.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mrs MULLEN: It documents 20 far-right groups in Australia identified as embracing beliefs—

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

Mrs MULLEN:—and activities that demean, harass and inspire violence against people based on their identity traits including race, religion, ethnicity, language, national or social origin, cast, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. Who is on that list? It is One Nation. One Nation is globally recognised as a far-right group that embraces ideologies that demean, harass and inspire violence against others because of their race, religion and ideology. I looked to the Leader of the Opposition and his own multicultural electorate of Broadwater—an electorate rich with diversity. Stand up for multicultural people.

Crime

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. Two weeks ago Victor White said that until the government changes the laws this is going to continue on and on. Is Victor White right?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Clayfield for his question. What I have consistently said is that we will take the advice of our police and our other justice services in determining what the right laws are to keep the community safe, and we will continue to do so.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr MILES: We have some of the toughest laws in the country and they are resulting in a substantial increase in the number of people detained in both the youth and adult systems. We do not make any apologies for that because in the case of violent repeat offenders the community rightly expects that they will be taken from the streets for the period that they are dangerous, and that is what our laws are designed to do. They are having that result because there is a record number of offenders currently being detained. I know those opposite are announcing that they would detain all offenders, but they have no plan for the thousands of detention beds that would be required under their proposals. It would cost billions and billions of dollars, but the evidence is also that it will not work.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: It is relevance under standing order 118(b). The Premier has been asked on five occasions is Victor White right and he has not answered that question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. In allowing the question, it may be seeking an opinion and I have allowed the question on the basis of the gravity of the questions.

Mr MILES: As I just mentioned, I met with the new Acting Police Commissioner on his first day for his first meeting of his first weekday this Monday prior to cabinet. I spoke with him about his plans over the next couple of months—and we have seen some of that already play out in the media—and his demonstration of his support and our government's support for our frontline police officers. I undertook to him that I would assist wherever possible to demonstrate to the police that they do have that support. If there are further measures that are recommended to us by the Acting Police Commissioner, we will of course consider those. I would also note that we currently have a bipartisan select committee looking at many of these matters. If it recommends changes to the laws, then we will carefully consider those. We created that committee in good faith as a bipartisan committee to seek to take some of the politics out of this. I am sick of seeing awful tragedies politicised in this place. We will consider carefully those recommendations as well as any other changes requested of us by the Acting Police Commissioner.

Miles Labor Government

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the Miles government is listening and delivering for Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. She is a member of a government that is listening to Queenslanders and delivering for Queenslanders, and that is not just in Mansfield but right across the state, including in the state's Far North. I acknowledge, as you have, Mr Speaker, the delegation from Cairns and Far North Queensland. I want to thank them for my tie. It is truly a beautiful tie. I note that even you could not bring yourself to put it on this morning, Mr Speaker, but as testament to my commitment to the people of Cairns and Far North Queensland I would like to thank the delegation for my tie.

As the member for Mansfield knows, we listened to more than 12,000 Queensland women and girls in developing our Women and Girls' Health Strategy. We listened to the people of the Sunshine Coast in delivering the funding to build the Sunshine Coast heavy rail. However, I note that we learnt today that not even Peter Dutton supports the Leader of the Opposition's plan for the Sunshine Coast heavy rail. That makes it a bit ironic when we consider their line of questioning yesterday.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House.

Mr MILES: Right now in Ipswich West LNP volunteers are telling voters to give their No. 2 vote to the One Nation party. That is the result of the dodgy deal the Leader of the Opposition has done.

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Mr MILES: He effectively has two candidates in Ipswich West—the LNP candidate and the One Nation candidate—and he does not care which one wins because they are both his; they are both supported by the LNP. That is despite One Nation being well known to have racist views, but then up the road in Inala he pretends to be a champion of multiculturalism. The Leader of the Opposition supports the One Nation party despite reports on Channel 9 news alleging the One Nation candidate illegally enrolled in Ipswich West to pretend that he lived there. According to Channel 9 news, the One Nation candidate that the LNP is supporting faked where he lives. Could you get a bigger con? It is time the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater, learned that nothing good comes from getting into bed with Pauline Hanson. You should not support racists. You should not be telling voters to vote for a candidate who Channel 9 news has said falsely enrolled in Ipswich West to trick the people of Ipswich West into thinking that he is a local.

Youth Crime

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. Ashlyn and Harry recently moved to Edmonton. On Sunday morning they were woken by young criminals in their house and told that they would be killed if they came any closer. The offenders remain on the run and the couple have not slept since. Can the Premier recall why he voted to water down the youth justice laws that have left young criminals ruling our streets?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Burdekin for his question. Obviously those events that he has recounted—the experience of Ashlyn and Harry—are awful and we would not wish that upon anyone. I am sure our police will do their very best to apprehend those offenders and get them before the courts, and we will ensure the police have the support and resources they need to do that work. As I have outlined, we have hundreds of extra police in the community now and hundreds more on the way.

The new Acting Police Commissioner is travelling the state to spend time with frontline police officers. I have said to him that, if as a result of that there is anything further that police need to support them, he should feel welcome to talk to me at any point in time about that. We will continue to back them. There will always be more police under a Labor government.

Mr LAST: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I have asked if the Premier can recall why he voted to water down the youth justice laws.

Mr SPEAKER: The question contains multiple parts. The Premier is being responsive to the question as asked. He still has one minute and 34 seconds on the clock if he wishes to use that time.

Mr MILES: That is the key contrast here: on this side of the House we want more police; on that side of the House they cut police. We will continue to invest in more and more police. We will continue to give them the resources they need—the stations, the cars, the mobile police beats and the helicopters; everything that they tell us they need to keep the community safe and to fight crime—while we also appropriately invest in prevention and intervention, because that is not only the best way to keep the community safe in the first place but also how we can keep young people out of that cycle of reoffending. It is about stopping them offending in the first place or catching them when they just start offending and giving them the supports they need to not become reoffenders, to not escalate in their offences. That is our approach: prevention, intervention and detention where it is necessary. We will continue to do it.

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Miles Labor government is delivering better public transport for the Sunshine Coast, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Caloundra for his question. As the member for Caloundra knows, the business case that was tabled by the Minister for Transport shows that the direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line can finally happen—real infrastructure funded by real money, invested by our Labor government that gets direct rail to where it is needed, especially for housing. Beerwah East and Caloundra South have the capacity to house an additional 150,000 Queenslanders.

Let's compare that to the Leader of the Opposition's unfunded promise to extend the rail line further north. The business case material tabled today makes it clear that the Leader of the Opposition's plan would cost around, or at the very least, \$12.8 billion. That means the Leader of the Opposition needs an additional \$6.6 billion to deliver his rail line. That is money the Leader of the Opposition does not have. That should send a chill up the spine of every Queenslander, because Queenslanders can expect another \$6.6 billion in cuts from the Leader of the Opposition. That is on top of the \$9 billion budget black hole he has blown in our budget—the state budget—because he wants to cut progressive coal royalties.

All Queenslanders have been on this train before. The first stop is unfunded LNP promises. We know where the line ends: with cuts to frontline services, sacking of frontline workers and privatisation of our energy assets. Members do not have to take my word for it. They need just look at what the Leader of the Opposition did when he was a senior minister in the Newman LNP government. They closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre that helped kids in Inala and Ipswich West. That had catastrophic consequences and young people lost their lives.

Ms Richards interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Redlands!

Mr DICK: Look at the Leader of the Opposition laughing at young people losing their lives. That is an absolute disgrace. You should apologise, Leader of the Opposition. They cut funding from women's services, from death services, from sexual violence services and from taxi subsidies that helped disabled people. Sick children, grieving women, people with a disability—these were the victims of the LNP's unfunded promises, not to mention every other Queenslanders who suffered worse health services, worse education and worse crime as a result of LNP cuts. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the LNP to come clean. How will the LNP leader fund his rail line to

Maroochydore? Will they close Jacaranda Place, which replaced the Barrett Adolescent Centre? Will they cut the police again? Will they cut 1,800 nurses and midwives? Maybe it will be 2,800 this time. Until the Leader of the Opposition—

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. Brisbane victims of crime say they were not given an opportunity to publicly air their concerns about Queensland's crime crisis because no open-floor session was held at Brisbane's hearings of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. Given the committee is meeting tomorrow, will the Premier now publicly support the Liberal National Party's call to hold an open session, like those held in every other city, to give a voice to all victims of Queensland's crime crisis?

Speaker's Ruling, Question out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: You are referring to a parliamentary committee—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thuringowa, I would like to finish. You are referring to a parliamentary committee. It is not in the scope of the Premier, who heads up the executive. We can certainly consider the fact that the Premier may have an opinion about those things, but then it would simply be that. I will rule the question out of order.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst I acknowledge what you are saying about it being related to a committee, the question did not ask the Premier to direct the committee; it simply asked if the Premier would support the LNP's call for a public open-mic session at tomorrow's hearing.

Mr SPEAKER: I have made my ruling. If you have a problem with the ruling, you are welcome to write to me.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, cease your interjections, please.

Police Resources

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Will the minister update the House on how the government is backing police with more resources and strong laws, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member—the best member for Bancroft that this parliament has ever seen and a strong advocate for frontline supports and frontline services, not only in his electorate but right across the state. It was a great honour to welcome and acknowledge the newest constables of the Queensland Police Service this morning at the Police Academy: 97 outstanding citizens swearing an oath or making an affirmation to serve their community and to support community safety outcomes. This reflects our government's commitment to community safety and the front line, additional police resources, additional police personnel, stronger laws, so that the police can do what they do best, which is keep our community safe.

I want to acknowledge those 97 new constables. There are more on the way. Between now and the end of June, over 450 new constables will graduate from the police academy. In about three months there will be over 450 new constables. That is a reflection of not only this government's commitment to the front line but also the outstanding efforts the Queensland Police Service has put towards recruiting. There are over 600 recruits at the academy and over 1,800 in the recruit pipeline now. That is what this government does: we back the front line with more resources and more personnel.

We know what those opposite do. We heard those opposite speak about past performance being an indicator of future action. Past performance for them was to cut the Police Service. In government they saw hundreds of police personnel cut from the Queensland Police Service. They saw hundreds transferred to the Public Safety Business Agency. The Greenfield review, the *Queensland Police Service: strategic review*, found that a QPS structural review completed in January 2013, when those opposite were in government, led to a restructure. There was a reduction—that is less—of 110 commissioned officer positions.

Mr Crandon interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: It also found that 500 staff member positions were reduced. What did Queensland Police Union President Ian Leavers say? He said—

... as a result of the Newman cuts—

that is them—

what we did see was the admin staff stripped away from us, which meant frontline police had to perform those functions.

At the last election, those opposite committed to 1,000 fewer police personnel. They cut in government and they cut in opposition. We boost in government. We back the front line, and that is what Queenslanders will always get from this government.

Health System, Workforce

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Premier. With Queensland facing crippling workforce shortages in the healthcare sector and hundreds of Queensland health workers desperate to return to work after being stood down over the COVID-19 vaccine mandates, what possible reason can there be for the government refusing to re-employ those critically needed health workers today?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. I can confirm for the House that there are no barriers whatsoever for health workers who were disciplined under the COVID vaccine mandate to return. Indeed, we would encourage them to reapply because the member is right: we do need more nurses, doctors, paramedics, health professionals and support staff. We would encourage all of those former employees to reapply.

I understand the director-general has written directly to every one of the hospital and health services to make sure that they know that nothing precludes them from re-employing those health workers. The health minister has just advised me that 37 are already back at work. As I say, we would definitely encourage more to reapply. We would like to welcome them back to our hospitals.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I want to provide more clarity to the Manager of Opposition Business. On the previous question that I ruled out of order, I have taken that view under standing order 113, which is that a question must relate to the public affairs with which a minister is connected or responsible for. I hope that provides more clarity in terms of the reason for my ruling that question out of order.

Public Transport

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is revolutionising public transport and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. The Miles government's investment in the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line is the single biggest investment ever made into public transport on the Sunshine Coast. The first stage, from Beerwah to Caloundra, will be a 19-kilometre dual track with an estimated cost of between \$5.5 billion and \$7 billion. Importantly, our government's \$2.75 billion commitment towards stage 1 does not just build to Caloundra; the money protects the rail corridor all the way to Maroochydore, which also ensures that design, planning and market sounding to Birtinya will continue.

The Miles Labor government has done the extensive detailed planning and we now know the full cost of delivering all the way to Caloundra. The entire line, from Beerwah to Maroochydore, will be 37.8 kilometres long with an estimated cost of over \$12 billion. We are committing to building more than half of it, in stage 1, by 2032. The business case recommends that the project be built in stages for multiple reasons, including cost to taxpayers, workforce and skills capacity in Queensland and construction impacts. As the business case reveals, building between Caloundra and Birtinya is very complex for engineers as it will include building a tunnel and a number of bridge structures.

I know business cases are not something that the LNP are familiar with but I urge the Leader of the Opposition to have a good read of this one. Last week, the Leader of the Opposition said that all that was needed to deliver this project in full by 2032 was political will. I table an article in the *Courier-Mail* titled "Political will" to get rail to Sunshine Coast'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 2 March 2024, titled "Political will" to get rail to Sunshine Coast' [\[326\]](#).

The only way that this project can be delivered in full is with the backing of the federal government. Today, the federal LNP refused to commit to the project. As always, the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition are short on detail. Let us face it: the job is too big for them. We have a plan to build the Sunshine Coast direct rail and that plan is based in reality, not vague political ambition. Ours is a government that delivers results, not false hope.

This is sensible smart delivery for the people of the Sunshine Coast, which is something that the LNP know nothing about. The LNP have played politics with this project for over 20 years. They have done nothing despite having almost blanket coverage on the Sunshine Coast—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mr MELLISH: Federal and state LNP members have dallied with this project. They are more interested in building nuclear power on the Sunshine Coast—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The honourable minister has referenced a full business case. The document tabled earlier was a government narrative of a business case, not the actual business case. I ask the minister to table the full business case he has just referenced.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, it is not reasonable to request that. If you wish to seek leave to move a motion then you are welcome to, but it is not something that is in the scope of what the minister has to respond to. Minister for Transport, you have 35 seconds remaining. Do you have anything further to say?

Mr MELLISH: The LNP have had 20 years to do a proper business case on the Sunshine Coast, but all we got from the opposition was a back-of-the-envelope commitment at a state and federal level. We will build this project in Caloundra. We will get it done.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you are warned under the standing orders.

Premier, Right to Information

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Premier. When right to information applications are made to the Premier's office, on how many occasions has the Premier made the decision himself not to forward documents to the independent right to information officer for consideration?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Buderim for his question. As I have said in this place repeatedly, I always follow the appropriate RTI process. That has been evidenced by the documents that have been tabled.

Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. Can the minister update the House on significant infrastructure plans in the Sunshine Coast region and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. The Miles government is committed to building the infrastructure Queensland needs not only for today but also into the future. We have begun the biggest decade of infrastructure investment in our state's history, which is set to bring big benefits for Queensland. I note that the delegation from TNQ was in the gallery. What is to be delivered throughout Queensland with our \$90 billion Big Build is going to be amazing. Those funds are dedicated to delivering infrastructure today and into the future. As the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, I know that that pipeline will deliver for Queenslanders. It will deliver homes, hospitals, schools, renewable energy infrastructure, new industries such as hydrogen and biomedicine and, of course, transport, including rail, road and marina facilities in Cairns and other areas. Our party is the only party in this House at the moment that can deliver that infrastructure.

We hear a lot of promises from those opposite. We hear a lot of grandstanding about what they are going to deliver if ever they are elected. We know that the only way that they could possibly do that without supporting our coal royalties and without supporting the Big Build spend is to cut in other areas. When they say these things, they are very light and weak on policy in terms of how they are going to go about it.

What a major blow the federal government has dealt to the Leader of the Opposition who wants to build the rail line that our business case has detailed. We have the funds and we are ready to go. This side of the House will deliver that project because a major blow has been dealt by their federal counterpart who is not willing to give the same guarantee. That happened even after yesterday's line of questioning in this House. How embarrassing! They tried to mislead the House by saying that somehow we were negotiating cuts to infrastructure. They asked, 'Where were you when you were negotiating it?' I can ask the same question of the Leader of the Opposition. They cannot even get the Leader of the Opposition to support a line of questioning that they used to try to embarrass our government yesterday.

How embarrassing! What negotiations have been occurring with the Leader of the Opposition? Obviously none at all, because nothing has been guaranteed. We hear this all the time. Who can forget the Bradfield scheme? Not one dollar was given. Who can forget the Bruce Highway upgrade? Not one dollar was given. Famously, who can remember the member for Maroochydore pledging to build the rail line—asterisks underneath—subject to the global financial crisis? That is what they deliver—nothing. It is only this side of the House that will deliver infrastructure.

Lobbyists

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier refer new allegations that the Premier may have been involved in banned lobbying with Labor lobbyist Matt Jutsum to the Integrity Commissioner?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maroochydore for her question. As any members who have seen my published diaries will know, I meet with a lot of people. After seeing the reports in the *Australian* this morning, I wrote to the Integrity Commissioner and asked her to advise whether everything appropriate had been followed in those circumstances. I look forward to receiving her advice.

Housing Supply

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles government is unlocking housing through investment in critical infrastructure, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. I note that, notwithstanding the fact that this House suspended standing orders in this House to allow women to ask two questions, it has taken nearly all of question time for the LNP to allow one woman from that side to ask a question. It is absolutely disgraceful—for Women's Week.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. I expect the House to come to order when I ask it to do so. I should not have to rise to my feet. Premier, can I ask that you not use that terminology. I have been clear about making references to people in the House in that manner.

Ms SCANLON: To build the homes that we need here in Queensland we need to deliver the infrastructure for a growing state such as Queensland. That is why our Labor government is so proud of our Big Build—the biggest spend in infrastructure in Queensland's history. Recently I was in Ipswich, where we opened a new road that will unlock thousands of new homes. I know that the member for Caloundra and all of the Sunshine Coast MPs on this side of the House are incredibly proud of the significant investment to fund the direct rail line on the Sunshine Coast. As a Gold Coast member of parliament I am very proud of Gold Coast Light Rail—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON:—which unlocked access for thousands of new homes. It was state and federal Labor governments that delivered stage 1 of the light rail, no thanks to the LNP—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms SCANLON: And the Gold Coast City council. I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, one of the chief blockers himself. The LNP not only block infrastructure—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON: Not only do the LNP block infrastructure; they block housing at every opportunity. Today we learn that not even Peter Dutton supports the direct rail line on the Sunshine Coast. It is embarrassing. It shows how weak is the Leader of the Opposition that he cannot even get the leader of his political party to back his own plan. Peter Dutton is a Queenslander and he does not even back it. It is pathetic.

The Leader of the Opposition needs to explain what he is going to cut to fill this black hole. We know that he does not support progressive coal royalties. He does not support the mental health levy. What public servants is he going to cut? We know that last time they cut 1,600 QBuild workers—the very people who build and maintain housing—and they appointed the very same bloke to the portfolio, no doubt to do it all again. Which assets are they going to sell and which parts of the Homes for Queenslanders plan are they going to cut? They have already suggested that it is too much. It is about time they owned up and said what they are going to cut to deliver on their promises. It is an election year and the Leader of the Opposition has no spine.

Mr SPEAKER: We have talked before in the House about parliamentary language. Saying that somebody has no spine is not tolerable. You will need to withdraw that, Minister.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw.

Women's Week

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Female LNP MPs were not invited to the parliament's Women's Week function yesterday. At 6 pm there were no name tags for any of us. By 9 pm, following a media release calling out the fact that LNP MPs had not been invited, our names appeared. Why were female LNP MPs not counted in for Queensland's Women's Week?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, you are warned under the standing orders. Whoever on that grassy knoll over there was talking during the question should own up to it. Member for Coomera—wonderful. Member for Coomera, you have a real problem now because you are already warned under the standing orders. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 11.16 am.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not need any assistance from members to my right.

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Nanango for her question. I can advise the House that I was not in charge of the name tags at the International Women's Day event last night. I did offer to assist, but they had enough—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. 'Invited' to the event. This is not about the name tags.

Mr SPEAKER: This is also not an opportunity to debate the question.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The question has been asked. I have asked you to cease debating the question. You are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Mr MILES: I do, Mr Speaker. I can also advise the member for Nanango that I was not in charge of printing the invitations. The event last night was—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you will cease your interjections and you will put your comments, if any, through the chair.

Mr MILES: The event last night was an opportunity to invite community leaders to come to the people's house to celebrate—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Member for Everton, I am sure you know what I am going to say. Please leave the chamber for one hour.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have anything further to add, Premier?

Mr MILES: I do, Mr Speaker. It was an opportunity for community leaders to come to parliament—the people's house—and recognise International Women's Day. The LNP might think everything is about them—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question clearly stated that not a single LNP female MP was invited to the event—

Mr SPEAKER: Member—

Mr POWELL:—run by protocol—

Mr SPEAKER: Member—

Mr POWELL:—out of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you are speaking over me when I am trying to get your attention. I am concerned that that is not behaviour we should be seeing from someone who has your particular role in the parliament. You have raised your point of order. I have addressed a point of order by the member for Nanango which was to your very point, and I have already made a ruling on that. I am not going to do it again. You are also under a warning, so you can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 11.18 am.

Mr SPEAKER: I make it clear, members: you may not like the way the question is being answered, but the Premier is being relevant to the question as asked and I expect that he will be able to continue to provide his response.

Mr MILES: I can also advise the House that, while the female members of the LNP may not have made their way to the International Women's Day reception, a number of the male MPs did find their way there, apparently attracted by the free alcohol. The free alcohol was enough to get a few of the male LNP MPs there, so at least, I guess, they were represented.

First Nations, Women and Girls

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts. Can the minister please outline to the House the work the government is doing to help close the gap in life outcomes for First Nations women in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms ENOCH: Mina big esso to my sister the member for Cook. Many thanks for the question. I would like to acknowledge the member for Cook for her strong advocacy that helped I-o-r-e become I-a-w with the passing of the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020, which means that families can now ensure that their cultural lived experience can be reflected in their legal identity. I want to acknowledge the member for Cook for all of her work in that.

We know on this side of the House that in order to close the gap in life outcomes for First Nations people in Queensland, particularly women, we must all understand the challenges we face. We know First Nations women and children are disproportionately impacted by family and domestic violence. First Nations women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to violence than non-Indigenous women and six times more likely to die as a result of family violence. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, life expectancy for females is 8.1 years less than for non-Indigenous females. The total burden of chronic disease is higher for First Nations women and girls than non-Indigenous women and girls. These experiences are not unique here in Queensland. They are experiences that we are seeing right across the country and of course right across the world when it comes to that kind of inequality.

We will not close the gap unless we put social, cultural and economic systems in place to elevate First Nations women and girls' rights, health, safety and wellbeing. That is why as a government we have seen record investment in this area: \$1 billion in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy and \$41 million to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services. We have appointed Queensland's inaugural First Nations Justice Office. We have developed and resourced *Queensland's framework for action: reshaping our approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence*. The list goes on.

We know that those opposite—and they did this when they were in government—turn their back on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They break their promises that they have made in this place when it comes to legislation. They make grubby deals with One Nation in Ipswich West—One Nation, a party that is recognised globally as a racist and hateful organisation. They do deals with them.

We know what One Nation stands for when it comes to Aboriginality. In fact, some of the speeches we have heard from their leader, Pauline Hanson—her policies and her comments—in the past would act to ensure, as she has said, that Aboriginality would no longer exist when it comes to legislation. That is who the LNP are making deals with. They put One Nation high in their preferences as part of a deal to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not represented, that women are not represented. That is what you see from the LNP. That is what you see from the Leader of the Opposition—a weak leader who speaks to the far right, a hateful group. We should stand against that.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek leave to move a motion without notice requiring the minister to release the full Sunshine Coast direct rail business case.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Member, you will need to seek leave to move a motion.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.23 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Member, you will need to seek leave to move a motion before going into the motion. It is not an opportunity to try to get that on the record.

Mr BLEIJIE: I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 30:

LNP, 26—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crisafulli, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 45:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the negative.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.28 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

1. the Deputy Premier be permitted to immediately move a motion without notice regarding the LNP;
2. the following time limits to apply—
 - Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)—5 minutes; and
3. the question be put after the contribution of the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee).

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Liberal National Party, Ipswich West By-Election



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.28 am): I move—

That this House:

1. notes that it is understood the One Nation candidate for the Ipswich West by-election has been referred to the authorities for allegedly being falsely enrolled;
2. condemns the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP for supporting One Nation in the Ipswich West by-election; and
3. calls on the Leader of the Opposition to scrap his preference deal with One Nation.

Last night on Channel 9 the One Nation candidate for the Ipswich West by-election was revealed to have falsely enrolled. It is another example of One Nation's contempt for our political system. It is another example of One Nation's contempt for the people of Queensland. It is yet another reason the Leader of the Opposition must scrap his dodgy preference deal with One Nation. If the Leader of the Opposition had one shred of respect for our electoral system or one shred of respect for the multicultural communities of this state or one shred of respect for himself, he would abandon his dodgy preference deal today. I am just making sure people do not interfere with the camera, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order!

Mr DICK: It is a deliberate act. It is deliberate conduct.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Here they go.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield, I was on my feet and you continued to interject. You are warned under the standing orders. I was seeking advice from the Clerk on something. I would appreciate it if people would not interject when I am doing that.

The Deputy Premier is correct: I would ask people not to loiter in front of cameras when they are in the chamber. We allow cameras in the room to allow for the greater scrutiny of parliament, so please do not interfere with that, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Mr DICK: We know that the Leader of the Opposition is praising the values of multiculturalism to the Vietnamese community in Inala and then he strikes a deal with One Nation in Ipswich West. It is the height of bad faith and it is a sickening double standard. If the LNP leader does not correct the record, correct his conduct, he will be shown to be a man entirely without principle. When the LNP Leader of the Opposition rises in his place in a moment he must immediately abandon his dodgy preference deal with One Nation. If he does not then all Queenslanders will know what everyone on this side of the House already knows: he is a man who cannot be trusted.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): I move the following amendment—

Delete all words and insert—

'That this House supports optional preferential voting.'

If we had optional preferential voting, the opposition would not be in the situation where we had to choose between the pot-smoking party, the party responsible for destroying services in this state or the 'please explain' party, because they are the only options on the table. Under our solution, it would be very simple—

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: We would urge people to 'just vote 1'!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Leader of the Opposition, you clearly knew I was on my feet. You continued. I would ask you not to do that in future. Leader of the House, what is the point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: It is ordinary practice in this place for members to seek to amend motions, but it is a requirement that the amendment be related to the substance of the motion itself.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: The amendment proposed is not in accordance with that requirement.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have to take some advice in relation to that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take that advice in silence and I will warn anybody who breaks that silence.

Deputy Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I am going to uphold that point of order and rule the amendment out of order because it does not relate to the motion as put; however, I will note that there is an opportunity to bring further amendments that may be relevant to the motion that has been put.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I move the following amendment—

After paragraph 3. insert—

'4. supports optional preferential voting.'

Far be it from me to give the Labor Party advice—

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders. Leader of the House, what is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: Standing order 67 is quite clear in relation to this. You have just ruled on this. This amendment is identical in its intent and in fact in its words to the previous amendment which you have just ruled on.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice on that point of order.

Mr NICHOLLS: To that point of order, if I may, Mr Deputy Speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is to that point of order.

Mr NICHOLLS: It has been the longstanding practice in this House where motions have been moved by governments and oppositions that the motion in effect is totally negated by deleting all words after 'That' and replacing them with something totally contrary to the intent of the original motion when it was put forward. It has been the longstanding practice that has occurred where amendments have been made that bear no relevance to the motion that has been moved by doing so. In this case, standing order 94—which I accept—states—

Every amendment must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.

This is a question about voting. It is about preferences. My point of order is that it is particularly relevant to those matters about how people vote and cast their preferences which the Deputy Premier has raised. My point of order is that this amendment is totally in order with the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. We are getting to the outer reaches of the standing orders here. It is important to note that sessional order No. 9 does not apply in this situation. However, there is no point of order in this particular instance because by including the amendment as an additional dot point in the motion it becomes relevant to the motion. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Today the government has come in here and moved this motion, but with the stroke of a pen it can make this all go away. With the stroke of a pen today, with one vote we are able to just vote 1. What a golden opportunity! The irony is that this disgraceful law went through here in the middle of the night, with 18 minutes notice—

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr MILES: I withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: This can all go away and we can go back to the days when Mr Fitzgerald rightly said that people should have the right to choose—and they should have the right to choose. What it would look like is, if somebody wanted to vote for just one candidate as No. 1, they could; or they could vote 1 and 2; or, if they like, they could preference the lot; or, in this case, where there is no-one worth preferencing, they could just vote 1, and that would be allowable.

Today, with what the government has done, it is the greatest own goal you have seen from a Premier who is not up to it and from a Leader of the House who does not have the intellectual rigour to do the job. Far be it for me to give advice to the government, but this is the fifth time they have tried one of these motions and every time the egg has come back on their face. This is a government rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders. This is a government that sees everything through the prism of politics. This is a government that is just worried about its own survival. This is a government that is seeing frontline services deteriorate in front of it.

That is why they are concerned about preferences. I will explain it and, unlike those opposite, I will use every second of the five minutes, I can assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The reason this government is concerned is that in the seat that they hold on primary votes they know they need preferences. They need the people piping—smoking pot—to get them over the line. They will need One Nation preferences to get them over the line. Ipswich West has a primary vote of nearly 51 per cent. They should not even be worried about this. The preferences should not flow. Inala has a primary vote of 67 per cent; preferences have no bearing.

To have a government come into this place and be concerned about preferences in Labor Party heartland shows us everything we need to know, and I will tell you why. This by-election gives a once-in-a-generation opportunity to two proud regions to say something. Firstly, they can say that, when it comes to the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis, things have deteriorated over the last decade. That is the first thing they will be able to say. The second message they can say is, 'We've had enough of being treated like doormats. We've had enough of electing people who just don't care about us. We've had enough of people who have walked away from the little guy. We've had enough of a government that does not have a plan. We've had enough of a government that is always about the politics, that will always make an announcement and that will always scurry away.'

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to say to the good people of Inala, 'Just vote 1 Trang Yen.' Nothing would give me more pleasure than to say to the good people of Ipswich West, 'Just vote 1 Darren Zanow.' Today, because of the greatest own goal ever delivered by a government, in less than a minute those Queenslanders will be able to do that and just vote 1 when the amendment that this House supports optional preferential voting gets installed in legislation.

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

AYES, 27:

LNP, 26—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crisafulli, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 45:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Crisafulli) negated.

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

AYES, 45:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 27:

LNP, 26—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crisafulli, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

SUPERMARKET PRICING SELECT COMMITTEE

Order of Appointment



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (11.51 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. a select committee, known as the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee (committee), be established to:
 - (a) examine the causes and effects of increased supermarket prices; and
 - (b) identify opportunities to increase transparency in the supermarket sector for consumers and producers.
2. in undertaking the inquiry, the committee consider:
 - (a) rising grocery prices in Queensland and discrepancies between retail and wholesale and farmgate prices, including different sized businesses;
 - (b) the variability in supermarket offerings and pricing across the state, particularly in regional Queensland and in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
 - (c) the long-term trends in profits accruing along the supply chain for perishable produce, with particular regard to impediments to the profitability of primary producers;
 - (d) the conduct of retailers in negotiations with Queensland producers, and the prevalence and effects of information asymmetry between these parties;
 - (e) improvements to Queensland's policy environment to increase transparency for producers, including what data will reduce information asymmetry, and/or reduce prices for consumers; and
 - (f) any other reviews or inquiries occurring in Australia regarding this matter, with a view to complement these analyses by focusing on potential Queensland government responses.
3. the committee:
 - (a) has the power to call for persons, documents and other things;
 - (b) must present a report to the Legislative Assembly by Friday, 31 May 2024;
 - (c) ceases upon the tabling of its report to the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (d) consists of six members.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed—

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I am putting the question, member. I will allow you to speak, but I just urge you to ensure the contribution is relevant.



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.52 am): I seek to insert the following paragraph after the final paragraph of the Premier's motion—

Notes, the most critical drivers of the Queensland cost-of-living crisis have been excluded from examination in the inquiry; and inserts that

The committee also examine the following terms of reference include the additional cost-of-living pressures that lie within state jurisdiction;

- A. The impact of rising electricity prices on grocery costs, including Queensland experiencing the highest electricity price rises in the nation since Callide C went offline.
- B. The impact of skyrocketing insurance prices on small and family business, due to the Queensland youth crime crisis.
- C. The impact of rising water costs on grocery costs, as well as a lack of water security, with the government failing to build new dams and now tearing down the Paradise Dam.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am going to interrupt you because I asked you to ensure the amendment was relevant, not seeking to essentially change the entire intent. The intent is the establishment of a committee which relates to, I understand, supermarket pricing and other things which may be related to cost of living; however, you are now getting into other territory, talking about dams and water security. I was trying to give you guidance. I allowed you the opportunity. I am now going to not accept the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is that an official ruling from you, Mr Speaker, under the standing orders—that you are not accepting an opposition amendment to a cost-of-living motion? I am asking if that is a ruling of yours.

Mr SPEAKER: Regardless of what the motion is about, I have given a ruling.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER: As you will see, I gave the courtesy to the member to commence the contribution. I had already started to put the question—I was not required to do that; I gave some latitude—and I am not accepting the motion on that basis.

Notice of Motion, Dissent from Speaker's Ruling

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I will move dissent from your ruling.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I acknowledge your ruling and note that standing order 71 requires that motions before the House be capped at 250 words. The amendments proposed by the members opposite would offend that standing order. In any case, there are a number of reasons this amendment is not able to be considered.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order, Leader of the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Membership



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. the member for Bundaberg, member for Lytton and member for Mount Ommaney are appointed to the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee;
2. the member for Bundaberg is appointed chairperson; and
3. non-government members are appointed via letter tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Leader of the House, upon receiving of the names from the Manager of Opposition Business by no later than 5 pm on Friday, 8 March 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. N BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.55 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

GOVERNOR

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Disaster Management Act 2003 the Disaster Management Regulation 2014, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 7 March 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 7 March 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[327\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. N BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.56 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Disaster Management Regulation 2014, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Fire and

Emergency Services Regulation 2011, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and 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: Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[328\]](#).

Tabled paper: Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[329\]](#).

Tabled paper: Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[330\]](#).

I am pleased today to introduce the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a very important step in reform and improvement of Queensland's emergency service and disaster management systems. Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia and we must make sure our emergency services agencies are set up to respond properly to the impact of natural disasters that are expected to worsen as a result of climate change.

We are undertaking these reforms to implement recommendations to the independent review of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Inspector-General Emergency Management's review of Queensland's disaster management arrangements. This bill will amend the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to establish Queensland Fire and Rescue and Rural Fire Service Queensland as dedicated fire services under the act.

The commissioner will continue to lead the new Queensland fire department with support from senior persons with experience and expertise in urban and rural environments. The bill establishes the role of the Chief Fire Officer as a statutory position, responsible for providing advice to the commissioner on matters relating to service delivery, operational culture, best practice and innovation, and research across the fire services.

The bill also establishes the roles of Deputy Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Rescue, and Chief Officer, Rural Fire Service Queensland. The membership of Queensland Fire and Rescue will consist of the commissioner, the deputy commissioner and the fire service officers assigned to Queensland Fire and Rescue by the commissioner. Rural Fire Service Queensland membership will consist of the commissioner, the chief officer, fire service officers assigned to Rural Fire Service Queensland by the commissioner, rural fire brigades and rural fire brigade members.

To provide confidence that persons appointed to command and control roles have the right experience and expertise to fulfil the requirements of that role, the commissioner, chief fire officer, deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner and other executive and senior officer roles within Queensland Fire and Rescue must have professional firefighting experience, incident control experience and fire prevention expertise. The level of experience and expertise required will be assessed at a level appropriate for each role.

A person will be eligible for appointment as chief officer or deputy chief officer of Rural Fire Service Queensland only if the person has rural firefighting experience; or rural incident control expertise; or rural fire prevention expertise. All fire service officers in senior executive and senior officer roles are required to participate in on-call rosters. Mandatory requirements are necessary to reflect the level of command and control proficiency and experience expected for making and overseeing these decisions. For example, they decide where limited air assets are to be deployed to deal with multiple serious fires across the state. Their requisite experience and expertise will be critical in informing these types of decisions—some of which are quite literally life and death decisions—and there is no time to waste in making them. The workforce must have confidence that leaders intimately understand the hazards and the risks associated with firefighting and emergency operations, as well as the training and systems in place to manage those risks.

This bill ensures the operationally-based mandatory qualifications, skills and experience that the commissioner considers necessary for a particular position are prioritised for consideration when deciding the applicant best suited to that position. It is designed to ensure both firefighters and the community are not placed at unreasonable risk. Importantly, the bill does not change the provisions contained in section 45 of the Public Sector Act 2022. Rather, it clarifies who establishes these requirements and when they are to be considered.

The bill establishes the Rural Fire Service Queensland advisory committee. This committee will provide strong representation by the men and women who volunteer their time for our communities. They are men and women like we saw in Tara and Wallangarra fighting bushfires; they are the men

and women I met hosing out properties in Degarra; and they are the dedicated Cowley Beach residents who I met last week who responded to flooding post Cyclone Jasper. The chief officer will have a direct line to members through a committee. It is intended that the advisory committee will have representation from each of the four Rural Fire Service Queensland regions, with appointment by the minister.

To address historic issues concerning the legal status of rural fire brigades and volunteer protections, the bill formally recognises brigades and their volunteer members as part of Rural Fire Service Queensland. This follows feedback from the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland provided as part of the independent review. While the appointment power will apply an incidental power to suspend or remove a person from office under the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, any such action would be subject to natural justice and procedural fairness and, ultimately, subject to a judicial review. Any dismissal is only likely to occur in rare circumstances where it is necessary to protect public safety or the public interest. An example of this would be the involvement of a brigade member in criminal or illegal activities.

The amendments will ensure that volunteer brigade members who act within the course of their duties, and do so carefully and in good faith, will have available protections from legal liability aligned with professional firefighters. The bill also recognises the important roles of rural fire brigade office bearers; that is, the chairperson, the secretary and the treasurer. Rural fire brigades will continue to manage the election of its officers and office bearers with oversight from the commissioner. Current office bearers will continue in their roles when the legislation commences. The commissioner will have the power to remove an office bearer and to disqualify the person from holding any office within a rural brigade, but it is envisaged that this power would be rarely used. It is in contrast to the current situation where the commissioner only has the ability to stand down a brigade and not the individual. A new 'person in charge' provision has been included in the bill to respond to circumstances where no first officer or next officer from a rural fire brigade is available during an incident response. Under the legislation, the commissioner can appoint a brigade member or a person in charge of operations to ensure they have appropriate legal protections.

Despite the government making these points clear, I suspect that we will continue to see misinformation from certain elements seeking to undermine these important changes, but I would like to reassure brigade members and volunteers that this is about providing them with legal protections and establishing a separate RFS with its own budget in recognition of the valued and important work that they do. To be clear: yellow trucks will not need to wait for red trucks to respond to an incident.

The bill recognises the importance of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee. This bill recognises the status of QDMC establishing its responsibility in providing strategic leadership for disaster management and disaster operations for the state; however, it is not intended for this committee to be perpetually convened. Where the QDMC is not convened, the State Disaster Management Group may act as a precursor to convening the QDMC and will provide strategic leadership for the state. This bill provides support for the SDMG by requiring the Police Commissioner to appoint an executive officer dedicated to helping the SDMG perform its functions. This bill will further meet IGEM review recommendations by listing the chairperson of the Queensland Crisis Communication Network as an observer of QDMC and declaring the CEO of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as the state recovery planning and policy coordinator. If the CEO cannot perform the functions of the SRPPC, the chairperson of the QDMC may appoint another appropriately qualified person to perform the functions of the SRPPC.

The bill also includes amendments to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to require smoke alarms to be installed in caravans and motorhomes in Queensland. This requirement aligns with the final stage of the rollout of smoke alarm legislation for domestic dwellings.

I acknowledge the Reform Implementation Taskforce in their work to oversee and coordinate the implementation of these reforms while ensuring service delivery is unaffected. My greatest thanks go to our dedicated emergency services personnel—the thousands of staff and volunteers who risk their lives to keep our community safe. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of these brave individuals as I have travelled across Queensland during recent disasters. Their extraordinary work is essential and valued by all Queenslanders. As Queensland is the most disaster-prone state in the country, we will continue to support our emergency services in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. N BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.07 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.

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading

Resumed from 6 March (see p. 522), on motion of Ms Fentiman—


That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.09 pm), continuing: I will resume my contribution, which will be short today. At adjournment yesterday, I was speaking about how fantastic it is that this bill provides patient ratios for midwives and nurses and extends that ratio to mums and bubs. Usually in this House I give thanks to the workers, doctors, nurses, cleaners and the wardies—everybody—at the Prince Charles Hospital. Today, I will talk about those at the RBWH. While it is inside Minister Grace's electorate by 200 metres, so many of those staff live and have kids at schools in my electorate. They are people whom I deal with on a weekly basis. I give a shout-out to them.

I was also thanking the member for Mount Ommaney and others for their kind words. They recognise that this also provides better support for bereaved parents or, to put it delicately, those who arrive at the hospital pregnant but drive away with an empty baby seat in the car. I want to personally thank the RBWH for the extraordinary support from their nurses, doctors, counsellors and others who have an ability to wrap their arms around people. I was also giving a shout-out to Kerry and her extraordinary voluntary team at Precious Wings who provide such service to bereaved parents when they need it most. I absolutely stand by the workers and the midwives in particular at the RBWH and compare that to those opposite, who are so blatantly hypocritical. They have never apologised for sacking 14,000 workers. In Metro North HHS alone they sacked 1,500 health workers, 750 of whom were nurses. It is unforgiveable, but we remember.

In terms of the other provisions of the bill relating to the termination of pregnancy, extending health care to the regions is important. That is recognition of the skills of our nurses and midwives across the state. I think it is really important. In terms of the history of that bill, I am happy to be on the record as a supporter. In my previous role behind the scenes I saw the extraordinary work that went on with the Queensland Law Reform Commission and with stakeholders. It was a very extensive process. I will reflect on it this way. The bill was introduced by the then attorney-general for good reasons, but the then health minister and now Premier had carriage of it through the House. I think that was a really symbolic move to show that this issue, whatever members' views on it, was being moved from one of criminality and law to one of health care. I think this bill continues that message and that is really important.

I also reflect on the contribution the member for Miller made yesterday because he made a good point. At the time there were three opposition members in the House who supported the government's moves. It will be really interesting—and I am not saying this provocatively, because I am very interested—to see what the members for Clayfield and Chatsworth do. The member for Currumbin was very happy to interject during the member for Miller's contribution without any self-reflection that her predecessor was one of those who had the courage of her convictions to vote the same way. Let's see what those three members do and let's see if they continue to stand by their convictions or whether they do what they did for treaty. Let's see if they have the courage of their convictions. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.12 pm): This bill covers various aspects of health legislation; however, the key amendment I want to speak on today will see the legislated introduction of midwife-to-patient ratios, being one midwife to six patients. A specific addition to this is that newborn babies will be included in this ratio as a separate patient to the parent. Many stakeholders note that these are sensible changes, of which the LNP are certainly supportive. That said, I have genuine questions that I hope the minister can answer in her reply to the second reading debate.

How will this impact maternity services that are already struggling to attract staff? Are there enough midwives to fill new positions once these laws come into effect? Will the minister guarantee that there will not be any more midwife position vacancies for extended lengths of time in rural Queensland following the introduction of this bill? Will the minister guarantee that no rural community will be worse off following the introduction of this bill with regard to accessing midwifery services? Will the minister start reopening rural maternity services rather than closing them?

I certainly have legitimate concerns that, without good governance of our health system and specific and appropriate management of these amendments, there will be more pressures on rural and regional hospitals where staff shortages are already a major concern. I know that there are midwives in rural Queensland who currently have significantly more patients to manage than what is currently recommended. What is the minister doing to address this? They are already overworked and the government has failed to attract and retain colleagues for them. Women are the ones suffering because of this failure under Labor's health crisis.

I recently attended meetings in the North Burnett and Darling Downs with representatives from council, medical centres, and hospital and health services to discuss current issues within the local health region including staff shortages, staff accommodation, health system modelling and other health related matters. I am acutely aware of the challenges also faced in Central Queensland. Being Women's Week, let's talk about some facts of Labor's record here in Queensland.

The electorate of Callide is almost 75,000 square kilometres. It is larger than the state of Tasmania. It has 14 hospitals, none of which have an operational maternity ward. Some of the towns across the electorate have grown significantly in recent decades, yet health services, and specifically maternity services, have gone backwards. These are vital women's health services and the Miles Labor government has cut them from my community.

Specifically, Premier Miles was the health minister who placed the Chinchilla maternity ward on full bypass over five years ago. It went on partial bypass under Labor way back in 2017 and Labor have been in power ever since. Chinchilla had a fully operational maternity ward when just 3,000-odd people lived there. There are now over 7,000 people, with thousands more in surrounding communities. They are young communities and we still do not have a maternity ward. This is appalling and shows there are two classes of women under a Labor government: there are women in the bush, who are left without essential health services, and then there is everyone else. What a disgrace.

Let's not forget about Gladstone. The city of Gladstone did not have maternity services for nearly a full year under this Labor government. Let's not forget about Chloe, who gave birth to baby Matilda on the side of the Bruce Highway. Chloe called on the health minister for an apology and did she get one? No! What did the government do? Their public comments suggested that Matilda was not born on the side of the highway. I dare the minister to come and stand in that spot with me and look Chloe in the eye and say that is not what she experienced. In lieu of that, the minister should stump up the courage and apologise for both the incident happening in the first place and the misleading comments that were made about her experience.


Earlier this week I was on the phone to a local expectant mother. She has been told that there is a new policy in place regarding midwifery care. She has no maternity services in her home town so she must travel away to give birth. If she then chooses to birth privately, when she comes home, rather than having the full six weeks of postnatal care, she will only be able to receive two visits. Should this choice be made, once again she will be forced to travel hundreds of kilometres with a newborn for ongoing postnatal care. I note that there are insufficient GPs in the bush for her to be guaranteed appointments in due time should she wish to see a GP.

The Miles Labor government shuts down local maternity services, forcing mothers to travel hundreds of kilometres. If those mothers—because they are travelling anyway—make a choice as to what building they give birth in, public or private, then Labor will cut their access to midwifery care. I ask the minister to investigate this immediately. If any HHS has such a policy in place, I request that an order is immediately issued to stop this practice that discriminates against a woman's choice.

Something else I want to place on the record is the continued rejection of the plight of women in the bush by the Labor backbench. It was only this morning when I was making comments about the lack of maternity services in Callide that I heard laughter on that side of the chamber. I dare those members who find this a laughing matter to come and sit down with the women who have had to give birth on the side of the highway.

Labor continue to pretend that they are a woman's best friend, yet we see amendments changing gendered language from 'woman' to 'person'. Yes, they are literally removing women from laws. They have cut 37 maternity wards in Queensland, resulting in multiple women giving birth on major highways and, yes, they are actively removing women from our laws. This is not what any government that truly respects women would do.

If Labor wants to show the world that it cares about women, then it will be reopening maternity wards instead of closing them. I will never give up the fight for more services for women, including maternity services and access to GPs in my electorate and across rural Queensland. I note that there are many more parts to this bill that I have not covered; however, I cannot elaborate any better than the shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba. If people wish to find out more about the LNP's position on these matters, I certainly encourage them to listen to her great speech. Ultimately, women in the bush are getting left behind and it is simply not good enough. If you want to help women in Queensland, then show Labor the door in 2024.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). In doing so, I want to specifically speak in favour of clause 12 which enshrines midwife-to-patient ratios. I could not be more proud to see this occur—the next step in a journey that our government and stakeholders began nine years ago when I as the then minister for health in Queensland introduced a bill to enshrine nurse-to-patient ratios in Queensland public hospitals on 1 December 2015. On that day I said the following—

... this is not the end of our commitment to safe nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios. This is just the first step.

I am so pleased to see that, even though I am not in that portfolio anymore, the ministers that have followed me and our government have delivered. We have delivered for patients, we have delivered for nurses and now we will deliver for midwives. In particular, I want to acknowledge the public health workers, the nurses and the midwives who work at the Logan Hospital. This is one of Queensland's busiest hospitals. I have met with those health workers, nurses and midwives on many occasions during the time I have had the honour of serving the electorate of Woodridge in this parliament and I could not be prouder of their work. They work with great diligence and they work very hard. They often work under pressure, and that is why our government has been so proud to commit a billion dollars to expand Logan Hospital. As part of that first stage we of course have delivered a new maternity ward to support our hardworking midwives and I am very proud to have been part of a government that has delivered for that hospital, delivered for public health workers and delivered for Logan.

There is something else that I also remember from that time. I remember the LNP's implacable opposition to nurse-to-patient ratios. The member for Surfers Paradise as the then health spokesperson—the person who would have been a health minister in an LNP government—said in that earlier debate—

... we on this side of the House cannot support a bill that will mandate a prescriptive statewide ratio ...

The LNP deputy chair of that committee at that time, the member for Mudgeeraba, in her contribution complained that—

... there can be no certainty that a legislative requirement to fix nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios is necessary ...

The member for Mudgeeraba in that debate went on to say—

I am disappointed that, in a hasty attempt to appease the Queensland Nurses' Union, this Labor government has chosen to introduce this piece of legislation ...

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DICK: That is right; I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Members can imagine my surprise to hear this week in this debate that very same person, the member for Mudgeeraba, say something completely different. In this debate the LNP health spokesperson, the member for Mudgeeraba, speaking about midwifery ratios said just yesterday—

I do wonder if it were not for some opposition agitation whether some of these changes would ever have been made ...

In the long litany of disgraceful and dishonest comments that the member for Mudgeeraba has built her career on, this one stands out—absolutely stands out. The member for Mudgeeraba is well known for saying anything to anyone at any time to promote her political ends and her self-promotion as an alleged health worker. She is known to do that at every available opportunity, and this is another example of the sickening double standards we are so sick of hearing from the member for Mudgeeraba and the LNP. Let me say for the record, as I said nine years ago and as I say today in the Legislative Assembly: let the record show that the statement by the member for Mudgeeraba is false—false from beginning to end. Let the record show that the LNP has always been opposed to nurse-to-patient ratios. No matter what those opposite say in this debate, they remain implacably opposed.

Mr Kelly interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Greenslopes—a real nurse who serves his community in many ways. The member for Greenslopes knows, as every public and private health worker in this state knows, that nurse-to-patient ratios matter. They make a difference to safe health outcomes for patients and they make the working conditions of nurses better, just as this legislation as it will be passed by the House when we come to the vote we hope will make life better for midwives and patients and mothers and children and babies in this state. We all know what will happen. As part of their cuts agenda, those opposite will not have the money to fund proper public health care in this state. One of the first things they would do if they ever got the chance would be to cut nurse-to-patient ratios and midwife-to-patient ratios. The other thing the LNP cannot handle is the fact that a real nurses union—the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union—has secured this nation-leading reform in partnership with our government. I cannot speak highly enough about the leaders that I have worked with and the members that I have worked with in the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Members to my left, order!

Mr DICK: I will take the interjections from members opposite.

Mr Janetzki: Wholly owned subsidiary, not partnership.

Mr DICK: Let us talk about the fake union, the scab union, the grub union that the LNP supports. I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. He says we are a wholly owned subsidiary of the nurses union. I will say this: the Labor Party has been in partnership with trade unions in this state for more than 130 years and we are proud to be part of the labour movement in this state, unlike the members of the LNP who align themselves proudly, including the shadow health spokesperson, with a fake union—the so-called Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland. Let the record also show that at the height of the pandemic when our state was under threat, when the lives of Queenslanders were threatened by an invisible enemy, the LNP aligned itself with NPAQ—a union that consistently expressed anti-vaccination sentiment. I withdraw: it is not a union but an association that consistently expressed anti-vaccination sentiment. The member for Mudgeeraba has never apologised for being a member of that association. In fact, she holds the ticket up.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left.

Mr DICK: She is proud to be a member of NPAQ.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, order!

Mr DICK: That is the person—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK:—that the LNP would make the health minister in this state and all of those members opposite should be absolutely ashamed of their association with that fake union and the sentiments that have been expressed by that union. I say this: real unions, real nurses and real midwives have always supported nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios. They supported the bill in 2015 just as they support this bill today, and I want to acknowledge those real unions, those real nurses, those real midwives—not the fake nurses like the member for Mudgeeraba, the person who carries on like she is in an operating theatre every day. We support those real health workers and I cannot speak highly enough of them and I thank them for their steadfast support. They see right through the falsehoods and the sickening double standard of the member for Mudgeeraba and the LNP. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.29 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There are some very important topics covered in this bill. It is a shame they are part of an omnibus bill, because these are topics that should not be in an omnibus bill. I will only speak to those topics. I want to place on the record that I am a supporter of right to life. The main issue of contention with the bill for me relates to the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018, which states that health practitioners be given permission to prescribe, administer and give treatment doses of termination-of-pregnancy drug MS-2 Step. The availability or lack thereof of health services in regional, rural and remote Queensland to provide the necessary care for women who may suffer complications following their decision to terminate a pregnancy under the changes being proposed is of great concern. Whilst these facilities might exist in the city and this professional care might be available in the city, there are many people who live west of the Great Divide and north of Gympie who may not be able to access the same level of care, and it is concerning for me that this has been extended into the level of practices.

I also want to make it clear that there are no changes to the existing conscientious objection provisions already in the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018. The rights of health practitioners and students to conscientiously object to performing or assisting to perform a termination on a pregnant woman are maintained in the legislation. I have been approached by a midwife in Toowoomba who works in the west, and unfortunately this is not always her reality. While she would like to be a conscientious objector, there is no-one else to provide the care for that woman who finds herself in a desperate situation. Whilst we might say brave things in this place and we might put these fail-safes in place, the reality in many parts of Queensland is that they are not there. I will be opposing the clauses in relation to the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018—part 6, clauses 21 to 25—and the Criminal Code—part 2, clause 4, subclauses (1) to (9)—during the consideration in detail.

There is one other section of the bill that I think is contentious and, again, should not be in an omnibus bill—that is, to replace the reference to ‘woman’ with ‘person’ in the termination-of-pregnancy provisions to ensure legal access to termination-of-pregnancy services for all pregnant Queenslanders. I do not think I need to explain this statement to anybody in Queensland, but if someone is seeking these services they are clearly a woman so ‘woman’ does not need to be replaced with ‘person’ in the act.

The position of many groups has been stated in the committee report, but I want to quote just a couple. The committee report states—

Cherish Life also focussed on the capability of nurses to provide medical termination of pregnancy, in their concern that if complications arose from the provision of a medical termination, nurses are not permitted to provide surgical intervention.

This is their actual statement—

Medical abortion is associated with higher risks of bleeding and incomplete abortion than surgical abortion. Under this Bill, health practitioners such as nurses will not be permitted to perform surgical abortions and must know how to deal with the consequences of a medical abortion.

It is generally accepted that 5% of medical abortions will result in excessive or prolonged bleeding requiring a blood transfusion and/or curettage to manage this. Ongoing bleeding may be an indication of incomplete abortion and is also an important source of infection. The failure rate varies with studies, but in the PI (product information) for MS 2 Step, it is given as 7% prior to 63 days, making follow up mandatory. An incomplete medical abortion requires a surgical procedure called curettage.

My point is that these services are not available to all Queenslanders. This is the Queensland parliament. We should not be setting up situations where there are haves and have-nots—those who have services available to them and those who do not have services available to them. I will leave my contribution there, because we know that this government is playing politics with this bill. We know that it is done to divide people in the state. I do not think it is in the best interests of Queenslanders. I certainly do not think it is in the best interests of remote and regional Queenslanders. I think it is disgraceful that we have been put in the position of having to vote on an omnibus bill, but I will be most definitely voting in consideration in detail against all of those clauses that I referred to.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. The Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee, in its report No. 3 of the 57th Parliament and tabled in this Assembly on 4 March 2024, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed. The purpose of the bill is to make amendments that support access to health care, promote quality improvement and patient safety in public health facilities, and improve the operation of health legislation in Queensland.

The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to: clarify that, for the purposes of nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios, a newborn baby should be counted as a patient when they are staying in a room on a maternity ward with their birthing parent; require a Quality Assurance Committee to disclose information about a health professional to their chief executive where the QAC reasonably believes the health professional's health, conduct or performance poses a serious risk of harm to a person; clarify that the chief executive of Queensland Health may, after considering a report from a clinical review or health service investigation conducted in a hospital and health service, take the action the chief executive considers appropriate in relation to the matters identified in the report; and ensure key findings, recommendations and lessons learned from root cause analyses of serious clinical incidents can be shared with relevant staff across Queensland Health.

The bill amends the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 and Criminal Code to: allow additional health practitioners to perform early medical terminations of pregnancy through the use of termination drugs; make consequential amendments to the offence provision set out in the Criminal Code to align with the above change; and provide for more inclusive language by replacing references to 'woman' with 'person' in termination-of-pregnancy provisions.

The bill amends the Public Health Act 2005 to exempt medical practitioners from duplicate reporting of dust lung diseases to the Queensland Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register where there has been notification to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry and it amends the Mental Health Act 2016 to clarify how Mental Health Court expert reports and transcripts may be released and used.

The bill proposes to implement minimum midwife-to-patient ratios in our Queensland maternity wards. The amendments clarify that for calculating midwife-to-patient ratios on maternity wards a baby will be counted as a separate patient when they are staying in a room with their birth parent. This will also include acknowledging those dreadfully sad occurrences when a baby is stillborn. The baby will be considered as a separate patient when they are staying in a room with their birth parent. Midwives have been calling for this change for years. We know that ratios work. Since 2015 here in Queensland we have legislated minimum nurse-to-patient ratios in prescribed medical, surgical and mental health wards in public health facilities as well as across Queensland Health's 16 public residential aged-care facilities. Queensland's minimum nurse-to-patient ratios have led to low mortality and readmission rates as well as shorter lengths of stay. Ratios also give nurses more time to complete necessary care and time to detect patient changes. Nurses also reported better job satisfaction and less burnout, while patients were more likely to recommend the hospital to family and friends. These same benefits will be realised in our larger hospitals once minimum midwife-to-patient ratios are implemented.

We understand that the delivery of health care is complex and occasionally things do not go as expected. The Hospital and Health Boards Act includes a clinical incident management framework to ensure patient safety issues are addressed in a timely and meaningful way. The framework fosters a culture of safe and reliable care through analysis and learning to reduce preventable occurrences and improve patient safety.

An important change is that the bill will require a quality assurance committee to notify a health professional's chief executive if the committee reasonably believes that a health professional poses a serious risk of harm to a person because of their conduct or performance. The current provisions of the act prevent quality assurance committees from sharing information about serious risks with the department or a hospital and health service so that those risks can be proactively addressed.

Concerns that the proposed amendment would bring about the risk of two investigations, one being without the powers of the Office of the Health Ombudsman, were addressed in the hearing on 1 February when the Health Ombudsman, Dr Coulson Barr, stated—

The proposed amendments that we are putting forward would enable us to do that in a more fulsome and timely way.

She further stated—

I think the functions of the QACs are quite different in terms of reviewing clinical incidents. As I understand it, the purpose of this amendment is to identify issues in relation to individual practitioners in relation to either health conduct or performance that may be posing a risk that requires action by another body and a different nature of investigation where we look at the relevant code and standards.

The Public Advocate, both in their submission and at the public hearing on 1 February, supported the proposed amendments to the Mental Health Act given the use of mental health reports to be admissible in relation to any offence and, in principle, this use is supported by the Public Advocate.

Dr Chesterman gave evidence that there could be some situations where a person will not be able to make that determination because of the nature of their current situation, illness or disability. However, he stated—

There would be situations where it could work against the interests of the person and indeed lead to some inaccuracies, but I think offering the person the possibility of saying, 'No, I do not want that to be used,' is an important safeguard.

As an interested stakeholder, the Queensland Law Society provided feedback on the proposed Mental Health Act amendments. The President of the Law Society stated—

With respect to the proposed Mental Health Act amendments, we support the proposed clarification regarding the use and the release of Mental Health Court expert reports and transcripts in other criminal proceedings. We acknowledge the benefits of these types of reports and transcripts being admissible at the trial of a person in certain circumstances, and we note again the importance that the courts retain discretion to admit this evidence.

In relation to the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, we support the proposed provisions that seek to allow broader sharing of information contained in root cause analysis reports. We emphasise the need for additional resource training in relation to the importance of these reports to ensure efficient and appropriate use of the procedure.

Further, Ms Fogerty advised the committee that the Queensland Law Society's submission to the inquiry was based on the long experiences of members who have found that mental health reports can be very relevant to a matter. The experience of the Queensland Law Society members is that being able to make mental health reports more accessible can have an impact, particularly because the range of defendants who are in a matter where these reports are helpful to the court tend to come from very disadvantaged backgrounds and matters are on a legal aid basis. This can lead to the provision of a better information exchange between the courts and other relevant agencies.

In Queensland the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register was managed by Queensland Health under the Public Health Act. In June 2023, the Australian government introduced legislation to establish the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry. If passed by the Australian parliament, it will duplicate reporting requirements for Queensland practitioners who would need to report to both the Queensland register and the National registry. This is an unnecessary burden given information in the national registry will be shared with state and territory health agencies. The proposed amendments to the Queensland Public Health Act 2005 would exempt medical practitioners from duplicative reporting requirements.

I thank the former Health and Environment Committee and the current Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee for their detailed inquiry into the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I take this opportunity to respond to some of the things that I have heard Labor members of parliament say about the bill. They are things that I take exception to and that are a discourtesy and an affront to people who live in my electorate and other electorates like it that are largely rural and remote places where people do not have access to the kinds of medical services that people in the city take for granted. I have heard members wax lyrical about the midwife-to-patient ratio. I can give them a lesson in mathematics: you cannot have a ratio with a 'zero' in it, which is what the ratio would be in places where maternity services have been withdrawn and closed down under this Labor government.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Warrego. There are constituents in her electorate whose birth certificates reflect that they were born on the side of the Warrego Highway. On many occasions in the House, my honourable friend the member for Callide has spoken with strength and clarity about the withdrawal of maternity services from his electorate and the impact that has on women.

It was very interesting to hear Labor Party members of parliament say, in the same breath, that this bill would provide equal access to health care for women regardless of where they live. I wonder if they have ever been outside the limits of the Brisbane CBD because that statement is totally lacking in logic and betrays a complete misunderstanding of the challenges that people in country Queensland face. There is complete hypocrisy there. This is being used as a fig leaf. It is being used to justify extending medical termination of pregnancy by allowing nurses to prescribe such drugs, ostensibly so that it can be done anywhere including in rural and regional Queensland.

I would be much more impressed if the Labor government restored maternity services to rural and regional Queensland. In my electorate of Southern Downs, in Goondiwindi the maternity service is hanging by a thread. It is far from certain that we will have a maternity service there in a few months

time because of the difficulty in attracting midwives and qualified personnel. That will be made worse by midwife-to-patient ratios as the cities will have them all. It will make things worse in my neck of the woods.

I am completely and utterly opposed to measures in this bill to erase from legislation the words 'mother' and 'woman'. Even those who would not commonly be associated with the Liberal National Party, such as lobby groups that you would say are on the left of the political spectrum, have been absolutely adamant that only a woman can bear a child and only a woman can be a mother. If I were to put the proposition that a mother could be a man or someone else in the streets of Goondiwindi, Inglewood, Texas, Stanthorpe or Allora, I would be laughed at, at best. This is another example of the government rootling around in extraneous woke items instead of dealing with the things that are really important to Queenslanders, and in my electorate health care is important.

This is a missed opportunity to do what is right for the people of my electorate, particularly the women, who are potentially facing the loss of a maternity service at Goondiwindi Hospital. For the benefit of the House, that will mean that in the final days of a pregnancy a mother will have to go to Toowoomba and pay to stay in a motel to wait for her confinement. I have it on good authority that they are told that they must do this in case the birth comes on early. That is a huge cost, an inconvenience and a disruption to family life for women in my neck of the woods. We see no recognition whatsoever of that in the bill before us.

I was particularly concerned to see that this bill persisted in allowing nurses to prescribe drugs for medical terminations of pregnancy in the face of one particular excerpt I can read into the record from the Australian Medical Association Queensland. It said—

MToP medicines carry serious risks for patients, including uncontrolled bleeding. Prescribers must be able to accurately date pregnancies, exclude ectopic pregnancy via a pelvic scan, determine if patients are at risk due to other existing conditions and ensure escalation pathways are available, including access to local emergency health care (usually within 2 hours' drive).

If members have driven along the Gore Highway from Goondiwindi recently they will know that it will probably take a lot more than two hours. Further—


Unfortunately, it is often the case in rural and remote areas that patients do not have this access and even medical practitioners cannot safely prescribe MToP medicines. Extending prescribing authority to RNs in this context would not result in increased access and could put patients at risk.

In spite of this, the government wants to see terminations in the country but not births. What a wicked position that is. I condemn the government for that.

Mr Stevens: It's like a gerrymander, really, isn't it?

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Mermaid Beach. He has been a member of parliament a bit longer than I have and he has seen a lot of shenanigans in this place, but this has to be one of the worst bills I have seen.

I place on record my disgust that measures such as those associated with terminations of pregnancy have been incorporated into an omnibus bill. I will be voting against the clauses in this bill which I object to concerning the medical termination of pregnancy. It will be shame on the Labor government if it uses its numbers in this House to prevent the consideration in detail that would enable me and other members in this House who have an objection to elements of this bill to vote against them. I say for the benefit of my constituents: I oppose the extension of abortion pill prescribing to nurses, especially in rural or regional areas where they would not have the necessary backup to safely prescribe them. I will be doing that during consideration in detail.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.52 pm): I note that I was part of the committee during analysis of this bill. In respect of the member for Southport, I know that he has had a medical incident and I hope that he recovers well. I know that we will all welcome him back into this place upon his return.

I will start with the termination of pregnancy and outline why we are making the changes in this bill. Those opposite have put forward their view—it is fine to put forward their view—that the lack of access to medical termination of pregnancy and surgical termination of pregnancy in regional and rural Queensland is one of the reasons they will oppose this bill, but lack of access to medical termination is actually the reason for this bill. It is the reason for extending that scope of practice so that women in regions—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I intend on being very civil in this debate and I will not take interjections from those opposite. I think this is a debate that needs a sound and reasonable conversation, accepting of all views of the matter.

The reason we are extending the scope of practice as the bill intends is that we know there are women in the regions seeking medical termination of pregnancy who are unable to access that at this point. During the committee's hearings, I asked a number of witnesses what occurs when women cannot access the medical services they need for the health decisions they are making. I asked witnesses whether they had heard of self-inflicted terminations of pregnancy, where women were taking measures to terminate pregnancy at their own hands, often risking their own lives, health and wellbeing. I was disappointed that one of the organisations that was opposed to the termination of pregnancy—it is fine that that is their view—could not accept that this is happening.

I note that Children by Choice said that, on their best data, Australia wide and Queensland wide about two per cent of terminations are self-inflicted and occur because women either do not feel safe to seek termination of pregnancy through the health system or feel as though they are unable to seek it due to the vastness of our state and the tyranny of distance. This is why we are expanding the scope to registered nurses and to endorsed midwives to provide a schedule 4 medication.

I also note that the AMAQ, in response to one of my questions during the committee hearing, said that there is nowhere in Queensland where a registered nurse or midwife is able to prescribe and provide a schedule 4 medication; however, the QNMU refuted that and said that, with extended practice, registered nurses are able to do that in this state. It is important to note that the legislation before us expands the practice available to health professionals—professionals who have dedicated their lives to keeping Queenslanders safe and healthy. The suggestion that a registered nurse or an endorsed midwife who undergoes the extended training and practice would make a decision that is risky or harmful to their patient is something we should not stand for in this House. If that is being suggested by those opposite, they should withdraw it. That again highlights the lack of investment and the lack of support for health professionals in this state by the Liberal National Party. It is another chapter in the book of the LNP's record on health in terms of health workers in this state.

I will not attack members of the LNP if they personally do not agree with the termination of pregnancy. I heard the member for Gympie say yesterday that a conscience vote is their right—absolutely. It is the right of all health workers across our state to conscientiously object if they so wish. I put it to members of the LNP that they should come out and say it before the election. What is the LNP's political stance on the termination of pregnancy? Do they support the legislation as it stands currently or will they oppose and repeal the legislation? What will they do? They should take a position and make it clear. Will Amanda Stoker have a senior role in the LNP and overturn health legislation in this state? During the 2020 election campaign there were conversations about a debate being held in the new parliament around voluntary assisted dying. I made my stance on voluntary assisted dying very clear, and I took that to the people so they could make their decision. I ask the LNP to do the same this election—

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think the member is straying from the long title of this bill. This bill has nothing to do with voluntary assisted dying, and I ask that you direct him back to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice.

Mr SMITH: I am happy to move on, Madam Deputy Speaker. I call on the LNP to make clear before the next election its policy around termination of pregnancy. As I said, it is completely fine for members opposite to take their view, but they should take their view to the people of Queensland and let the people of Queensland determine how they want their voice to be represented in the parliament. That is as simple as it can be.

I refer to ratios for midwives. I want to thank the midwives working in our Bundaberg Hospital. I have visited the ward and spoken to our midwives. They are outstanding health professionals. I want to thank the members of the real union, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, who visited me in my hospital to put forward something that they want to see happen not just because it is a good ratio but because they know that it will help them deliver the best care for their patients. I thank those members of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union for being strong advocates for their patients and for their profession and helping us to shape a good, strong piece of legislation for Queensland.

We know the LNP's record when it comes to midwives. We know that they sacked over 1,800 nurses and midwives. We know that in the Wide Bay region they sacked 120 nurses and midwives—

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is not contained in the long title of the bill, and I ask that you bring the member back to the debate at hand.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, can I please bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr SMITH: It is very disappointing that the LNP do not find midwives relevant.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words of the member for Bundaberg and I ask that he withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice. Member for Glass House, as I heard it, the member for Bundaberg did not make any direct reference.


Mr SMITH: We know the LNP's plan for midwives in this state—that is, to rake back 'unrealistic employee entitlements'. With that, I finish my contribution.

Debate, on motion of Mr Smith, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Cairns, Disaster Assistance; Local Government Elections

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.00 pm): Many in this House would recall the photos of aircraft submerged in water at the Cairns Airport following Tropical Cyclone Jasper. Some critical industry businesses in the Cairns region are struggling to recover. They are feeling abandoned when it comes to government assistance measures. I am advised that up to 35 Cairns businesses do not qualify for assistance because of the number of employees they have.


Skytech Aviation employs up to 50 staff in specialised aviation maintenance and repair of fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. This business suffered over a million dollars in damage, with a metre of water through the business. I am advised that Skytech have not received any assistance.

Cairns is a critical aviation base for Cape York and South-East Asia. These businesses are critical for tourism and for the ongoing disaster recovery, yet this Labor government has abandoned these businesses. Dawsons Engineering, another longstanding local business of 30 years and a key employer in the region, has experienced millions of dollars in damage—again, another business that feels abandoned by the Labor government. I call on the Premier and minister to stop ignoring these critical businesses and get them the help they need.

Queenslanders are going to the polls next weekend to determine their local government representatives for the next four years. Without any fanfare—and in the midst of cyclones, floods, bushfires and whatever else Mother Nature serves up—these hardworking people do their best, rising to local challenges.

On behalf of the LNP, I would like to put on record our sincere thanks to the mayors and councillors who have chosen to retire for their dedication to the community and also wish those seeking re-election the very best. In this regard, I congratulate those mayors who have been elected unopposed: Sam O'Toole at Balonne Shire Council; Nev Ferrier at Banana Shire Council; Rick Britton at Boulia Shire Council; Ernie Camp at Burke Shire Council; Francis Murray at Diamantina Shire Council; Barry Hughes at Etheridge Shire Council; Matt Burnett at Gladstone Regional Council; Lawrence Springborg at Goondiwindi Regional Council; Ramon Jayo at Hinchinbrook Regional Council; Kelly Vea Vea at Isaac Regional Council; Tony Rayner at Longreach Regional Council; Angela Toppin at Mareeba Regional Council; Peter Flannery at Moreton Bay City Council; Shaun Radnedge at Murweh Shire Council; and John Wharton at Richmond Shire Council. I congratulate all those councillors who have been elected unopposed in Moreton Bay City Council, Banana Shire Council and Isaac Regional Council. To all those mayors and councillors, I pass on the very best wishes from the LNP for their term ahead.

Women's Week

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.03 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I do not know about you but I have really enjoyed Queensland Women's Week. What a wonderful celebration of Queensland women and girls—a reminder of how far we have come and the work that is still ahead of us. As the minister said last night in her speech, the experiences and outcomes for a girl born today are so radically different to those of us born two, three, four or more decades ago.


Governments right around the world, including the Miles government, have turned our attention deliberately towards the issue of holding women up, not just because it is the right thing to do for women and girls but because it is the right thing to do for everyone. According to studies by rights group Plan International, every dollar spent on girls' rights and education would generate a \$2.80 return—equivalent to billions of dollars in additional GDP.

A girl born today in Queensland will have access to quality and free health care from the moment she arrives in the world, meaning any health complications that impact her in the future are caught and treated early. If her parents are struggling, they can access free parenting support such as the PPP program, giving her and her family the best start in life. We know that a good education sets the foundation for financial independence for girls. A girl born today can attend kindy for free, putting her on the right course for a great schooling career courtesy of a public education system that provides for world-class schooling no matter where you live in Queensland.

If she needs help to stay at school, she can get it. We are investing in things such as flexi spaces and flexi schools; GPs in schools, making it easier to get help; and even reaching out to programs like Headspace, Beyond Blue or the Kids Helpline—all programs that the Miles government helps to fund so that girls can finish and graduate from school. When they do, they have the options that many women today did not. They can pursue careers in nursing, teaching, business and hospitality but also through our free TAFE program they can gain a trade qualification or embark on a career in STEM because we are working with all of our industry partners to embed gender equity programs, ensuring that a career pathway for women and girls exists no matter what their calling is.

It is often said you cannot be what you cannot see. We heard last night from the minister that so many of Queensland's senior public servants and statutory appointments are women, including of course Queensland's Governor, Chief Scientist and Chief Entrepreneur. Today Minister de Brenni announced that we are signing up to the international Equal by 30 campaign to work towards equal pay, equal leadership and equal opportunities for women in the clean energy sector by 2030. With almost half of the Miles government being women and over 50 per cent of the cabinet being women, our government is leading by example. To all of Queensland's women and girls, a happy Queensland Women's Week.

Youth Crime; HerKind Project

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.06 pm): The crime crisis is real. The crime crisis in my community of Cherbourg is real. It has reached breaking point. Mayor Elvie Sandow, CEO Zala and councillors reached out to me yesterday by way of a phone call out of desperation for what is going on in Cherbourg. The government is not listening. The government is not helping them. Crime is out of control. I will tell the House what has happened there just in the last few days alone. Some little thugs out on bail have stolen the local sports complex bus. They have driven it around and around town—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I take your point of order, I am going to ask the member: can you assure the House that this matter is not sub judice?

Mr BROWN: They are out on bail.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, they are out on bail. I will take that point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is sub judice.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Therefore, it may be, so I will withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the record, I take the points of order. There was no point of order taken. I remind all members of the House to be very mindful of sub judice.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will not talk about those matters. What I will talk about is the crime that has been going on. A council bus has been stolen. Council chambers have been broken into. We do not know who by because no-one has been arrested for those incidents. Cherbourg radio station has been broken into. The TAFE and Gundoo Early Childhood Centre have been broken into. The Cherbourg State School has been broken into. The Cherbourg Ration Shed has been broken into. The Cherbourg council chambers have been broken into.

Mayor Elvie Sandow has rung me out of desperation. The CEO of Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has rung me out of desperation. Here is what they have said in the media: 'The system is not working.' They have said—and I am happy to table this—

We just want the government to listen to us. The system is not working ... the bail system, the court system is not helping our community.

That is exactly why we need to make sure that detention as a last resort is scrapped from the system—to protect that vulnerable community. Mr Zala said—

They're not even stealing any stuff. They're just breaking in ... and messing our buildings.

...


I think the government needs to look at the whole justice system. It's not working in the whole State.

Tabled paper: Article from southburnett.com.au online, dated 6 March 2024, titled 'The justice system isn't working' [331].

The system is broken. It is about time the government stopped talking and running the government by press release and actually did something on behalf of our communities.

In my last 30 seconds, I really want to give a big shout-out to HerKind Project. I cannot wait to get there on Friday night and celebrate International Women's Week right there in Kingaroy. I want to give a big shout-out to all of the amazing young women—Caylen Tunstall, Jordie Green, Greer Shephard, Mandy Gormly, Jen Renshaw and Jodie Bell—who are putting on this fabulous event. It is sold out. Over 250 tickets have been sold. I cannot wait to join you on Friday night.


Women and Girls' Health Strategy

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to speak to the importance of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy, released by the Miles government this week. We asked women and now we are listening. In development since November 2022, the strategy was shaped by an extensive engagement process whereby almost 12,000 people contributed their insights and recommendations. Over 10,000 women have shared their experiences in the healthcare system. Sadly, more than half of those women told us they had been dismissed in a healthcare setting before. Thousands told us they were concerned about issues like endometriosis, maternity, mental health and sexual health. We heard from about 65 per cent of those women that cost and availability of appointments are a huge barrier to accessing health care. One submission even talked about a woman who missed multiple appointments or felt that she could not even make appointments because she had children in her care and was not able to organise a babysitter. There are many barriers to accessing health care for women, and that was one of the really strong themes that came through in the consultation that formed this Women and Girls' Health Strategy.

Australian women experience different health outcomes than Australian men and face significant barriers in achieving their full health potential. Some of these barriers include challenges with accessing services, with time and cost being significant factors. One thing is clear: women's health concerns have been overlooked and dismissed for too long, and our Labor government is taking action. Our message to Queenslanders is that we are a government that proudly champions the rights of Queensland women and girls. I want to know whether those opposite and the crossbenchers support this \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy in Queensland.

Our message to Queenslanders is that we are a government that proudly champions the rights of Queensland women and girls. That is why we have launched the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032, which is backed by a \$1 billion investment to support women and girls' wellbeing. The strategy has a number of key priority health action areas, including healthy lifestyles and bodies. Healthy lifestyles and physical activity were frequently raised as key components of preventive health and achieving better health outcomes for women and girls. Participants also raised sexual and reproductive health as one of the key areas of health that the strategy needs to look into. Mental health and wellbeing came through very strongly—in particular, the health response to domestic, family and sexual violence. The Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy will provide better health care closer to home for Queensland women and girls no matter where they live.

Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.13 pm): I have been very honoured by the people of Chatsworth to represent them for almost 12 years. Not long after I was first elected, a very wise man gave me some advice: go hard when it comes to politics on the floor of the chamber, but once we adjourn leave it on the floor. That man's name was Terry Mackenroth. It is fair to say that the gentleman I shadow in this role as the shadow minister for transport and main roads, the member for Aspley, comes across as a decent man, but at the end of the day this is about politics and the training wheels are now well and truly off. I think it is critical that we now start going through the shopping list of failures that have occurred—and continue to occur—in the transport and main roads portfolio. This is not in any order, because I will be obvious and leave the best example until last.

The Northern Transitway has blown out from roughly \$50 million to over \$170 million. Only last Thursday I met with retailers along Gympie Road along with our tremendous candidate for Stafford, Fiona Hammond, and heard about the firsthand impacts of a project which is pretty much only two-thirds done and, at this point in time, will stay that way.

I spoke last night about the Bremer River Bridge and why there seems to be a conspiratorial approach to not telling people what is actually going on with that bridge. We have the Barron River Bridge in Far North Queensland; the Gold Coast rail station blowouts in the hundreds of millions of dollars; the \$371 million new ticketing system that still has flaws four years later; and the Airtrain issue, which the minister has promised to get on top of. It is a matter of fact that late last year his predecessor failed to come to some kind of agreement when it comes to Airtrain. We then had a fiasco when under-age P-platers were upgraded to licences prematurely. I think that was about an \$8 million glitch in the system. We are still waiting to have forward progress on that.

I think it was at his very first press conference, although I stand to be corrected, that the newly minted Minister for Transport and Main Roads said that he would be a new reboot; he would be fresh, open and accountable at all stages. He has been in that role now for a period of time, and I think it is only fair that this chamber ask the question, through me as the shadow minister, about Cross River Rail, which on the record has blown out by around \$907 million: what is the total cost of that project to date?

Mackay Electorate, Biomanufacturing



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (2.16 pm): The Mackay region is a very exciting place for new and emerging industries in the biomanufacturing area. The Miles government committed \$415.5 million to the Industry Partnership Program to grow industry and local jobs in regional Queensland. In order to see how this fund could benefit my region and all of the sugar-growing industries of Queensland, Minister Grace recently joined me in Mackay for a tour of the QUT laboratory on the grounds of Racecourse Mill. Our tour guide was Professor Ian O'Hara, Queensland's envoy for the development of biocommodities. Both state and federal governments have supported QUT in the refurbishment and modernisation of their research laboratory so that facilities can meet the new and growing needs of development in regional Queensland in the areas of sustainable fuel and food production. The upgrades allow companies to fast-track the development of bioproducts derived from different parts of a stick of sugar cane. The new facilities will enable companies to undertake early stage scale-up, reducing costs and time frames for getting new products to market.

One process the laboratory will be able to offer is precision fermentation. This allows the manufacturing of new, high-value food ingredients such as proteins that can boost our bioeconomy and provide new domestic and export opportunities for our agriculture and food and beverage industries. Professor O'Hara told us that the use of precision fermentation in the production of food ingredients is one of the most exciting developments in food innovation in recent years. The process can turn the carbon from sugar into proteins. There are two products that are of most interest to companies: powdered egg white and powdered milk. The export opportunities to our northern neighbours are immense. The value-adding process to the sugar produced in Queensland has the potential to deliver food security to our global region.

The Miles government is supporting companies like Cauldron to develop a business case to set up a biofood manufacturing hub in Mackay. The development of this new product will diversify the sugar industry and produce new jobs for the children who are currently sitting in schools. Older workers may also be able to transition to new skills. You might be asking where all of this is going to happen. We have a new state development area in Mackay: 907 hectares of land across Racecourse Mill and the Rosella site. Mackay is an exciting place to be.

Sunshine Coast, Transport Infrastructure



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.19 pm): Transport planning is in chaos and crisis on the Sunshine Coast after cuts, delays and cover-ups to road, rail and bus transport projects in the last two weeks by this Labor government. There is confusion rather than clarity over Labor's plans which will frustrate rather than help the 360,000 residents as they try to get to work, school, the shops or the hospital. This is due to major cuts to an approved \$320 million project over the Mooloolah River, the MRI; Labor walking away from getting rail to Maroochydore in time for the Olympics, or at any time; and Labor pushing out the Sunshine Coast transport plan, whatever that is, until 2025.

Labor have not only walked away from rail to Maroochydhore; they have walked away from even getting faster buses from Caloundra to Maroochydhore under the recent announcements by cutting the funding from the Mooloolah River Interchange. It is shambolic. After spending \$30 million in transport planning and business cases, this government will not release all the business cases in full. It is causing economic and social sabotage for the whole of the Sunshine Coast. For the benefit of the members for Nicklin and Caloundra, they are your electorates too. They have been shunted and they have been shafted. This affects the whole of the Sunshine Coast.

Secrecy does not deliver solutions; it delivers scepticism about this government's competence and intentions, with their lack of a plan for all of the Sunshine Coast transport. Release the full rail business case. Let us see the full rail business case. Interestingly, the benefit-cost ratio in this little reheated summary internal document of DTMR—it is not the business case—had a worse benefit-cost ratio than the Mooloolah River Interchange. We support rail from Caloundra to Maroochydhore, but what we saw with this government is that the Mooloolah River Interchange had a P90 rated business case but something like a 4 for a BCR. This project has been shunted. It has been shafted and cut by this government while other projects that have also had huge blowouts with much lower BCRs have got funding under this government.

If they do not do the Mooloolah River Interchange, people will not even be able to get out of traffic and travel from Caloundra to Maroochydhore if they work across the Sunshine Coast. Rail, road and buses have been absolutely shambolically shafted by this government's incompetence. They now have yet another business case—a \$15 million business case—that will not work because they have cut the projects that it needs to work.

Liberal National Party, Performance; Women's Week



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (2.22 pm): It is great to follow the member for Maroochydhore because we know the history of those opposite when it comes to infrastructure, and that is to cut. That is why I also found the remarks of the member for Chatsworth so interesting about the three train stations on the Gold Coast—because they would not exist if the LNP had been elected. It does not matter how much they cost because they just cut them entirely. Of course, the member for Broadwater, who has this train station being built in his own electorate, is petitioning for more car parks for a project that he did not even commit to. It is embarrassing.

I did want to make my contribution about Women's Week. Can I say how proud I am to be part of a Labor government that has so many incredible women in our ranks. That did not happen by accident; it happened because of the Queensland Labor Women's Network, EMILY's List and many hardworking rank-and-file members who fought for a really long time to ensure that we have equal representation in this House. That has delivered better policies, and we can see that with the decisions our government has made over many years. We have equal representation of women on boards, we decriminalised abortion, we have paid domestic and family violence leave and we have free period products in schools. Many other measures have happened not by accident but because women are around the decision-making tables making sure that we support other women in our community.

We also have a whole range of law reforms that I will not go into now, but I want to recognise all of the incredible women who shared their stories that led to the law reform that is taking place this week. I had a session on the Gold Coast with the health minister where we heard of people's experiences in the healthcare system. I am really proud of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that we have released that will make the lives of Queensland women much better. I want to acknowledge in particular people like Di Macleod from the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. She has been working for years and years to get the legislation we passed earlier this week around coercive control through the parliament. She should be recognised, along with all of the other very brave women who shared their stories.

I want to remark on a couple of other women in my community who joined us last night at the women's event. Vikki Hocking from the Pacific Pines Residents Group gives up so much of her time every week and every month to make sure that our community has a say. She puts events together. This is a person who gives up her own time to try to make that Pacific Pines community a better place. I also want to acknowledge Tracy Bosworth, the president of the Worongary P&C. She does fantastic work, as does Tracey Spiers, whose kids do not even go to Nerang State High School anymore. I want to acknowledge those incredible women and I think we should all acknowledge those incredible women.

Far North Queensland, Tourism



Mr O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (2.25 pm): Many tourism operators in Far North Queensland are still struggling in the wake of severe Tropical Cyclone Jasper. A couple of weeks ago our brilliant Barron River candidate, Bree James, hosted me for a round table with some of these small businesses at the Cairns Adventure Group headquarters. I want to acknowledge Bree and our Cairns candidate, Yolonde, who are in the gallery today. They raised access and infrastructure issues in the Barron Gorge and Daintree national parks and their desire for permits to be waived while they are doing it tough.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service needs to prioritise the repair and reopening of infrastructure in these national parks. Operators told me the QPWS has not even fully assessed these areas. In a further blow, they were verbally told it would be four to five years before full repairs would be able to secure funding. In particular, the popular Jindalba loop in the Cape Tribulation section of the Daintree National Park, which was closed even before Jasper, could remain closed for another 12 to 18 months.

I ask the environment minister: will the government prioritise repairs to this vital infrastructure in some of our most highly visited national parks? The state government must also consider waiving national park permit fees for struggling tourist businesses that operate in these areas for at least six to 12 months. Marine tourism operators got marina fee relief, but these land-based operators have had nothing. Visitor numbers are down, they are hurting and they need support.

I met with Advance Cairns yesterday and there is still no progress on this. What is the point of having a tourism minister based in Cairns if he cannot get his colleague in environment to take pressure off local operators? These ecotourism operators also told me of their frustrations with wait times. It takes weeks to get pre-permit amendment meetings done with the department and then it is another two to six months just to get an answer. For new applications for permits, it can take even longer.

Conservation happens through education. We need people to see and experience what is the most biodiverse part of our state to be passionate about protecting it. Visits to these parks can be sustainable and they can be done sensitively to the environment. Genuine partnerships are essential. Tourism operators generate income for the management of this protected estate as well. We need to fix the disconnect between the tourism and environment portfolios.

We need a more customer friendly approach from the state government, especially when it comes to communicating with operators. I would also be interested to see the impacts this natural disaster has had on the Wangetti Trail where I am told huge chasms have opened up in particular sections. This project is already over budget and overdue. I ask both the tourism and environment ministers: what damage assessments have been undertaken, and will even more funding be required to finally finish Wangetti?

Women's Week



Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (2.28 pm): What a great week it has been in the parliament this week celebrating Queensland Women's Week. I think what we have debated in this chamber has been fantastic. It was absolutely delightful to have two of our young student leaders, Lily and Brooke, join me in the parliament yesterday with their mums, Jenni and Tracie. They were really excited to hear about our Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy and the work we are doing. There has been so much going on in that space.

I would like to take the opportunity to give a shout-out to Stacey and the team at the Centre for Women & Co. and our Centre Against Sexual Violence. They do incredible work in our space in domestic and family violence. I am really proud that in the coming month we will be deploying the Redlands high-risk team in that space. That is a really important program that will be rolling out so I thank them for all of the work they do.


In terms of health, I had the opportunity with my friend the member for Capalaba to celebrate six months of the Redlands Satellite Hospital. What a fantastic service that is delivering for our community. It is bringing health care closer to home for all Redlanders. We had the opportunity to meet with Neil, who is a regular chemotherapy patient who is managing his type of cancer ongoing. He was just so delighted to be able to have that treatment in this beautiful new facility. He is saving hours on travelling time to the PA Hospital, where he was having his treatments. He could not speak more highly of the care he is being given by Monica and the staff in our satellite hospital. I am so proud of that.

In terms of the work in the health space, as I said, there is so much going on. We opened the Lagoon Ward at the end of Redland Hospital at the end of last year. That is providing an extra 25 beds. ADCO is really going gangbusters. I think we are up to three levels already for our new intensive care unit and even more wards. In the healthcare space, it will always be the Miles government that puts the health care of Redlanders first. I am extraordinarily proud of that.

I want to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to our YMCA youth vocational school student leaders. It has been a big couple of weeks of leadership ceremonies. The students came into my meeting room in the electorate office and they did a 'thrive' of the meeting space. They came in and did a little design exercise, put together a budget, went out and picked up all of the materials and literally transformed our meeting office. It was really lovely of them to come in and do that.

I am also really proud to be an ambassador for Life Education here in Queensland. I had the opportunity to attend a class with our Redland Bay State School students on puberty, which was a very interesting topic to sit with grade sixers to learn a lot about. I give a shout-out to Life Education for all of the work which is happening across our schools.

Opal Industry

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the Queensland Boulder Opal Association, which is facing not one but two separate threats from the Miles Labor government. While the opal miners struggle with the changes contained in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan—I note that the minister is here in the chamber—they have become aware of another threat to the opal industry: Labor's intention to expand Queensland's protected estate by purchasing land with taxpayers' money. This is done very quietly, and the minister knows this, until the purchase is completed, when locals suddenly become aware that deals have been done. There is no prior public consultation about whether these purchases constitute value for money for the Queensland taxpayer. We certainly are not seeing this occur in South-East Queensland, for instance, where urbanisation has sent the state's small koala population of 23,000 into rapid decline. Nor do we see it in the Pioneer Valley, an area of profound environmental value, where the population of over 1,000 platypuses is threatened by the Miles government's pumped hydro project.


On 25 January, the minister announced that the Miles government had purchased 200,000 hectares comprising Tonkoro Station and Melrose Station. As long-established cattle stations, the conservation value of this land is very questionable. Even the Queensland Conservation Council responded tepidly, giving the minister a vague quote for her media release and said 'one' of these properties 'has potential' to be established as habitat for the night parrot. The night parrot is all over Queensland.

The word is that the department is purchasing Vergemont Station as well. We cannot get a straight answer, as public servants refer all requests to the minister, who does not answer until the deal is done. Alarm bells are ringing, because the acquisition of Vergemont Station, covering some of the finest opal-bearing deposits in the state, would sound a death knell for our valuable opal industry. The opals found in this district attract worldwide interest, yet the Miles government seems intent on destroying the industry. Restricted Area 257 on Vergemont Station must be saved for the opal industry to survive. If Vergemont is to be purchased by the Queensland taxpayer, it should be for the purpose of securing these valuable deposits for the future of our opal industry.

The Queensland Boulder Opal Association asks all members to look at the parliamentary mace. It is inlaid with 15 Queensland sapphires and nine Queensland opals—the state's and the nation's official gemstones. Then tell us that the families who mine these gems as a way of life have no future. They deserve a future. The minister should stop threatening their way of life and spend money expanding the protected estate in areas that have genuine conservation needs. I table a letter from the Mayor of Winton shire, Gavin Baskett, calling on the minister to stop doing this.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 March 2024, from the Mayor of Winton Shire Council, Mr Gavin Baskett, to the Premier, Hon. Steven Miles, regarding the opal industry [\[332\]](#).

Maunder, Ms S

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (2.34 pm): It gives me great pleasure to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations on the much deserved recognition that Suellen Maunder, founding director of JUTE Theatre in Cairns, received last week from her peers by being named the recipient of the Gold Matilda Award for services to regional theatre in Queensland for over 30 years. The Matilda Awards, which were founded in 1987 to celebrate and promote the

excellence of Queensland's theatre industry, is supported by Arts Queensland and Brisbane City Council. The Gold Matilda is a special open award in recognition of an individual, a company or a group for their contribution to the industry as determined by a judging panel—I believe quite an arduous process.

The Just Us Theatre Ensemble, which is what JUTE stands for—I did not know that until the other day—was founded in late 1992 by three passionate Cairns-based theatre professionals: Suellen Maunder, Kathryn Ash and Susan Prince. All of them are extremely passionate. It was their shared vision to create a professional theatre company that was able to create stories from the region. From humble beginnings, the JUTE Theatre Company, through hard work, determination, tenacity and persistence, has grown into the dynamic, award-winning and nationally regarded 'new work' theatre company that is consistently challenging the boundaries of exploration in theatre practice. What makes JUTE successful is that their story is grounded in reality, unlike some in the chamber, and they are equipped to continually change and evolve with the current world landscape.

From its base in Cairns, JUTE is uniquely placed to champion regional artists and create new audiences. With over three decades of experience, JUTE is the vessel in which new stories and perspectives are forged that inspire and educate our communities in the Far North through powerful shared theatre experiences. JUTE gives permission to regional voices to examine the marginal, the unexplored and the unforeseen to create stories that impact us and, more importantly, change our world.

Suellen is not only the artistic director and CEO of JUTE but also a director and actor. She has served on the Theatre Board of the Australia Council for the Arts Queensland Sector Plan Reference Group along with being a trustee on the board of the Queensland Performing Arts Trust. Suellen continues to serve on a range of boards and funding assessment panels, along with being committed to the growth of exceptional professional theatre in the regions.

In Suellen's own words, she attended an event where she met a young girl called Gina, who shared with her how meeting with JUTE had impacted and changed her life through the power of theatre. I want to thank Suellen on behalf of my community for her commitment and hard work now and into the future. We support all that she does.

(Time expired)

Rockhampton, PET Scanner; Mooloolah River Interchange



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (2.37 pm): There is a chronic shortage of PET scanners across Queensland. PET scanners are required to provide doctors with the imaging they need to diagnose and treat Queenslanders who are suffering from cancer. Across this state, patients have told me that they are required to wait anywhere between three and eight weeks for an appointment requiring the use of a PET scanner. However, in Rockhampton that problem is even worse. In Rockhampton, patients cannot access a PET scanner at all. Rockhampton cancer patients have to travel to Mackay or Bundaberg when they are referred for a PET scan.

Last week, along with our Rockhampton community champion Donna Kirkland, I met with local mum and cancer patient Amanda and her husband, Nathan. Together they told Amanda's story of the anguish of being diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and 'having to wait three weeks to find out if you only have three months to live'. They told of the pain of the hours-long drive up and back to Mackay, just to access medical services that Amanda needed in her hour of need. They told of the financial impact of a two-day journey just days after major surgery and how their absence affected their children. Amanda's story is just one of many in Rockhampton where, I am advised, 1,400 people are diagnosed with cancer each year.


The state government have said that a PET scanner is not required in Rockhampton. They have not said why and they have not produced any evidence other than rolling out members of the CQHHS executive to front the media. Where are the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in fighting for their community? We know that almost a quarter of the most serious category 1 cancer patients are not seen within the clinically recommended time frame at Rockhampton Hospital. Disturbingly, this is replicated right across Queensland. The message to the members for Rockhampton and Keppel is simple: start fighting for your community. Start voicing the concerns of your community, who have had enough of being taken for granted.

Listen to Amanda and Nathan, listen to the hundreds of Rockhampton and Keppel constituents who suffer unnecessarily every time they need to travel for hours to access what is a routine health service for a cancer patient. Listen to the doctors and nurses who want the best for their patients. If the

members for Rockhampton and Keppel will not fight for their communities, then I know that Donna Kirkland and Nigel Hutton will. Donna and Nigel will because they care. Donna and Nigel will because they know that their community deserves a voice. The LNP will not stop fighting to ensure every Queenslanders has access to the health services that they deserve.

With the short time I have left, I would like to address the Mooloolah River Interchange which has been cut by the new transport minister. It was cut after this government knocked down 84 homes and resumed 130 homes. They have knocked down those homes and decided not to proceed with the project. There are 84 families on the street because of this government for a project they have cut. Queenslanders deserve better.

Gladstone Electorate, Cost of Living

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.40 pm): I know cost of living is certainly front of mind for Gladstone residents. It is one of the key issues that people raise with me. In response, we locked in \$8.2 billion in cost-of-living relief in the state budget—the biggest cost-of-living package ever delivered by a government. We are also freezing car registration, public transport fees, delivering free kindy and TAFE, outlawing rent bidding and making bonds portable. We are listening and we are delivering. I know that there is more to do, and we will keep delivering support for all Queenslanders because Labor governments help households to tackle cost-of-living pressures.

It is a bit rich of the LNP to come into this House and suddenly pretend that they care about the cost of living. This is from a party that cut, sacked and sold its way to three years of misery for Queenslanders. Central Queensland was not spared in the LNP cuts. In Gladstone, Calliope, Rockhampton and Yeppoon they cut health workers, Ergon linesmen and TMR officers. The LNP have no shame at all—cutting, sacking and selling in Central Queensland.

They also wanted to sell the Gladstone Ports Corporation and parts of Sunwater in my area. They have cutting, sacking and selling in their DNA and they will not give up if they are ever elected. The member for Broadwater is cut from the same cloth as Campbell Newman. We can invest in local projects in Gladstone because we kept assets like the Gladstone Area Water Board and the Gladstone Ports Corporation in public hands—we own them. We would not have East Shores upgrades, we would not have the Auckland Hill redevelopment or the upgrades to the Lake Awoonga Recreation Area if the LNP were in government in Queensland. I know that the LNP are trying to talk about water prices in Queensland, but all they would do is increase them. In Gladstone, projects like the sewerage main renewal and the Silverdale Reservoir works are helping council keep the rates—

Mr Saunders interjected.


Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough and member for Southern Downs, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr BUTCHER: Him yelling at me is like being hit with a wet lettuce leaf! These projects are only happening in the Gladstone Regional Council because of our investment in Building our Regions. The Gladstone Area Water Board delivers dividends to the council because we kept those assets in public hands. There would be no dividends under the LNP because those assets would have been sold off as soon as they got in. On this side of the House, we help our councils with their water infrastructure in Queensland, unlike those opposite who would just cut it or privatise it. They said councils—listen to this—were 'sitting on a goldmine' and that was an excuse to cut funding from our great councils here in Queensland, particularly in regional Queensland. The LNP's only plan for cost of living is taking the spotlight off big supermarkets and their big business buddies here in Queensland.

(Time expired)

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Crocodile Management

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.44 pm): Crocodile management in Queensland is not up to community standards, especially in North Queensland. It might seem like a joke to people in South-East Queensland, but North Queenslanders require crocodile management which is proactive. Every wet season we are seeing more crocodiles move upstream into places where we have never seen them before. Nearly every puddle in North Queensland has a crocodile in it right now. It might seem like a ludicrous thing that the KAP keeps talking about, but this really means something to people in North Queensland who utilise these swimming holes and places of recreation.


Recently, we have had crocodile sightings increase in places like Cordelia, which I have spoken and written to the minister about. They have been sighted at Tully Heads. We have also had crocodiles now sighted and confirmed at Rollingstone right where the swimming hole is. On the fourth, there was a photograph and a video of what was confirmed to be a three-metre crocodile in the swimming area at Rollingstone. This is where people have been going to for generations. This is a traditional swimming hole that people have been using forever and a day. On the fifth it was confirmed that this crocodile was, in fact, there. Then on the sixth the *Townsville Bulletin* reported that three crocodiles were found in the creek at Rollingstone but they were not going to be removed because they were not acting aggressively.

The KAP has previously come out strongly on this issue and called for a crocodile cull as a proactive way of managing crocodiles in North Queensland. We understand that this state government will not support that, but we are willing to meet the minister halfway on this. We would like to see the crocodile zones changed for places like Rollingstone and popular waterholes. Right now zone E is what we are looking at at the waterhole at Rollingstone. All we are asking for is that to be changed to zone D so that any crocodile—it does not matter what behaviour it is showing—over two metres would be targeted for removal. That is what the community is asking for. They just want to be able to use their places of recreation.

In North Queensland we do not have the waterslides and the Southbank water parks; we have waterholes to enjoy. All we want to be able to do is use our natural assets. On a Sunday afternoon, families like to go to places like Rollingstone. We are feeling like 'next wet season what will we lose next?' Will we lose Crystal Creek? Will we lose places such as Alligator Creek for swimming? People in North Queensland do not want to see another crocodile warning sign. They do not want to be told that 'you are now living, working and playing in crocodile country'. These are places people have enjoyed for a very long time. All we want is for these crocodiles to be actively removed from the places that we frequent—popular areas. Queensland is geographically huge. Please send those crocodiles somewhere else.

(Time expired)

Townsville Electorate, Tourism

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (2.47 pm): I rise to speak about my favourite subject, and that is Townsville and the people of that great city. We know there were many impacts on tourism operators after Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, which is why we launched our Mates Rates campaign to help support our local businesses. This was also to help with the cost-of-living crisis. The campaign offered a 50 per cent discount off Townsville tourism experiences to help support that recovery. I have to tell you, it went off like a frog in a sock. It sold out within three days. I would like to thank Minister Healy for his exceptional work. He is not only a great tourism minister but also an outstanding local member. That is what we heard when we were in Cairns last week. He will be there for many terms to come.


I want to say thank you to the people of Townsville for supporting those local businesses with such enthusiasm. It sold out so fast. This was an excellent outcome for businesses right across the region. With several severe weather events hitting North Queensland recently, we heard from our local businesses loud and clear that they needed our support to bring visitors in the immediate and short term and we acted on that swiftly. We want to see Townsville grow and become more vibrant, which is why it is so important that we continue to support our tourism operators. This government's investment in infrastructure, like the Queensland Country Bank Stadium, which brings major events like Pink in two weeks time, along with works to build connecting boardwalks helps to activate our city centre and, in turn, our local businesses.

We are also supporting bringing supercars and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music to Townsville, because we know that it has a huge impact on our accommodation and our hospitality businesses, as well as our CBD businesses. We have done our part to rejuvenate the CBD and we will continue to invest in Townsville. What I want to know ahead of the local government elections is what Townsville City Council is doing to activate our city centre? It is not good enough that buildings have been left in a dilapidated or poor state of affairs. This has gone on for far too long and a new council—regardless of who is elected—needs to outline what it will do to help bring life back into our city.

I know they have tried in the past, but it is not good enough. My office has received direct feedback from people about the state of our CBD. As a government we are working with the Port of Townsville to bring in more cruise ships and passengers. It is embarrassing when those visitors walk

through the city that they see parts of our city in such a poor state and see vacant shops outnumber occupied spaces and our pavements stained and dirty. There are fantastic parts of our CBD and amazing businesses around these parts as well. I am calling on council candidates to outline what they will do to help activate our CBD.

Business Regulation


 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.49 pm): The cost of running a business here in Queensland has skyrocketed. There are soaring costs in electricity, rent, fuel, interest rates, utilities, gas, wages and insurance. Over and above all of that, there are the costs to small business owners from an extraordinary ratcheting up of government interference and mounting levels of red and green tape and punitive new laws and regulations imposed on business owners, most of whom have been treading water for the last few years.

According to the report from the Business Chamber Queensland, the amount of red tape and regulation strangling businesses in Queensland has doubled over the past two years. Last year the Business Chamber Queensland reported that the median regulatory compliance cost on business jumped from \$25,000 in 2021 to \$50,000 in 2023—double. Business Chamber Queensland also found that one in three businesses have been forced to hire staff specifically to manage their regulatory compliance. BCQ estimated total regulatory compliance cost to Queensland businesses to be a whopping \$11 billion. That is without even factoring in all the billions of taxpayers' money that government is spending to administer the mountain of new rules and regulations it has introduced.

All that this regulatory burden has managed to do in Queensland over the past eight years is add to the cost of hiring workers; reduce competitiveness; increase the price of products and services in Queensland; distort rational resource allocation; destroy efficiency and productivity growth; and drive all of our good jobs, businesses and large chunks of the economy offshore. All over Queensland, individual communities and businesses are drowning in a sea of legislation, forms, reports, licences, permits, rules, more regulations, guidelines and policy directives. Queensland's unchecked regulatory environment has become a self-perpetuating machine with a bureaucracy captured by special interest groups and multinationals that are the true beneficiaries of these regulations. The sheer volume of legislation and delegated legislation alone has become mind-boggling. Most of it is incomprehensible to ordinary Queenslanders.

Here in Queensland, farmers have been the No. 1 target of regulation. According to a 2022 report by the Institute of Public Affairs, since 2000 environmental bureaucratic spending in Queensland has increased over 550 per cent. That is outrageous and it is why I am calling on the Queensland government to set up an office of regulation review with the power to audit all regulatory impact statements for all new bills and delegated legislation. Any regulation which fails to provide a cost-benefit analysis or regulatory budget should then be sent back to parliament or the relevant minister to be reconsidered.

Leader of the Opposition

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.52 pm): Hasn't the wind disappeared from the opposition's sails over the last month including during this week? It has been a lacklustre week from a weak leader, the member for Broadwater. What did we see during Women's Week? We saw the member for Coomera invading the privacy of a woman member of parliament, and what did the Leader of the Opposition do when—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I want to take some advice. Member, you have referred to a matter that is currently before the Ethics Committee. I would ask you to withdraw that. As a general warning to all members, if anybody else refers to a matter before the Ethics Committee while I am in the chair, I will be issuing an automatic warning.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to withdraw and I certainly apologise. What we saw from the opposition leader was no mettle, no leadership and no action whatsoever. We see the Sunshine Coast direct line with \$4.3 billion in commitments from this government and the federal Labor government after zero dollars were committed by the coalition governments over nine years. They left the Sunshine Coast behind. What do we see under Labor? We see a huge commitment to make that line happen. The opposition leader went out and promised the whole line, except he forgot one thing. The weak leader forgot only one thing: to lock in his own party.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Chatsworth. Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr BAILEY: He forgot to lock in Peter Dutton. There we have it: the federal LNP do not support the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to his commitment. It blew up in his face. He is a weak leader who cannot even get his own party to support him on his announcements. It is the same populist nonsense we saw under Campbell Newman, who we know he said was special.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Callide is warned.

Mr BAILEY: Today we debated the health bill, which deals with—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Gregory is warned.

Mr BAILEY:—midwife-to-patient ratios and increasing access to choice for regional, rural and remote women, and the LNP will vote against it. They say they are for the regions, but the Leader of the Opposition is leading them into voting against that. I will be interested to see how the members for Chatsworth and Clayfield vote on a bill that is about choice. It is about choice. Will they vote with their conscience or with their party?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member for Miller, you are very close to anticipating a debate. I would ask you to move on in your contribution.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly. I am happy to do so. The list of debacles of the opposition is long. We see the debacle of the opposition preferencing One Nation—


Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 2.56 pm.

Mr BAILEY: We see the Leader of the Opposition preferencing One Nation, a party known for racism, and supporting a candidate who has been exposed on Channel 9 as not living at the address he claims to be. We see this sort of dodgy behaviour. What we see from the Leader of the Opposition is no policy, no costings, no strategy, no revenue planning and no management of the opposition team. What we see is a weak leader. I can tell honourable members one thing: Queenslanders never vote for a weak leader. They can smell them a mile off, and they are working out the Leader of the Opposition—and don't they know it?

Emergency Services, Resources

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.57 pm): 'The economic costs outweigh the measured economic benefits.' Those are the words from Building Queensland's Public Safety Regional Radio Communications Project detailed business case from 2017. As Queenslanders learned in today's *Courier-Mail*, our emergency services in regional areas are operating in a black hole due to a lack of infrastructure, a lack of equipment and a lack of maintenance. Twice a business case for upgrading these systems was presented to the former minister and twice they were denied. That was the same minister who stood by while volunteer numbers plummeted, the same minister who did nothing while Rural Fire Service vehicles were ordered off the road due to safety concerns and the same minister who failed to fit safety equipment to Rural Fire Service vehicles that are standard in other states. I honestly never thought that a senior minister or a government in Queensland would put economic benefits ahead of the safety of emergency services workers and volunteers.


The business case from 2017 lists what the project would achieve, and it is two of those criteria that are of specific importance. Firstly, it mentioned a more resilient and available system to deliver mission critical communications. When Queenslanders and their property are under threat, reliable communication is essential—a fact that has been repeated time after time in reviews of major emergencies or incidents. The second and perhaps even more important outcome from the proposed project was duress alerting for officer and community safety.

This is a government that promised to keep Queenslanders safe, but when it comes to emergency services workers and volunteers nothing could be the further from the truth. As reported in the *Courier-Mail*, the most recent business case notes that the current system impacts operational safety, reduces the effectiveness of QFES and hinders its ability to protect and serve the community. This morning the former minister—the person who twice denied the upgrade project—stood up in this

place and spoke about this government's supposedly proud record in resourcing emergency services. In comparison, a whistleblower said that the government has buried the significant danger facing personnel and went on to outline that under this government those personnel cannot even access backup batteries or replacement parts for their radios. I will leave it to Queenslanders to decide who is right: a person who responds in a time of need—a frontline emergency services worker—or a government with a track record of failing to deliver for emergency services personnel and volunteers.

Our emergency services personnel and volunteers deserve better. They are being put in danger based on economic benefits. These are the men and women who answer our calls for help. These are the men and women who save the lives of Queenslanders. Today the minister needs to front up to the Treasurer and demand that this project be funded as a matter of urgency.

Local Government Elections, Deagon Ward

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.00 pm): As members would be aware, voting has commenced for the 2024 local government elections. In Brisbane city electors face the prospect of more of a 20-year-old LNP administration that is clearly out of touch, taking residents for granted and especially failing the outer suburbs. This cannot be any more clearly demonstrated than by Team Schrinner's selection of its candidate for my local Deagon Ward. The endorsement of Brock Alexander as a candidate for public office makes the arrogance of this so-called Team Schrinner crystal clear, but it is the demonstration of how out of touch it is that has shocked members of my local community—not just local political activists who have been aware of Mr Alexander's extreme behaviour for some time but local small businesses that have been subjected to harassment for some time or indeed the users of social media who have seen his racist abuse, his denigration of our hardworking local police and most reprehensively of all his comments blaming the Morcombe family for their son's death. Or maybe, if you were running a vetting process for BCC candidates, you would just look at the issues at hand and then Team Schrinner would have found his petition to ban morning bin collection where Mr Alexander called the Brisbane City Council 'the worst government body in Australia'.

One would think that these insights might have raised enough red flags—maybe enough to conduct that high-level forensic process called a Google search, and that is where the court appearances turn up. I will not refer to the most recent matters, but Mr Alexander has also told media of his full criminal history including convictions for fraud and break and enter. This is an endorsement that came when these issues were known. Listening to locals, checking issues raised with the council or googling it might have caused the taking of some care to ask some more questions before it got anywhere near endorsing a candidate for public office, but, no, not when Team Schrinner is dealing with Brisbane's outer suburbs: it just does not care.


Surely when the mayor got his photos taken with Mr Alexander on the historic Shorncliffe Pier no less one would have thought that there might have been some more questions. Perhaps the teardrop tattoo—admittedly, covered up by pancake make-up—might have been worth a bit of extra analysis or some direct questions, but, no, the shots were taken and he headed back into town to oversee some more spending on vanity projects rather than the basic services our community needs. That is why the choice is very easy. The choice is to support Tracey Price for Lord Mayor and Jared Cassidy in the Deagon Ward.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for private members' statements has expired.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Amendment Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to provide further clarification of my ruling regarding the member for Toowoomba South's amendment regarding the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee order of appointment this morning. It is important to do this because at the time and during the debate itself sometimes it is not possible to give the fullest explanation as to my rationale and reasoning.


Firstly, amendments must be legible and intelligible. The first part of the amendment contained argument without any indication it was omitting words or inserting words before it and then stated it sought to insert words. It was not legible or intelligible on this basis. This is contrary to standing order 91. Secondly, the insertion indicated that additional terms of reference be inserted not with other terms of reference but after the powers and membership of the committee.

Thirdly, the amendment must be relevant to the question proposed to be amended. The motion sought to appoint the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee. The amendment, in addition to the argument referred to above, then sought to insert terms of reference that went well beyond the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee appointment and attempted to go to wider issues, including cost of living, water security and other issues. It was beyond the scope of the original motion.

Lastly, I note that normally this amendment would have contravened standing order 87 because of its similarity to last night's motion. However, standing order 87 had been suspended this morning for government motions. I hope that provides further clarity for the House.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.05 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has reported that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report on both the Victims' Commissioner and Sexual Violence Review Board Bill and the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 19 April 2024 and the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee report on the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 19 April 2024. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's Report 10: 2023-24—*Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2023* be referred to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee. In addition, the committee supported a request from the Community Support and Services Committee to extend the report-back date for its inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland to 7 June 2024.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Reporting Date


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.06 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the date for the Community Support and Services Committee to report to the Legislative Assembly on the inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland be extended from 22 March to 7 June 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.06 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 19 March 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

Absence of Member

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.07 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House:

1. notes the statement from Mr Speaker on Tuesday that the member for South Brisbane has been and will be absent from the sittings of the House from 12 February to early April 2024;
2. in accordance with standing order 263B, grants the member for South Brisbane a leave of absence from attending sittings and committee proceedings until 31 May 2024; and
3. notes that the timeframe in 2. was derived in consultation with the member for Maiwar on behalf of the member for South Brisbane.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (3.08 pm): I just wanted to take the opportunity, acknowledging that this is a very procedural motion, at the invitation of the Leader of the House to offer a few comments and a bit of an update on behalf of the member for South Brisbane. First of all, I want to express my gratitude to everyone. Essentially, all of the members here and staff across the precinct have approached me and sought to find out how Amy is faring. I appreciate your concern and I have passed those well wishes on to Amy and I know that she is grateful for everyone's kind words.

By way of update, she is recovering well. She is certainly much improved over the last couple of weeks. She will of course be having ongoing treatment, particularly lots of physio and occupational therapy, in the coming weeks. That said, everyone is very confident that she will make a full recovery but it is likely to take some time yet. I had the chance to visit Amy on the weekend just past after she had returned home from hospital and I can only say that it was a huge relief to see her up and about and smiling and so completely herself. Any one of us here who has seen the footage of the crash knows what a hell of an incident it was. It was quite extraordinary. We are really lucky it did not turn out far worse is all I will say about that. Amy, as I am sure everyone here knows, is an incredibly hardworking local member and she is absolutely dying to get back to the job and get back to her community, but I do want to say that I am very grateful to the government and opposition for their agreement in extending whatever time she requires to recoup properly.

The date that is mentioned in the motion is something of a best guess. Obviously we would like to see her back here as soon as possible, but we do not want there to be any undue pressure to draw her away from a full recovery. I did consult with the member for South Brisbane about when she expected to be back and that is where we landed.

She did also ask me to add in a little shout-out to the people of South Brisbane and to thank them for their patience while she is out of action. She also wanted me to expressly thank the paramedics and the staff at the PA Hospital, to thank everyone who is offering her ongoing health care and support and to make a note of how important it is that we all have access to well-funded and staffed public health care.

On a personal note, can I say how unfortunate it has been to be reminded of how lonely it can be working here by yourself. I have missed Amy's friendship and camaraderie over the last few weeks. She always brings an incredibly incisive take on the work that we do here and reflects on and questions a lot of the conventions in this place in a way that I think very few people do. I will share one small anecdote to this effect. During perhaps the first condolence motion that was conducted after she was elected, she was not sure what was going on. She leaned over to me and said in a very deadpan, almost wry fashion, 'If they ever have to do one of these for me, just tell everyone to shut up and get on with the work.' It is sobering that any of us could even have to contemplate the possibility of that eventuating. Again I thank everyone for their thoughts and well wishes and, in the spirit of Amy's wry comment, I will shut up and let us get on with the work.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maiwar. I am sure I speak on behalf of the House when I say that we all wish the member for South Brisbane a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her back here in the chamber.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Palaszczyk, Hon. A




Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (3.12 pm): I move—

That this House acknowledges the contributions of the 39th Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczyk, during her public service to the people of Queensland since being elected as the member for Inala in 2006.

By any measure, Anastacia Palaszczyk made an indelible mark on Queensland as premier. In her time as member for Inala, opposition leader and premier, Anastacia broke the glass ceiling time and time again. She was a fierce defender of our state, was ruthless in fighting for Queensland's fair share and worked hard every day to make the lives of Queenslanders better. She was the first woman to ever win government from opposition and the first woman to win a third successive term. Anastacia went on to become this state's longest serving female premier and in that time achieved many great things. She pioneered some of our most ambitious policies—policies my government will build upon, like the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. The momentum kickstarted by this ambitious plan has


secured millions in renewable investment in Queensland and created a pipeline of good, secure jobs for generations. It was her experience with endometriosis, IVF and miscarriage that drove the creation of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that we launched this week.

Annastacia will be remembered for her dedication to Queensland, for saving lives during the pandemic and for bringing the state's economy back from the brink of recession in her first term. To Labor she will be the hero who got rid of Campbell Newman and brought the party back from near annihilation. I thank her for her service to the people of this state and wish her all the best for the future.


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.13 pm): I know that the Premier has memory lapses and issues with recollection, but my recollection of the legacy of Annastacia Palaszczuk is very different from his recollection. He could not even spend two minutes speaking about Annastacia Palaszczuk's time in this House. Let's look at the issues. The first thing the Palaszczuk government did in 2015-16 was water down the youth justice laws in Queensland. The very first bill introduced under Attorney-General D'Ath was to water down the youth justice laws. We saw no ministerial accountability and no responsibility. The Westminster convention of ministerial accountability was thrown out the door under Annastacia Palaszczuk. The same people are still there making the same mistakes.

The Premier just said that he will build on the legacy of Annastacia Palaszczuk. What legacy? Wellcamp: a \$220 million blowout? Every project they have touched has blown out. The Gabba knockdown: \$1 billion, then \$2.7 billion without a business case? Secret business cases? They are not even releasing the Sunshine Coast rail line business case. Queensland taxpayers paid for it. That is the legacy of the Labor government, that is the legacy of Annastacia Palaszczuk and that will be the legacy of Premier Miles. Why? Because Premier Miles learned everything he knows from Annastacia Palaszczuk.

The Premier mentioned COVID. I remember that during COVID all the former premier did was walk red carpets and give special deals to sports stars and celebrities. The former premier had checked out. This Labor government has checked out. This Labor government under Premier Miles is still walking the red carpet. There is arrogance and hubris in every single Labor member in this House. The housing crisis, the youth crime crisis, the health crisis and the cost-of-living crisis are all born out of the Labor government that has been in power now for nine years and for 30 out of the last 35 years. Nothing will change until Queenslanders boot this Labor government in October this year.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.16 pm): I acknowledge the service of a long-term premier. Like many others on the government side, I did send the former premier a text message and I did thank her for her service. She did come back to me quite quickly and acknowledged it. She possibly did that because half of those on the other side would not have shown her that same courtesy. It is extremely interesting to note, in Women's Week, where the support is. We do not even hear the words 'Annastacia Palaszczuk' coming out of the mouths of Labor ministers or members anymore. It is like she has been whitewashed from history. Let's remember Anna Bligh, who is the reason I am in here on this side of the House. That is how the Labor Party treat their former premiers. They are whitewashed from history.


I would say the same for Inala. Yesterday the amazing LNP candidate for Inala, Trang Yen, was handing out how-to-vote cards in Inala. Do members know what the new ALP candidate for Inala has been saying to potential voters? She has been saying, 'Vote for brains, not beauty.' I can tell members that the Inala LNP candidate, Trang Yen, has both. She certainly has brains. She is standing up for the Inala community. She is looking out for the Inala community. I cannot wait to see what happens there. That community deserves decent representation and people who are prepared to actually stand up, not sitting in their chair and missing their jump.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.18 pm): I am proud to rise in the House this afternoon to support this motion. History shows that Queensland is a much better place because Annastacia Palaszczuk made the decision to run for the state seat of Inala in 2006. In 2012 it was to the great benefit of Queensland and our Labor movement that Annastacia Palaszczuk became the leader of the state parliamentary Labor Party. The 2015 election was historic: the first time in any state a woman had led a party from opposition into government. Annastacia delivered the biggest turnaround for a political party that anyone had ever seen. In that election Annastacia demonstrated a unique connection with Queenslanders. It was a connection that the people of Queensland craved in 2015.

There were many achievements of that government. Rebuilding frontline services was our focus in health, police and education. Anastacia Palaszczuk also set forward an economic vision: the industry road maps that will provide the jobs for the future for years to come—in defence, in aerospace, in manufacturing, in the bio economy, in clean renewable energy and in so many other areas. As Treasurer, the premier supported me to implement progressive coal royalties, which now fund electricity rebates, free kindy and so many other initiatives and projects.

I think the premier's greatest achievement was her determination against deep opposition to keep Queensland safe from COVID. During the pandemic, Anastacia made the tough decisions. She made the right decisions. She made the right decisions for Queensland: closing the border to keep the virus out, then implementing tough lockdowns to extinguish the virus. All of those decisions, as difficult as they were, have proven to be exactly the right approach and have delivered a great reward for our state, saving lives and livelihoods. I commend the former premier and thank her most sincerely for her service to our state, for her leadership, and I wish her all the very best for the next chapter of her life.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Member for Buderim, I ask that we have some decorum instead of members being in some sort of jumping competition.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.20 pm): I rise to speak to the motion acknowledging former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's service in the parliament to the people of Queensland. Anastacia Palaszczuk served in this place for an extended period and that should be acknowledged. Today, I would like to focus on the legacy that has Queensland ranked as the worst performing state in the nation; a legacy of the highest unemployment of any state in the nation; a legacy of record ambulance ramping, which is the worst in the nation; a legacy of weaker youth justice laws, fewer police and skyrocketing youth crime; and a legacy where far too many Queenslanders are sleeping rough or living in tents because they cannot keep a roof over their heads.

We have had nine years of Labor inaction, mismanagement and failure. She is the only premier found to have been in contempt of parliament. Who was by her side the whole time? Her apprentice, Premier Steven Miles. Her apprentice, Premier Steven Miles, has decided to follow the same old tired path of mistruths, avoiding responsibility and announcement without action. Let us be clear: this government is the same millstone around Queensland's neck that was dragging down the state in November. The mouthpiece may have changed but it is the same faces around the decision-making table so Queenslanders can expect more chaos and crisis. Let us acknowledge the contribution of someone who did serve in this parliament for a long time, but let us not seek to rewrite history.

It is illustrative to look at who is on the speaking list. The member for Miller: the protection racket to protect an incompetent minister in the form of the member for Miller—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Aside from it being a tasteless contribution, I find it personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: We just need the second part, thank you, member for Miller. The member has found that personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Who else is on the speaking list? The member for Caloundra! What did the Premier deliver for the Sunshine Coast? We have cuts to the Mooloolah River Interchange. What has happened with the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line? Nothing! I think that was announced in 2018 and still not a single rail line has been laid on that project. That is the legacy of the former premier and that is the legacy of this Labor government. What of unlawful use of a motor vehicle on the Sunshine Coast under the former premier's watch? It is up 115 per cent! The police beat in my electorate has closed. That is the record of Anastacia Palaszczuk. That is the record of this Labor government.


Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders deserve a government that will fight for all Queenslanders and not just sandbag Labor seats in the run-up to an election. Let us acknowledge the former premier's contribution but let us not try to pretend it was something other than what it was. Queensland is worse for nine years of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.23 pm): I rise to proudly support the motion moved by the Premier. I am astounded by how low those opposite will sink in times like this. Anastacia Palaszczuk has the honour of being Australia's most successful female political leader. She was first elected in 2006 and I was absolutely delighted to join her following a by-election in 2007. She loves Queensland and delivering for the people of Queensland was what she worked tirelessly for every single day. None of us in this House are perfect, but, although her legacy has yet to be written, it is truly outstanding by anyone's measure. It was an absolute pleasure to work with her.

Annastacia Palaszczuk is a true friend, a trusted confidant, a strong and inspiring leader and a mentor. She was the first woman to become a state premier from opposition, defeating an absolute majority in this House. She did that in one term through determination, good policy and good leadership. She led our nation's first majority female cabinet. I say that again: our nation's first majority female cabinet. She became the first woman leader in Australia to be re-elected. All of those are outstanding political achievements.


On a personal note, we shared a struggle with fertility due to certain medical reasons. I will never forget when we got the call to adopt our child. I was working in the Keating government. The first person I bumped into was Annastacia Palaszczuk. I will never forget the care, support and love she poured onto me. Aly turns 30 in October.

Annastacia passed legislation to decriminalise termination of pregnancy. The list I have in front of me! She kept us safe during COVID. We won the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are investing in infrastructure. We built new schools and air-conditioned them. I wish her all the best. There is not enough time to pour my love and express the thanks I have for her.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.25 pm): I do wish the former premier well in her new life and hope that she finds fulfilment post politics in whatever she does. I used to spar quite a bit with the former premier. For me, it is not about being personal; it is about the issues. Unfortunately, I do need to address some of the legacy issues that are less than glowing in contrast to what government members opposite have been stating.


One thing about the Labor Party is that they are very good campaigners but they are a terrible government. We now see the legacy of nine years of this Labor government, which is a legacy of crises such as the youth crime crisis and the housing crisis. I have never seen so many people living in tents. They are desperate for housing. That has happened under this government's watch and due to their inaction. Unfortunately, it is a hallmark of the style of government we had under Annastacia Palaszczuk and her deputy premier, Steven Miles. They failed to act in a timely way and now there is an absolute crisis. The same can be said of the youth crime crisis. It has grown because they changed the Youth Justice Act. That was changed under Annastacia Palaszczuk and all of the Labor members opposite. Unfortunately, the crisis that has grown through their deliberate action—not inaction but deliberate action—has been felt quite painfully throughout Queensland.

A lot has been said about COVID. It was a challenging time for many. Unfortunately, there was a failure to listen when medical circumstances justified bringing babies and pregnant mums from New South Wales into Queensland for emergency surgery. There was a failure to do that. Annastacia Palaszczuk said that Queensland hospitals were for Queenslanders. As a result of that delay, a baby was lost. That was not good government. That was a failure to listen and address a critical issue of care.

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (3.27 pm): If, in 2012, someone had written a movie script about the future career of the former premier and member for Inala, the film would never have been made because it would have been scarcely believable. In our state's history, few premiers have retired undefeated. Annastacia Palaszczuk is one of a rare breed of people who is in that category. There is a reason for that.

I have known the former premier for more than 30 years. I do not think it was too much of a surprise for people on this side to see her become a senior leader and a minister. However, to go from seven seats to win power, and to win three elections and 48 seats in a career is an extraordinary achievement. In terms of actual outcomes, her leadership during the COVID pandemic saved thousands of lives in this state. I have no doubt whatsoever about that. Cometh the moment, cometh the leader.

I was thinking about how I would describe Annastacia Palaszczuk: dignity, tenacity, compassion, commitment, trailblazer and gets the big calls right. She had the strength to defend the health of Queenslanders when it was under assault from others. I will not get political here, but her strength saved a lot of lives in this state and a lot of people in this state know it. I want to pay tribute to her because a lot of people are getting around now who would not be here without her. There are a lot of issues and achievements that I could go through and they have been well covered by others. Many were in the portfolio of which I was minister. But her singular greatest achievement is that when lives were on the line she was there for people. She should forever be proud of that. We should all be proud of her for that because it took real leadership. She is a real leader.


 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to address the motion. From the outset, I take the opportunity to acknowledge not only the nine years of service by Annastacia Palaszczuk as premier of Queensland but also her service as the state member for Inala, in various ministerial capacities and, as has been acknowledged, through the tough times of the COVID pandemic. We know that many difficult decisions had to be made throughout that time.


What I find extraordinary about this debate today is the lack of loyalty. People are standing up and professing their loyalty, when she was cut down as a democratically elected premier and discarded. There are many people opposite in this House who owe their political careers to that. The hypocrisy of those members, some of whom are on the front bench! We do not even have a full contingent of Miles government ministers here to listen to this motion. The hypocrisy and lack of loyalty is extraordinary—putting their arm around and sliding the knife into her back. Not only Labor members but also the unions discard people when they are not seen as politically beneficial, despite the fact she won three elections for the Labor Party.

Then there are all of the failures under the Palaszczuk state Labor government: with respect to health, the youth crime crisis, what is happening in education with the failure to achieve any proper outcomes across the state and the cost-of-living crisis which is burning right across Queensland. We should be acknowledging Annastacia Palaszczuk individually, but we have to call out the hypocrisy of those opposite who were responsible for tearing her down, getting rid of her in the dead of night within that last sitting parliamentary week and then getting the union people together. Members opposite—the members for Woodridge, McConnel, Murrumba or Waterford—all conspired against her. That was a disgrace.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, I ask you to withdraw some unparliamentary language.

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (3.31 pm): As I reflected in my first I speech, I did not always call Annastacia 'Premier'. I knew her for many years as the member for Inala and as a minister and, of course, I worked very closely with her in those opposition years. I sat in the corner on the far side of the chamber for many years and saw firsthand the atrocities of the Newman government. I want to reflect on the enormous work that Annastacia and her team put in. I think the entire Labor opposition occupied the seats to the right of the seat currently occupied by the member for Surfers Paradise. The attack she was under in those years was phenomenal. I think she deserves all the respect for that. The late, great Tim Mulherin said in the first sitting week something to the effect of, 'Stacia, by the end of this we'll have skins like rhinos.' I think he was only half right. I think by the end of it we all had skins like rhinos. Annastacia had skin like a rhino but became the first woman to be elected from opposition, the first to be re-elected and elected again for a third time. She will go down in history for that. My presence in the place should be a reminder to those opposite of how low they have gone in the view of the Queensland public. I went from the corner opposite, with seven members, to standing here in my own right in a Miles government. That is due to Annastacia's hard work and the loyalty we have for her.


 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.33 pm): While I think we can acknowledge that Annastacia Palaszczuk was the longest serving female premier and acknowledge her individually, I cannot sit here and let those opposite rewrite history when it comes to the youth crime crisis. I will outline Annastacia Palaszczuk's legacy on youth crime. In 2015 the Palaszczuk government, with Premier Miles as a senior cabinet minister, proudly started the process of watering down our youth justice laws. They made detention a last resort, abolished breach of bail and abolished early intervention bush camps. In 2016 the Palaszczuk government, with Premier Miles as a senior cabinet minister, closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families.

In 2019 the Palaszczuk government, with Premier Miles as a senior cabinet minister, further watered down our bail laws so more youth offenders could get bail and be back in the community rather than remanded in custody. In 2021 the Palaszczuk government, with Premier Miles as the deputy premier, following the tragic deaths of Matthew and Kate and their unborn son Miles at the hands of youth criminals on bail, backtracked on allowing electronic monitoring devices to be a condition of bail. They also voted against the LNP laws which would have undone the harm they did when they watered down the Bail Act and watered down our laws. They could have made breach of bail an offence back then but they did not.

In 2023 the Palaszczuk government, now with Premier Miles as the deputy premier, following yet another tragic death, finally made breach of bail an offence, copying the LNP's amendment word for word. Sadly, this is the Palaszczuk government's legacy on youth crime. Sadly, over the nine years of

the Palaszczuk government we saw 16 people lose their lives to youth crime. Premier Miles sat at the helm with Anastacia Palaszczuk the whole time. I will not let members opposite rewrite history on youth crime.


(Time expired)

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (3.35 pm): It is a great honour to speak to this motion. I wish I had an hour to talk about all of Anastacia Palaszczuk's achievements—

Ms Grace: It still wouldn't be enough.


Ms FARMER: I take that interjection; it still would not be enough. In this week—Women's Week—I would like to particularly reflect on the enormous leadership of Anastacia Palaszczuk in encouraging the women and girls of Queensland to be whoever they wanted to be. All of us who knew her well heard her say countless times, 'You can't be what you can't see.' She was so conscious of her role as a female premier—so conscious that women and girls all across Queensland were looking at her thinking that if she as a woman could be a leader then they could be as well. She has completely changed the perspective of this generation and all future generations—and permanently—because she has shown them that you can be whatever you want to be.

She pushed for boards having 50 per cent women. When organisations would say, 'Well, we just couldn't find a woman,' she would say, 'I'll find one for you.' She just insisted. We got 50 per cent and higher. She knew that if there were women around the decision-making table on government boards then there would be better decisions. She insisted on 50 per cent women in cabinet. She was constantly encouraging women to run for parliament. She appointed a female chief justice. There was a female police commissioner. She would meet young women wherever she went and say, 'You reach for the stars because you can be whoever you want to be.' They would walk away with their shoulders back, knowing that they could. I thank her for that.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.37 pm): A bit like the member for Currumbin, I stand here gobsmacked at how those opposite try to rewrite history. In the former member for Inala, we are talking about someone who sat around the cabinet table under the Bligh government and sold Queensland's assets, including Forestry Plantations Queensland in my electorate, and who sat around the cabinet table under the Bligh Labor government as the minister for transport in starting the process that saw Downer excluded from any contract to be awarded around the manufacturing of trains. How they try to rewrite history!

As the member for Currumbin clearly spelled out, the crime crisis we currently face began under her watch because of changes made to the Youth Justice Act in 2015 and 2016. It was under the former member for Inala's watch as premier that we had police leaving in droves—far faster than any government can recruit new police officers.

As premier she allowed the now Premier, the then health minister, to start the decline of the health system—a health system rebuilt by Lawrence Springborg, the former member for Southern Downs. It was trashed within nine years and has gone beyond anything that Bligh would call a basket case, with ambulance ramping the way it is. The former premier did not oversee the now Premier as minister for state development and planning in terms of the lack of development and housing that has created the housing crisis. I am sorry: I cannot look at her track record and commend it to this House.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (3.39 pm): There are a few moments in people's lives when you get a glimpse of their true character. Being a member of parliament is a tough role. It is tough on families and tough on members individually. I think there are moments when we should rise to the occasion and acknowledge someone's contribution and their service and their dedication. There are moments when you see people's true character, and we have seen some of those today.


Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Buderim, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: I want to speak about someone who is an outstanding citizen, someone who has contributed to Queensland and someone who is a giant of the Australian Labor Party. History will be very kind to Anastacia Palaszczuk. She will be seen as someone who is a giant of the Labor movement, a trailblazer in every respect and the type of person we were fortunate to have when a


global pandemic hit. She made the tough decisions. She kept us safe and she saved lives. For those who were worried about loved ones, particularly those who have elderly people still in their lives, they were so appreciative that Annastacia was strong for us. She ensured that we were kept safe.

She rose to the occasion. She always rose to the occasion. She sought the best advice. She made the important decisions. It was an extraordinary step which meant that we led the world when it came to our response to the global pandemic. She did this on many occasions, whether it was natural disasters or when there were challenges in the community. She was there because she loved Queensland. She took her role seriously. We are a better state because of her.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise to address the motion acknowledging former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's service to the parliament and to her electorate in Queensland for an extended period. Local governments in Queensland are not celebrating the way the Palaszczuk Labor government has treated them over this time. Labor tried to change the voting laws for local government and introduce compulsory preferential voting for the 2024 local government elections only to be forced to fall on their sword. Also deserving of mention is how mayors and councillors were sacked by press release before the legislation was in place.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's failures resulted in the PCCC report into the Logan City Council matter. It took the PCCC to expose the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure of impartiality, independence, fairness and regard to the public interest when it came to the conduct of the Crime and Corruption Commission in this matter. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government the following mayors were brought before the court by the CCC and then cleared or charges dropped: Alf Lacey, Andrew Antonelli, Edric Walden, Allan Sutherland, Bob Manning and Adrian Raedel, to name a few.


The Palaszczuk Labor government pursued a climate of fear in local government with an overzealous Office of the Independent Assessor complaint system and a broken integrity system that has cost ratepayers dearly, where mayors and councillors faced investigations for blocking a Facebook troll or lending out keys to the town hall. Mayor Sean Dillon, the LNP candidate for Gregory, was threatened with termination of office when he spoke out about a desire for COVID-19 vaccinations to be handled better. Sadly, Queensland local governments will not forget the legacy which has been left to them by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise proudly to speak to the motion today about our former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who was many things to many people. To all of Queensland and to all of Australia she was the first woman to be elected three times. I know that many women on our side of the House probably would not be in this place without her support and encouragement.

I want to touch on the work that she did highlighting women's reproductive and menstrual health, which she was a real trailblazer in speaking openly about. Annastacia spoke openly about her endometriosis and her fertility challenges. She also spoke openly about the hurt and the loss and the physical challenge that that caused for her and for her family. Annastacia paved the way by being brave and open for thousands of Queensland women to be able to share their stories and spark change—change that we are going to see in the Women and Girls' Health Strategy.

Other speakers in the House have already observed that you cannot be what you cannot see. Annastacia worked so hard to set an amazing example for all women in Queensland and, indeed, for all women throughout Australia, including for my daughters, Allegra and Elyse, both of whom have known her for a very long time. I am obviously very proud that Elyse has 'Annastacia' as her middle name. It was a decision I made in consultation with the Treasurer's brother. I called my good friend Milton Dick. I said, 'I'm thinking the name will be Elyse Annastacia.' He said, 'If I were a girl, my mother would have called me Elyse, so you'll be naming the baby after me and the Premier of Queensland.' I said, 'I'll take that. I think that is an auspicious name.' She is a lucky girl to be named after two such wonderful people and an amazing leader.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.45 pm): I have no ill will towards Annastacia Palaszczuk and I wish her well for her future and her retirement. I cannot help but agree with the member for Moggill about the total hypocrisy of those opposite. Let's remember that two weeks before the then premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was eventually shoved out she committed to staying and running again and gave no indication whatsoever that she was going to go. Then what happened? While she was overseas, while she was representing the state somewhere else, they plotted against her. The now Premier, the then deputy—the 'loyal' deputy—was plotting with his very good friend—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I ask you to withdraw some unparliamentary language you have used.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. He was plotting with his good friend 'non-lobbyist' Kate Jones and Blocker over at the Plough Inn.

Mr Krause: The Ship Inn.


Mr MANDER: It was the Ship Inn. I take that interjection. They worked out that it was time for her to go. All these loyal lieutenants—all these members getting up now to wax lyrical about Annastacia Palaszczuk—plotted against her. Whether it was the now Treasurer, the now Premier, the now health minister, they all plotted against her. Why? Why did they do it? Ironically, it was because of the sentiment polling that they had funded with taxpayers' money which said she was on the nose. Whether it was housing, youth crime, health or cost of living, all of those things were contributing to people's confidence in this government's ability to deliver for them plummeting. What did they do? They cut her. They got rid of her as quickly as they could. I am amazed that they have not asked her to come in here today to listen to the tributes. I wonder whether she would have accepted that invitation. Let's not cop this hypocrisy.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (3.47 pm): I am pleased to join with my colleagues in speaking to this motion and in speaking to it in not such a mean-spirited way as we have heard from those opposite. Regardless of your political colours, there are some incredible things that the former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk actually achieved.

Think about the history-making efforts that she put forward. The fact that she was able to overturn a majority LNP government after one term was astounding. Regardless of your political colours, that is an astounding achievement. Mercifully, it was something that many Queenslanders were very happy to see. Think about what Annastacia Palaszczuk did during those unprecedented times of COVID when she took a very strong position—one that she copped a lot of flak and a lot of personal attack for because she stood firm in protecting Queensland, yet it paid dividends. We are seeing it in our economy now. It was because of her strong leadership at that time to keep Queenslanders safe.


I will talk about that leadership. Since 2015, when she became the first woman to win government from opposition, she led a cabinet of which the majority were women. I had the opportunity to be part of that as the first Aboriginal woman to be in cabinet. During that time we saw many things happen: the ending of sandmining on North Stradbroke Island and many other environmental laws, Advance Queensland and arts objectives. So many things happened as a result of her belief in her cabinet, the majority of which were women. I pay tribute to Annastacia Palaszczuk and I wish her all the very best in her retirement.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.49 pm): I would also like to speak on Annastacia Palaszczuk's legacy and leadership. I cannot give all of these accolades to the former premier because most of them happened under four failed health ministers on her watch. The former premier oversaw the Queensland health crisis. Ambulance ramping is the worst in the country. Ambulance ramping sits at 43 per cent across Queensland. In most South-East Queensland hospitals it is 50 per cent or more. It is worth noting that in February 2015 ambulance ramping was 15 per cent. In December 2023 it was 43 per cent.

The premier and her four failed health ministers have overseen the greatest failure in patient safety since the Jayant Patel saga at the Mackay Base Hospital, where dozens and dozens of women were permanently physically and psychologically harmed—some to the point where they will never have children again. This is the same premier who for months refused to launch a royal commission into the forensic lab, despite a deafening chorus of voices highlighting significant failures within the lab. When the commission was finally called, it was revealed that rapists and murderers could be walking free.

With regard to the maternity crisis, Gladstone, Biloela and Cooktown have all been shut this term. Gladstone, a proud regional centre servicing 60,000 people, had its maternity unit shut for nearly a year. Weipa and Chinchilla remain on bypass. Other hospitals like Mareeba, Innisfail, Atherton and Ingham have all suffered from intermittent maternity bypass closures as well.


In the middle of a health crisis, the state government tried to introduce a patient tax. RTI documents revealed that more than 20 people died in just over 12 months while they waited for ambulances. People have died in their loved ones' arms while waiting in their driveways. Patients have died on the ramp. Patients will die at satellite hospitals. Annastacia Palaszczuk has a legacy which is not worth considering.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.51 pm): I am honoured to rise to contribute to the motion moved by the Premier. It was during my time as principal of Glenala State High School that I first met the former member for Inala. From the moment we met, I admired her ability to lead a complex community with grace, dignity and integrity. She was one of the community. She saw the good in its people and she took every avenue available to her to improve people's lives.

The former premier and I shared two things: an intolerance for prejudice against the community and a crusade against low expectations—or, as former president Bush described, the soft bigotry of low expectations. Low expectations allow people in positions of power and privilege to be comfortable with keeping children, families and communities in poverty. High expectations set the challenges that nurture hope and inspire confidence. It is hard to turn a ship against the current of low expectations, but it can be done. There is evidence of many examples in the Inala community where the former premier nurtured hope and inspired confidence.


Many Glenala students live in postcodes that are identified as some of the most disadvantaged in the country. Abhorrently, in January 2011 the popular press chose to single out Glenala as the fifth worst attending school in Queensland, and in 2012 it was flagged for potential closure. Annastacia fought tirelessly to prevent the closure of this school. By the end of 2012, Glenala was recognised as one of the most improved schools in the country. It is now a bustling and thriving school of more than 1,000 students. It is a community of immense pride and hope and one that the former premier continues to be proud of.

So many moments in life irrevocably change a person. The tragic Logan house fire was one such moment. During that time the former premier led her community with dignity and hope. Inala people will never forget her, Inala women and girls will never forget her, and Queensland will not forget her. Thank you, Annastacia.


 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.54 pm): I have always maintained that you need to comment in relation to the position rather than just the person, but I am going to say that I will defend the former premier now that she is in her private life. I do wish her all the very best going forward. I think it is extraordinarily imperfect when the media still wants to comment on what the former premier does now when it comes to disposing of her assets, selling property et cetera. She is now a free citizen and she is entitled to go about doing whatever she chooses to do legally. I will put that on the record.

I will also simply say that in two minutes it is almost impossible to give a fair critique of someone who held the position of premier of the state for nine years. That longevity alone needs to be congratulated. It is also fair to say that to date she has been the only premier found in contempt of parliament. It is also fair to say that she enjoyed incredible popularity during the height of COVID. As she herself said, 'As a leader in the western world, there was no playbook.' That must have been incredibly difficult.


There were also critics and there were at times double standards. I do not have time to go into that, but I think that also contributed to the formation of some people's views of her. She was part of a government that sold around \$10.11 billion worth of assets. She was also the transport minister when public transport fares rose by 15 per cent for three consecutive years. Like any person in this chamber, she undoubtedly had hits; she also had misses. Now that she is a private citizen, I again wish her all the very best. I urge the media to comment on the chamber and to let her get on and enjoy the rest of her life.

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.56 pm): I was honoured to be elected as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2017 and 2020, and I was honoured to serve as the former premier's assistant minister from 2020. The former premier had a genuine love and appreciation for all Queenslanders. This included our current and ex-service personnel, war widows and their families. I saw this firsthand as her assistant minister for veterans' affairs. In 2021, for example, the former premier announced that Queensland would become the first state in the country to formally recognise War Widows Day. At the time I remember joining the spouses of fallen Queensland veterans here at Parliament House who were visibly touched by this recognition. She was also instrumental in establishing the first ever Queensland Veterans' Council.

As many in this House would acknowledge, the former premier was famous for her ability to listen to Queenslanders and her leadership during COVID-19 in particular. She kept us safe, she kept our economy going and she outlasted many—quite a few of whom are on the opposite side of this House. I want to thank the former premier for the opportunity to be her assistant minister and be part of her government from 2017 onwards and for her dedication and commitment to all Queenslanders.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.57 pm): Like previous speakers, I also want to acknowledge and wish the former premier well in retirement. During Women's Week, and tomorrow being International Women's Day, we need to acknowledge that she was the first female premier of Queensland democratically elected from opposition. We cannot let those opposite rewrite history. After a week of being lectured to by the current Premier about respect for women, it was the current Premier, Steven Miles, who undermined our first democratically elected female premier to get the job. In doing so, and mindful of the fact that she was preferred over him by the electors of Queensland, he also railroaded his cabinet colleague and factional ally to get the job from another woman, whom he undermined to get the job. We are not going to let those opposite rewrite history.


There is one inescapable and undeniable truth, one indisputable legacy the former premier has left for Queensland: she oversaw and instigated the crime crisis that is gripping Queensland at the moment. Others have articulated how she overtly and proudly watered down the laws in 2015 and 2016. In December 2023, when the then premier was rolled, Queensland was breaking records across the state across all categories of crime when it came to the number of victims. The figures speak for themselves, and I acknowledge the minister trying to correct the record. In 2012 there were 241,000 victims in Queensland; in 2014 that dropped by 30,000; and in December 2023 there were 342,783 victims across Queensland. That is the legacy of this government, this current Premier and the former premier.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.59 pm): I want to place on record my thanks to Annastacia Palaszczuk and talk about her legacy amongst 100 years of Labor governments in Queensland. I believe the former premier embodied the strong leadership we have seen in all the great Labor premiers of Queensland. On four occasions, there has been a ground-shaking, generation-changing arrival of a Labor government here in Queensland: 1915 with TJ Ryan, 1932 with Forgan Smith, 1989 with Wayne Goss and 2015 with Annastacia Palaszczuk. She stands alongside all these giants.

Each time these Labor premiers ushered in sweeping changes and built a stronger and greater economy in Queensland. Annastacia Palaszczuk brought in a suite of social reforms that stand alongside those of Ryan and Goss—things like rights for LGBTIQ Queenslanders, a woman's right to choose and voluntary assisted dying. She has overseen an era where Labor has come to be recognised as the best economic stewards in this nation, as happened with Forgan Smith.

She launched the clean energy revolution here in Queensland and that will change the economic foundations of our state. We had budget surpluses, low debt and a rock solid infrastructure pipeline under her leadership. Of course her leadership during COVID will be studied for generations. As we said at the time, we are safe because she is strong. Annastacia Palaszczuk will be remembered as an iconic, strong Labor leader, but I will remember the empathy that she brought to the job. You could see her heart swell when she talked to children. She would sit next to me in caucus and ask, 'How are the children?' and she would name them—Guy, Rebecca and Arabella. That is a mark of a person. Thank you, Boss.


(Time expired)

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.01 pm): I rise on behalf of the KAP to give my contribution to this afternoon's motion. I want to acknowledge Premier Palaszczuk's commitment to not only the House but also her time in this place, which was obviously in line with her party's policies, procedures and values. I will give my recollection of my first interaction with the premier, which was on level 7 at a Christmas function in 2017. I was actually having a conversation with the premier and I grabbed this lovely little arancini ball off a plate. It was probably the hottest thing I had ever tasted and I wanted to spit it out after I had put it in my mouth, but out of respect for the premier at the time I did not do that and I paid for that for about the next three days with a sore throat.

Another interaction after that was during a flood in 2018. We were told that the premier was flying to Ingham to come and see the Hinchinbrook Shire Council. When I rang Premier and Cabinet, we were told, 'No, she's not coming,' but then I was told by locals that she was coming. I ended up ringing someone at the LDMG, and they said, 'Nick, they're making little triangle sandwiches with crusts on them right now and I don't think they're for us.' I rang Premier and Cabinet again and they told me again that she was not coming. Anyway, I had a hunch so I jumped in my vehicle and ended up driving through


floodwater to get to Ingham. Lo and behold, as I burst through the council chambers, the Premier was about to start talking to people. She had flown in. I thought that was disappointing during a natural disaster.

The KAP did have some tussles with the former premier. She did try to take our staff off us at one stage and we ended up finding her in contempt of parliament at the time. There was an apology to parliament and both sides accepted that apology. It does go to show what can happen when you want to have an all-out war and fight with the KAP. We did find times where we were able to work with the then premier, but we always push back when we are not being treated fairly.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the motion. I first met Annastacia Palaszczuk when I was a candidate in 2014. I must admit at the time I was quite taken aback by the confidence she had that Labor would win government in the next election with the small number of opposition members. To my surprise, and apparently to many others, she had the team to win in 2015. I was very proud to take my place here in this government in 2017. Having come from some extremely male dominated workplaces, I always find it a bit ironic that it was in politics where I could come into a workplace where women were equally represented and, more importantly, they had a position at the table and were in power.


One thing that I think will be her lasting legacy will be her leadership during the pandemic. It is a once-in-a-century event—touch wood—but I am certainly thankful every day that we had someone like Annastacia Palaszczuk in leadership. For those who are able to continue to whinge about the pandemic and the decisions that were made, I can say that that is a direct side effect of surviving a pandemic—the ability to whinge about what happened during it. Go overseas and you will find many people who know loved ones who did not survive the pandemic.

I would like to comment on her leadership as a person and, as the member for Bancroft said, the empathy that she had. I know that when I needed to I could go and have a conversation with her and I could address many things that I would not probably be able to with many other people. I know she had the empathy and she had the ears and she took what I had to say very importantly and she provided a lot of guidance. Thank you, former premier.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.05 pm): Just before I start, I would like to say to the member for Hinchinbrook that, even if you are premier-chasing, if it is flooded, forget it. That will put you in good stead.

I would like to say thank you, Annastacia Palaszczuk, the 39th Premier of Queensland. Thank you for your leadership when you were in opposition and also in government. You got Queensland back on its feet after the savage cuts from those opposite when the Newman government was in. In January 2015 in my electorate, there was high unemployment, empty homes and businesses had shut down. There was a sense of no hope for the future until the Palaszczuk government began rebuilding. It started with the Vines Creek bridges. The port of Mackay has had record levels of commodities moving in and out because of the new bridges. We had upgrades to the Mackay Hospital, which included a 24/7 heart catheter lab, people no longer having to be flown to Townsville, a dedicated paediatrics ward, upgrades to mental health and much more. We also had the rebuild of the Sarina Hospital and a brand new Moranbah Hospital is under way, and that legacy is being continued by Steven Miles.

She kept us safe during COVID and, just as importantly, she kept our industries around Mackay open. Our sugar industry is going strong and our minerals industry is really strong. So much has been built in my electorate because of Annastacia Palaszczuk. Thank you very much.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.07 pm): Annastacia Palaszczuk would be disappointed but unfortunately not surprised by something in this House today. I guess many do not get us as a movement, as a Labor movement, that we are a family who holds our leaders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: Give us a break here, guys. Show some respect.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I ask that members cease their interjections. The member is clearly not taking interjections.


Mr POWER: We as a movement and a family hold our leaders in a special place. She joins the pantheon of those who will inspire us in dark times. I lost the election in 2012. It was very tough. I felt that deep sense of responsibility, even guilt, that we had broken our movement, that we had hurt Queensland by not being able to provide a progressive, fair voice. I watched as Annastacia stepped up. She apologised for what we got wrong, especially asset sales. She reconnected with people and worked hard—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: Jesus!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr POWER: The boss always said something that struck me when she was talking to many groups, even if it was not strictly relevant. She said that there is dignity in work. Since you were elected, Boss, there are over 500,000 more Queenslanders in work and thousands of other families in better jobs. You gave them that dignity that they could take back to their families and make a contribution to Queensland. I want to say that for my kids COVID will be a defining event of their young lives. Your leadership and your inspiration and also your friendship with them will be an inspiration that they will keep and is enormous. Thank you, Boss. Thank you.


 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate and acknowledge the efforts of our former premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk. I stand in this House because I followed the lead of Anastacia Palaszczuk. I never expected to be in politics, but I saw her leadership during 2020 amongst the bullying going on and I thought, 'This is a leader.' Because of my background in defence and the fire services, she was a leader that I chose. I chose to follow this leader; it was not imposed on me. I thought, 'This is a person of great character and great integrity. This is a person who has Queensland at heart. This is a person I could follow. This is a person I admire.' When I first got into parliament, that all became true because I met Anastacia as a person, as a human being. As good a leader as she is, it is the person she is that defines her. She remembers everything about all of us, all of the people who work with her. She remembers everything about our families. She inquires about everything. It is never about her. It is always about everyone else. It is always about the state. It is always about her colleagues. It has been a great privilege. As I said, it was the first time I have ever had to choose someone to follow. I made the right decision and I stand by that. I am honoured to have served with Anastacia Palaszczuk.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before moving to the next order of business, members, I need to report to the House in relation to Ethics Committee report No. 197. It found a contempt had been committed by a member involving himself in disorderly conduct on the parliamentary precinct. In that instance the offending member, whilst on the precinct, had clapped, waved and displayed signs to a protest. I am reliably informed that this morning the members for Traeger and Hinchinbrook, whilst on the precinct, involved themselves in a protest outside the precinct. I am reliably informed that protest material was displayed by both of these members to the protesters. I have determined that, in accordance with standing order 268(2), I am referring the matter to the Ethics Committee for investigation.

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 569, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.12 pm): I will limit my contribution to the issues associated with clinical reviews, part 6, and health service investigations, part 9, under the Hospital and Health Boards Act. In addition to other reviews that have been carried out, I want to focus on an unresolved issue regarding serious allegations of patient deaths and harm in medical wards 2 and 3 within the Bundaberg Hospital. I have raised these before in this House. I am saying here today that they are not resolved, and debate on this bill gives us an opportunity to reflect on the changes that have been made.

Serious concerns were raised by whistleblowers to Beryl Crosby, patient advocate, about the inappropriate storage and administration of S8 drugs for dementia patients in the Bundaberg Hospital, including allegations that patients had been harmed as a result. In relation to this bill, the inquiry found that changes to nurse-to-patient ratios was a contributing factor. It is important that we reflect on this bill, which will ultimately pass today.

I want to touch on some of the issues in the time I have left. The following points outlined deficiencies and concerns within the investigation and subsequent outcomes of the investigation and review. The review did not examine the complaints during the period when they were made. The investigation did not review every patient on the ward. Seventy-three per cent of ward 2 staff and 61 per cent of ward 3 staff did not feel confident about speaking up—two-thirds of the nursing team. Eight out of 10 people interviewed felt confident. This showed that a disproportionate number of people were interviewed deliberately to distort the findings against the stats. All nurses and AINs should have been interviewed automatically and not voluntarily, and it is known that some staff made phone calls to the hotline but were never called back. The review goes on to say that issues continue.

In conclusion, the investigation and review create more questions than answers. I put on record that we need to do an independent investigation. There is a lack of transparency around who conducted these reports as this information has been redacted. Right-to-information requests have been blocked continually over the nearly four years with regard to this issue. I refer to the application requesting access to records held by the Wide Bay HHS for the original report into medication management. It does need to be made available. It is important that we continue towards a full external and independent investigation into medical wards 2 and 3 at the Bundaberg Hospital for a period of two years with all patient records and charts to be reviewed.

I want to put on record for my constituents, to be fair and transparent, that I will also be voting against the termination-of-pregnancy legislation. With that, I conclude.



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.15 pm): Unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity to speak on the last motion. I probably would have noted that history will not remember most of us in this chamber, either positively or negatively, but it will certainly be very kind to the legacy of former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk.

I would also like to send my condolences to Jim McClelland, a very hard worker for the Souths Logan Rugby League club, on the loss of his father, Douglas McClelland, who was a proud lifetime resident of West End and also served our country honourably during World War II in Papua New Guinea. Without the service of people like Douglas McClelland, we may not be in this chamber today debating these sorts of things in a democratic state. Thank you to Douglas, and condolences to Jim and the family.

I support the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). This bill covers a range of matters, but I will try to confine myself to just two of those. There have been many in this chamber who have seen this as an opportunity to re prosecute the issue of whether abortion should be legal or illegal. That is certainly not what this bill is about. I supported the termination-of-pregnancy legislation because over the two years of work on the health committee I heard credible evidence from multiple sources, mainly health professionals, indicating that if you offer a full range of health services without the threat of criminal sanctions, termination rates would fall, and in fact this is what has happened. When combined with some of the measures in the fabulous Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy released this week, such as the health education in upper primary schools about puberty, menstruation and wellbeing for girls, I believe this trend will continue.

No matter what the weak Leader of the Opposition says about his position on termination of pregnancy, he cannot be trusted. We know this because of the way he treated First Nations people of this state by backflipping on the Path to Treaty. He was strong enough to do a backflip but so weak he could not show any real leadership.

One of the things I noted when we did the various inquiries into termination of pregnancy was that access was as big a barrier as the legal impediments, and that access barrier became particularly high in regional, rural and remote settings. One way you can improve access in those settings is to ensure you are utilising existing health professionals to their full scope of practice. That is really what is at the core of this bill.

I note the concerns raised by the AMAQ, and I note they were listed as part of the statement of reservation. As I say, if we step away from the highly emotive nature of the procedure and note that this is now a procedure that is regulated in a manner similar to other medical procedures, at the core of their concerns is a concern about scope of practice. For as long as I have been involved in health care, scope of practice has been an area of active debate, and rightly so. Generally speaking, these debates occur between professions and relate to levels of skill, knowledge, training and supervision, and of course all reference a genuine concern for patient care.

In the government's inquiry into ways to improve the lives of Queenslanders living with mental health and AOD issues, scope of practice issues were raised quite frequently. I think there are a number of things we need to consider in these debates, and some of those issues have changed over time. Often the arguments put forward made sense in the 1980s but are much less valid now, and I would like to run through some of the things that I think are currently relevant considerations around scope of practice issues. Firstly, patient care must always be at the forefront of any scope of practice consideration. That does not change.

Secondly, I think the baseline education, knowledge and skill set of health professionals across a range of health professions has changed significantly, with much greater levels of education, knowledge and skills now being possessed and shared by a range of health professionals. Multidisciplinary teams are now much more common, with all professions making contributions rather than one being in charge of the whole situation.

Thirdly, the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards have done much to create a lingua franca across professional boundaries. Once upon a time, working in a hospital was like working in a Tower of Babel or worse, as professionals did not really cross those lines to talk to each other. That is no longer the case. As I said, MDTs are more common than not, and we have the lingua franca of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards helping us to talk not only to other health professionals but also across health systems.

Fourth, technology and pedagogical advances have it much easier to train health professionals no matter where they are located. Fifth, we know that there are growing demands for more health professionals. There are many options for addressing these demands; however, ensuring all health professionals are able to operate to a full scope of practice needs to be given full consideration. I believe that there is good evidence to suggest that the increases in scope of practice put forward in this bill will assist in providing better services for women who are seeking a termination of pregnancy.

I note the concerns around escalation pathways. I think it is important to note that whether you are a GP working in a clinic in suburban Brisbane, in a metropolitan or regional hospital or in a remote health clinic, we have extremely well developed systems for escalating concerns and, where required, transferring care to a setting that is better equipped to provide care. This, in fact, happens multiple times in our state every single day. We routinely escalate and relocate patients with very complex health conditions and needs. I see no reason why this cannot be the case in this situation.

I now want to turn to the part of the bill that relates to midwife-to-patient ratios. Speaking as the only nurse in this parliament who voted for safe nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios on International Nurses Day in 2016, I will be supporting these provisions. The peer-reviewed studies demonstrate that nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios save lives. I want to thank my union, the QNNU, for championing this issue. It is another great step forward for the professions of midwifery and nursing and, most importantly, it is a step forward for patient care.

This week, as part of the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy, the government announced the nurse-led walk-in clinics. I acknowledge and thank the minister for that initiative. It is an incredibly great step forward that I know nurses and midwives will be really pleased with, as will the patients. Safe ratios, nurse navigators, the big hospital build and mental health levies are just some examples of the ways in which this government has advanced patient care and supported nurses and midwives.

Sadly, as we know, not all nurses in this parliament voted for safe ratios. The member for Mudgeeraba likes to talk a big game when it comes to nursing, but the reality is: when it comes time to deliver, she is, like her leader, very weak. No doubt the member and the LNP will try to convince the people of Queensland that they support ratios. We know that the member for Hill genuinely supports ratios—I always enjoy listening to his contributions on nursing—but, sadly, the LNP cannot be trusted. They demonstrated what they think of nursing, midwifery and patient care last time they were in office for a mercifully short single term. They sacked so many nurses and midwives. It simply does not matter what you say about ratios, if you are sacking nurses you will not be able to deliver good patient care. Just like they backflipped on the Path to Treaty and turned their back on First Nations people, I will be telling the nurses and midwives in my community that the LNP cannot be trusted to back nurses and midwives, and certainly cannot be trusted to back patient care or ratios.

Through this bill, the Miles government shows it is putting women first, nurses and midwives first and patient care first. I support this bill because, once again, it shows that the Miles government is putting Queenslanders first.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (4.24 pm): I, too, rise to address the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I do so as a member of the former Health and Environment Committee and as someone who was part of that committee while we did the public hearings with both the department and the broader community. I came back towards the end to assist in the finalisation of the report. At this point, I want to acknowledge my good friend the member for Southport and wish him all the best in his recovery. I thank you for the well wishes that have been directed his way by all the members in this chamber. We know that he will be back here as soon as he possibly can because he loves this job.

There is much in this bill that we in the LNP support and that we certainly commend. There are changes to the Hospital and Health Boards Act which—as we have heard—enshrine nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios to include a newborn baby. I take offence at some of the language used by those opposite towards members of the opposition, including in that last contribution from the member for Greenslopes, that suggests somehow we do not support our nurses. How ridiculous. My sister is both a nurse and a midwife. My sister-in-law is a nurse. My good friend the member for Mudgeeraba is a nurse. They work tirelessly to ensure frontline services continue to be provided in a system that has been broken by those opposite. I assure the member for Greenslopes that not all nurses back the ALP—that is for sure.

There are changes around the hospital and health boards when it comes to the quality assurance committees, the clinical review and health service investigations, as well as root cause analyses. There are changes in the Mental Health Act around the operation of the Mental Health Court and there are changes to the Public Health Act 2005 around the Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register. All of the amendments to those pieces of legislation—as the shadow minister outlined—the LNP support, but we have serious reservations around two primary aspects which we will oppose.

The first is around the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 in the Criminal Code and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998.

Clause 22 of the Bill will assert a new section ...

... to allow health practitioners registered in the professions of nursing, midwifery or another prescribed profession to perform a medical termination of pregnancy.

I have my own personal views on this, but it was certainly the aspect most engaging for those who submitted on this bill. Rather than use my words, I will point out the fact that submitters chose to oppose the legal termination of pregnancy, the capability and willingness of registered nursing and midwifery professionals to provide safe end-to-end medical termination-of-pregnancy care, consistency of regulation across Australian jurisdictions and removing the legal requirement for conscientiously objecting health practitioners to refer on.

I think the AMAQ said it best. The committee report states—

AMAQ objects to the proposal to permit registered nurses to provide medical termination of pregnancy.

It went on—

AMAQ stated that the proposal goes far further than Recommendation 20 in the report of the Australian Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee released in May 2023, which sought to improve access to MS-2 Step by 'allowing registered midwives, nurse practitioners and Aboriginal Health Workers to prescribe this medication—including pain relief where indicated.

Note in that recommendation that there is no mention of registered nurses. It continues—

While AMAQ supports expansion of provider authorisation to nurse practitioners and registered midwives, it opposes prescribing by registered nurses, on the basis that the potential for medical complications, the ability to accurately date pregnancies, exclude ectopic pregnancy via scan, and ensure availability of escalation pathways ...

All of those particularly apply in rural and remote settings. Dr Nick Yim said at one of the public hearings—

It is also not safe for registered nurses to administer these medicines outside of a collaborative setting with appropriate clinical oversight. This is likely the reason the Senate committee did not include RNs in its recommendation for extension of authorised MS-2 Step prescribers. For those reasons, AMA Queensland urges the current committee to recommend the Queensland government only make those amendments in the bill that would enact the Australian Senate committee's recommendations.

They also went on to talk about extended practice authorities and say that is pre-empting a number of Commonwealth reviews that are targeted at non-medical practitioner prescribing and said this is 'potentially hasty' and it risks poor implementation as a result.

The other aspect I want to focus on is around changing language in a number of these bills to gender neutral language. I find this incredible in what those opposite have labelled Queensland Women's Week and in the shadow of International Women's Day, but do not take my words for it. The Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, QAIHC, stated—

While QAIHC accepts proposed amendments for inclusive language to acknowledge trans and gender diverse people are well-intentioned, it does not support achieving inclusivity by simply replacing 'woman' with 'person' in legislation.

... However, for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples including trans and non-binary people, part of their cultural identity is linked to sex, gender and stages of life. Babies grow into girls, culturally learn Women's Business, and grow into women, as boys grow into men with Men's Business. This identification as woman or man is fundamental and has strong cultural significance for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Australian College of Midwives stated—

Removing the word 'woman' from abortion legislation may inadvertently overlook the specific needs and vulnerabilities that women face in seeking reproductive healthcare. This may also impact policies, funding, and initiatives aimed at improving access to abortion services for women specifically. Furthermore, gender neutral language dilutes women's needs in health and medical research. This research being the driving proponent informing abortion policy, funding, and initiatives.

Karleen Gribble, the adjunct Associate Professor from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University, said—

I would like to provide comment on the proposal that the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 and Criminal Code Act 1899 and related provisions ... be desexed with 'woman' replaced with 'person.'

... I advocate against this change because:

1. It inappropriately genders the term 'woman' in relation to pregnancy.
2. It makes invisible the fact that all of those who may become pregnant are female.
3. It may contribute to moves to desex the language of women's health more generally, harming the most vulnerable.
4. It is not of benefit to trans and gender diverse people to obscure their sex in health care settings.

One that says it best is Women's Forum Australia. They stated—

Less than two hundred years ago, women and girls were deemed inferior under the law. Suffragettes fought long and hard to secure equality, and now, in Queensland, under the Miles Labor Government, those hard-earned rights continue to be under threat. This Bill sets a dangerous precedent and threatens to further destroy the rights and protections of women and girls in Queensland. Removing the recognition of females from legislation under the guise of 'inclusivity' essentially erases our existence in law. Once women and girls are erased from some pieces of legislation, they will be removed from others.

As well as setting a dangerous precedent, this legislation is deeply disrespectful to women. Only females can bear children, and only women can undergo abortions. Pregnancy and abortion impact women in a way that is unique to female biology. This legislation denies this reality and dehumanises women.

I want to now address the fact that because of the guillotine in the business program that was passed earlier in the week, I am dreadfully concerned that we are not going to be able to spend the time in consideration in detail that we in the opposition—and I know some on the crossbench—would like to spend. With that in mind, and also bearing in mind that there are many people in this chamber who have expressed a concern around particular clauses within this legislation, I take the unusual step of moving the following reasoned amendment—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'withdrawn and redrafted to remove all provisions in Parts 2, 6, 7 and Schedule 1 which should be presented in a separate bill.'

Mrs MULLEN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Does the member need to seek leave to move the reasoned amendment?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I will seek some advice. Carry on, member.

Mr POWELL: In effect, the motion I have just moved asks that those aspects of the bill—parts 2, 6 and 7 and schedule 1—that pertain to termination of pregnancy and the changes around gender-neutral language be taken out of this bill and presented back to the chamber as a separate bill. In that way, members in this House can vote on the two separate pieces of legislation according to the contributions they have made. That means that those in this House who have concerns with termination of pregnancy can vote against that bill while still supporting things like the nurse-to-patient ratios, the changes to the Mental Health Act and so on.

It is my understanding that a reasoned amendment such as this now becomes the form of debate until it is put. I would encourage others to consider this amendment and vote with the opposition to ensure we can consider both aspects of this bill in a reasoned way.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, have you circulated copies of that amendment?

Mr Powell: No.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. I think members might need time to get copies of the amendment. Before proceeding, I advise members that there is an amendment to the motion before the House which is currently being circulated. Any member who now speaks will be speaking to the amendment.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.34 pm): I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

AYES, 32:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Powell) negatived.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (4.42 pm): I am happy to stand to resume debate on the bill—

A government member: In its entirety.

Mr WHITING:—in its entirety, as it should be passed for the betterment of every living Queensland. I rise to support the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), in contrast with all of those opposite. I note that the member for Southern Downs said that it was one of the worst bills he had ever seen, and this is a bill that delivers better health care to all Queenslanders. I note that the LNP members speaking on this bill have shown an unwillingness to trust the hardworking healthcare workers of Queensland and in my area of Metro North. For example, the member for Callide complained about a potential lack of health system workers and the member for Southern Downs has shown a lack of faith in his local healthcare workers to perform their jobs. I find that quite astounding from a side that sacked 14,000 workers, including 4,400 healthcare workers and 1,800 nurses.

It is very clear that the LNP does not trust nurses and midwives in Queensland Health to be involved in prescribing or administering medicines such as MS-2 Step. It does not want to back them through nurse-to-patient ratios. In contrast, I want to express my support for the health workers in Queensland Health—the same workers who will never be supported or trusted by the LNP. I know that in my electorate everyone supports our local healthcare workers in the Metro North area. I want to relay a story about the quality of the workers who are not backed by the LNP. Di Pollard and Peter Hackett from Deception Bay said—

Yesterday morning, my husband suffered a massive heart attack at home ... I rang 000 and within a minute was giving his details to a lovely lady who stayed on the line with me until the ambulance arrived at our address.

We live at the Western end of Deception Bay. The ambulance was coming from a job in Dakabin and arrived within minutes under lights and sirens. Two young men from Queensland Ambulance Service handled the situation calmly and professionally and within minutes had my husband on a gurney and were loading him into the ambulance.

A further 'rapid response' ambulance arrived and one of the crew went into the larger ambulance for the journey to The Prince Charles Hospital.

They apparently called ahead and a cardiac team was prepared for my husband's arrival ... hubby [was] in the Coronary Care Unit coming round from surgery to position a stent in his blocked artery. From the initial call to 000 to finding him in recovery was less than two hours.

The news is filled with stories about ambulance wait times, ambulance ramping at hospitals and hospital waiting lists and poor care BUT ... Peter and I can't thank the emergency operator, ambulance officers and the teams at The Prince Charles Hospital enough for their care and the calm and professional way they handled the situation.


They are the kinds of stories about our healthcare workers that we never hear from the LNP because it does not back our healthcare workers. It will never back our workers who administer the medicines needed for reproductive health, the workers who look after the people experiencing heart conditions and the workers who look after babies under our nurse-to-patient ratios.

I want to briefly talk about clause 12—the midwife-to-patient ratios. It is true, as the Treasurer said before, that members of the LNP have always opposed nurse-to-patient ratios. They thought it was a hasty attempt to placate the nurses union—and LNP members spoke about that very thing in this place—but now they are trying to paint themselves as champions of nurse-to-patient ratios. Queenslanders know that nurse-to-patient ratios really do matter and they cannot trust the LNP to stick with them. Its cuts will mean cuts to nurse-to-patient ratios.

The member for Toowoomba North quoted from the Cherish Life email we have probably all seen about opposition to one particular clause, and it is clear that members opposite will heed the call by Cherish Life and will vote as directed by it. I find that quite telling. We have known for a long time that the LNP has been largely captured by groups that do not reflect mainstream Queensland and it is not even pretending to listen to Queensland women anymore. All members opposite can hear are the voices stacking their local branches threatening their preselections. I hope that some of the same members who crossed the floor last time may cross the floor this time, but I doubt it.

I want to support the establishment of a national occupational respiratory illness disease registry and want to emphasise the dangers of lung diseases like asbestos. It is estimated that some 4,000 Australians each year die from exposure to asbestos—double the annual national road toll. A lot of these people did nothing more than turn up to work to make a living or simply washed the clothes of family members who worked with asbestos. Asbestos is in homes built before 1990. It is in one in three homes and there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres, which are 200 times smaller than a human hair. While I am on my feet I want to commend the work of the Asbestos Disease Support Society, which does great work in Queensland and reminds us that asbestos related diseases are not a thing of the past.

The Miles Labor government has listened to the staff and patients who say that midwife ratios make them safer, and it is great to see that we are delivering them. We know that the LNP opposes midwife ratios and would repeal them if it got into power, and that is only one more reason you cannot trust the LNP to run Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. In doing so, I want to acknowledge the Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman; the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee chair, Mr Aaron Harper; members of the committee; the committee secretariat; and Hansard for all of their effort and hard work to bring this bill to the House.

This bill aims to lay the groundwork for introducing minimum midwife-to-patient ratios in maternity wards, enhance access to termination-of-pregnancy care in Queensland, promote quality improvement and patient safety in public health facilities in Queensland, and improve the operation of health legislation. The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to clarify that for the purposes of nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios a newborn baby should be counted as a patient when they are staying in a room on a maternity ward with their birthing parent and requires a Quality Assurance Committee to disclose information about a health professional to their chief executive where the QAC reasonably believes the health professional's health, conduct or performance poses a serious risk of harm to a person.

This bill will clarify that the chief executive of Queensland Health may, after considering a report from a clinical review or health service investigation conducted in a hospital and health service, take the action the chief executive considers appropriate in relation to the matters identified in the report. It will also ensure key findings, recommendations and lessons learned from root cause analyses of critical incidences can be shared with relevant staff across Queensland Health maternity wards.

This bill will also amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018, Criminal Code and Powers of Attorney Act 1998 to allow additional health practitioners to perform early medical terminations of pregnancy through the use of termination drugs; make consequential amendments to the offence

provisions set out in the Criminal Code to align with the above change; and provide for more inclusive language by replacing references to 'woman' with 'person' in termination-of-pregnancy provisions. It will amend the Mental Health Act 2016 to clarify how Mental Health Court expert reports and transcripts may be released and used. It also amends the Public Health Act 2005 to exempt medical practitioners from duplicate reporting of dust lung diseases to the Queensland Notifiable Dust Lung Disease Register where there has been notification to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry.

I am proud to speak on this bill because it speaks directly to women right across this state. When it comes to sexual and reproductive health, the Miles government is listening and we are delivering. As a woman I am excited about these new reforms, because I know they will make a lot of difference to how women interact and engage with the health system. These reforms will break down structural barriers by putting the needs of women front and centre and promote safety and security within the healthcare system. More broadly, the new laws will enhance the overall experience of women accessing health care and support them no matter where they live in Queensland.

The quality of maternity care at our public hospitals is one of this government's key priorities. Currently in Queensland there are no minimum midwife-to-patient ratios in maternity wards. This will soon change under the Miles Labor government. The bill's amendment of the Hospital and Health Boards Act will introduce minimum midwife-to-patient ratios in maternity wards, and all babies will be counted, including stillborn babies requiring services from a midwife.

The new laws will make a lot of difference to women from my electorate where, for example, women from parts of my electorate are still required to leave home weeks before the birth of their baby. The time away from home to give birth can often take an emotional toll and, based on the stories shared with me, this causes a lot of stress and anxiety for expectant mums. For First Nations women, the stress and anxiety of living away from home for a period of time can also be exacerbated by one's ability to communicate openly and effectively. For some women from remote discrete communities, I acknowledge that English is their second language and therefore the ability to communicate effectively may pose a huge barrier to getting the right support or quality of care.


The proposed amendments in this bill to legislate midwife-to-patient ratios in maternity wards will enable midwives to provide quality services that are sensitive to the patient's social, emotional and cultural needs. The benefits of introducing these new laws include low mortality and readmission rates, as well as shorter lengths of stay. It will give nurses more time to complete necessary care and detect patient changes. These laws are fair and will give nurses better job satisfaction and prevent burnouts.

I am also pleased that the bill noted the need for other improvements to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. The Hospital and Health Boards Act includes a clinical incident management framework to ensure patient safety issues are addressed in a timely and meaningful way. We want patients to have absolute confidence in the public health system, and I feel that having a framework that fosters a culture of safe and reliable care through analysis and learning will further strengthen our work practices, reduce preventable occurrences and improve patient safety. This will make a huge difference to the whole patient healthcare experience, and I am fully supportive of the changes.

I also want to take this opportunity to talk about the Termination of Pregnancy Act to allow additional health practitioners to perform early medical terminations of pregnancy through the use of termination drugs. It is five years since we passed the historic termination-of-pregnancy laws to give women the right to choose and make important decisions over their reproductive health. This was a significant step and a major milestone for women in Queensland, and I was so proud to be part of a government that stood up for women's rights and passed legislation to overrule one of Queensland's most archaic laws.

The amendments relating to termination of pregnancy in this bill for me are about equitable access to services. The Miles government recognises that access to termination of pregnancy remains a significant issue for all Queenslanders, especially for women from rural and remote settings. Early medical terminations are currently performed using the termination drug MS-2 Step, which is a schedule 4 medicine approved in Australia for medical termination of pregnancy. However, there is a short window of opportunity for pregnant persons to choose to have less invasive early medical intervention by taking MS-2 Step, which is up to nine weeks gestation. It should be noted that after nine weeks women are required to have a hospital admission for more complex and psychologically challenging medical induction or surgical termination. This is where the issue of equitable access comes in because of the lack of medical practitioners in rural and remote settings to provide the drug during that very small window of opportunity.

I do not want women in rural and remote settings to be denied the right to choose over their reproductive health. I support this bill and the amendments in this bill because I genuinely want to close the gap that prevents women having the right to choose. This is a good, solid bill that speaks directly to all women across this state and I am fully supportive of these legislative changes. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (4.56 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution to debate on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. As I said at the outset of this debate, this bill progresses important health initiatives for women and girls. I am so proud of the landmark reforms to count babies for calculating midwife-to-patient ratios. I am proud that we are enhancing access to medical termination of pregnancy, especially for people who live in rural and regional Queensland. I would like to echo the sentiments from across the House about the amazing work done by our frontline health workers and acknowledge the advocacy of the many nurses and midwives who have pressed for these reforms, many of whom were with us today at parliament when we talked about these landmark reforms.

Making sure we have more midwives on our maternity wards will mean they are able to provide higher quality care for pregnant women and newborn babies. More midwives also means more support on the front line for our hardworking staff. I am pleased that the LNP have indicated they will support these ratios. I must say that I am surprised, because it is in stark contrast to their position in 2016 when they voted against nurse-to-patient ratios. As the member for Mudgeeraba said at that time, 'There is no universal agreement that nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios will deliver better health outcomes.'

The members for Mudgeeraba and Maroochydore in their contributions said that the LNP's priority for health care is getting the fundamentals right. I am not too sure what fundamentals the members are talking about. Maybe it is the nation-leading reforms such as nurse-to-patient ratios that they voted against in 2016—ratios, might I add, that were independently evaluated by the University of Pennsylvania, whose rigorous evaluation showed that the policy was not only justified but was saving lives and saving money. Maybe they were talking about the fundamentals of cultivating a strong workforce, which they clearly demonstrated their commitment to when they cut 1,800 nurses and midwives.

I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during the course of this debate. Several members expressed concerns about the bill using gender-neutral language in relation to termination of pregnancy. Currently the Termination of Pregnancy Act only authorises a termination of pregnancy to be performed on a woman. Updating the act to use gender-neutral language ensures equal access to termination-of-pregnancy care by removing a legal barrier for transgender, gender-diverse and non-binary people. This is consistent with the approach taken to other important legislation recognising transgender people, including the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003. Currently, it is a crime to perform an unauthorised termination of pregnancy in Queensland. Updating the legislation protects Queensland health practitioners who provide termination-of-pregnancy services to transgender and gender-diverse individuals. The change in terminology provides legal clarity, access and equity for all Queenslanders needing this important health care.

In recognition that the overwhelming majority of people receiving reproductive health care are women, Queensland Health intends to continue using inclusive terminology such as 'women and pregnant people' whenever possible and appropriate. This will be done across clinical facilities and documents such as patient information pamphlets, websites and guidelines.

Access to safe termination-of-pregnancy care is a human right and is essential for sexual and reproductive autonomy. During the Queensland parliamentary committee process, stakeholders working in reproductive and women's health made it clear that the proposed changes to allow additional health practitioners to perform medical terminations of pregnancy would make a difference on the ground by allowing improved access closer to home. It is of little surprise that those opposite will be voting against these amendments.

Several members expressed their concerns about this legislation being rushed through or that these amendments are not consistent with the Senate committee report on reproductive health care. The Senate committee report showed that women across Australia, and throughout Queensland, have been calling on and waiting for this change. As the member for Mudgeeraba acknowledged in her contribution, this was an extensive inquiry of nearly eight months.

In its report, the Senate committee recommended that the Therapeutic Goods Administration review barriers to improve access to MS-2 Step. The Senate committee's recommendation specifically named nurse practitioners, midwives and Aboriginal health workers as cohorts that could potentially prescribe MS-2 Step. As is the usual practice for these types of reports, the recommendation was considered by the experts and advice provided about an appropriate regulatory response. The TGA's decision went further than the Senate committee's recommendation. In the process of reviewing the risk, the TGA considered that state and territory health departments should determine who is best placed to prescribe and use this medication in their state or territory.

During the development of the legislation, my department undertook extensive consultation and examined the clinical evidence and risk. It was determined that registered nurses and midwives who work under an extended practice authority and with the additional training that will be rolled out will be able to undertake this role safely. This is consistent with the TGA's decision.

I make no apology for moving quickly to implement the TGA's decision to allow additional health practitioners to use termination-of-pregnancy drugs for medical terminations. This legislation is needed to improve equitable access, particularly for those who live in rural or remote areas, and we know that this change will make a difference to those living in our regions. It is supported by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Australian College of Nursing, which welcomed the change. At the hearing, Ms Grace stated that they—

... support the removal of existing legislative and policy barriers to enable nurses and midwives to work to their full scope of practice. This, in turn, due to the fact that nurses are the largest and most geographically dispersed health workforce in Australia, improves equity of access to health care in rural and remote Australia.

The LNP would not have us listen to the Australian College of Nursing or even the TGA. Why should they when they have the expertise of Ahpra restricted registered nurse the member of Mudgeeraba?

Members also expressed concerns about complications that may arise from a medical termination of pregnancy and whether nurses and midwives are able to respond appropriately, including with management of pain. Terminations of pregnancy using MS-2 Step are already occurring in Queensland when the drug is prescribed by doctors and these terminations are overwhelmingly occurring safely. We know from the current use of this drug that it is very safe and complications are very rare. Our registered nurses and midwives always maintain close working relationships with other healthcare professionals if a referral or escalation process is required. The clinicians working in Queensland's most isolated areas are very experienced in responding to unplanned and emergent health events. In the extremely rare cases where an emergency arises, there are principles and pathways in place for stabilising patients and arranging retrieval services for transport to a larger hospital or health service.

MS-2 Step has been approved for use by the TGA since 2012, and the views of many contemporary practitioners—those who have been practising since 2012—is that the medical and scientific evidence supports that accessing early medical termination reduces patient risks and decreases the need for post-procedure clinical management. During a public hearing, Dr Belinda Maier from the QNMU told the committee that delayed pathways or barriers for women accessing early termination means that they are 'getting the later termination of pregnancy, which holds a lot more complications than the early medical termination'. Julia Brownlie, a nurse practitioner from the office of the chief midwife, reiterated this position today when she said—

If you miss the window to be able to access early termination of pregnancy, you then have to have the surgical option, where the risks are higher, and you have to travel away from your home, family ...

If those opposite are so concerned about the safety and wellbeing of women accessing medical terminations, they should not vote against allowing additional health practitioners to perform medical terminations of pregnancy. Registered nurses and midwives with additional education, training and authority have been working under the relevant extended practice authority for many years. The extended practice authority for registered nurses authorises registered nurses working under the EPA to administer or give a dose of specific listed medicines without a prescription.

The members for Maiwar and Mudgeeraba asked the government to identify the appropriate implementation activities and training to support this bill. Queensland Health is developing an education package and clinical pathway that will support nurses and midwives to safely and effectively perform medical terminations of pregnancy and are working through how best to make the training available. If the bill is passed, there will be an implementation period before the changes take effect and nurses and midwives are permitted to perform medical terminations of pregnancy. It is important that this bill be considered and passed by parliament first; otherwise, the implementation work would be pre-empting the important decision to enact these reforms.

I put on record my commitment that additional practitioners will not be permitted to perform medical terminations of pregnancy until all appropriate implementation, training, education and safety protocols are developed and implemented. Just this week we released the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan, which includes \$41 million for crucial funding to support termination services and psychological support for consumers considering their options. Before performing this new role, registered nurses and midwives will undertake additional training tailored to the relevant clinical considerations for performing medical terminations of pregnancy.

Those opposite used their contributions to raise their concerns for women and girls throughout Queensland. They opine that they are listening to women and girls and nurses and doctors and that is what is motivating them to vote against these amendments. However, that is clearly not what the LNP are actually concerned about because they have demonstrated, time and time again, that they are not listening to and do not value the voices of women and girls. By voting against these provisions they are making it harder for women in regional and remote Queensland to access medical terminations at home or close to home. The LNP are, and always will be, a threat to women's reproductive rights. Recently we saw this play out in the US, where for many years conservatives, under the guise of safety, have whittled down access to safe termination services. Here in Queensland, in the year 2024, we are seeing similar arguments from those opposite to block safe access for women to those services.

Queensland's health system is recognised for its high standards. The commitment, professionalism, dedication and resilience of our frontline workforce is clear for all to see. In this Queensland Women's Week, the government is delivering improved health care for women and girls through the important reforms in this bill. This bill will pave the way for the introduction of minimum midwife-to-patient ratios in our healthcare facilities, ensuring more midwives can provide more care for more parents. It will also enable better access to early medical termination-of-pregnancy care, particularly in those communities where existing services are limited.

I am so proud to be making these reforms a reality for Queensland women and girls. 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 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—

 **Ms BATES** (5.11 pm): The bill removes the gendered language from the Termination of Pregnancy Act and related provisions in the Criminal Code and the Powers of Attorney Act. 'Woman' is being replaced with 'person'. We know the Minister for Women has difficulty defining a 'woman'. She said a woman is someone who identifies as a woman. Good news for anyone in the chamber who does not a womb—they will now be able to access pregnancy termination services without having to identify as a woman. What does this government have against women? What is next? Replacing International Women's Day with International Person's Day? Key stakeholders such as the QNMU said—

Women continue to experience discrimination based on sex and harmful gendered stereotypes associated with being female. The removal of the term 'woman' in legislation that is targeted at a population level has the potential unintended consequence of making biological sex less visible and more difficult to clearly explain in healthcare education ...

The QNMU argues that statutory language needs to be specific to the context and the cohort of people upon which it is focussed. We therefore recommend that the term 'woman' is retained in the legislation.

The Australian College of Midwives Queensland Branch made the following statement in their written submission—

The language change and impact may hinder the ability to understand and action the unique health care needs and challenges faced by women. Clear, precise, and consistent language ensures that reporting and collection of statistical data remains reflective and consistent. Decades of statistical data will be lost with the proposed language change, marginalising women in society.

The Australian College of Midwives Queensland committee strongly disagrees with the removal of the word 'woman' and replacing it with the term 'person'. These views are quite ardent and the LNP share those views. Based on what I have just outlined, the opposition will vote against the provisions of the bill which make amendments to the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 and Criminal Code. We cannot support these changes.

Ms FENTIMAN: I addressed this in my speech in reply. I think parts of the contribution from the member for Mudgeeraba were quite offensive. Having gender-neutral language across the statute book is exactly what governments right across the country do. The overwhelming majority of stakeholders supported this.

Division: Question put—That clause 4, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 46:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 31:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 1—Dametto.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Clause 22—



Ms FENTIMAN (5.19 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 22 (Insertion of new s 6A)

Page 17, lines 9 to 12—

omit, insert—

- (3) For subsection (2), a registered health practitioner **performs** a medical termination on a person if the practitioner—
 - (a) prescribes a termination drug for use in the termination; or
 - (b) administers, or gives a treatment dose of, a termination drug for use in the termination without a prescription.

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

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendment [\[333\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendment [\[334\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Ms BATES: The decision to include registered nurses goes against recommendations in a Labor-run Senate committee report which was the catalyst of this bill. When it comes to delivering health services, we have to get the fundamentals right and build up from there. For many in our regional rural towns, the fundamentals are not there. Basic services such as birthing are not available in many communities. The government's priority should be establishing and maintaining effective and well-resourced health services across these geographies, getting the fundamentals right and then expanding. To do the opposite risks patient safety. I note that the QNMU and the organisation Children by Choice also made their positions clear in that the proposed legislative reforms need to be supported by appropriate implementation activities such as education, training and safety procedures.

My concern with all of this is that the minister is putting the cart before the horse. I think that was evident where on page 16 stakeholders said—

... some stakeholders, including some professional medical bodies, provided feedback in relation to the need for appropriate education, support and resources to support successful implementation of the amendments and to ensure patient safety. Queensland Health will undertake a gap analysis to identify elements of the framework that need to be enhanced or strengthened to ensure that additional health practitioners can safely perform early medical terminations of pregnancy. The gap-analysis will consider what support and resources are needed for the workforce delivering termination-of-pregnancy care, as well as information for consumers.

Apparently the gap analysis has been completed, but, even with that, Queensland Health say they are still considering what education and training is needed to support the nursing and midwifery workforce to safely and effectively deliver termination-of-pregnancy care and how best to make this available. Will the minister table the gap analysis that is supposedly finished so that Queenslanders might see what issues exist across the system currently and can judge the government on whether it actually has the capacity and capability to fill those gaps? As I mentioned in my contribution yesterday, not all nurses are midwives, not all registered nurses are midwives, and not all midwives are general nurses.

The other point I would make is that, particularly in rural and regional Queensland—it does not matter where you are in Queensland—no midwife or registered nurse can perform a dilation and curettage. No midwife or registered nurse can perform a laparotomy or laparoscopy for an ectopic pregnancy. I have some genuine concerns about the safety risks for women in rural and regional Queensland considering that this government has not provided services for women currently in those areas, let alone for this. As such, we will not be supporting this clause.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I outlined in my reply speech, significant implementation activities will begin to ensure that all of the education that will support nurses and midwives to safely and effectively perform medical terminations of pregnancy is underway. However, it would be inappropriate for the department to begin that work until this House decides that women in rural and regional Queensland deserve better, affordable, accessible health care when it comes to termination of pregnancy.

As I said again earlier, registered nurses who are practising right now—contemporary registered nurses who have no restrictions on their Ahpra registration—are saying that they want to be able to do this for women in rural and regional communities. They have been calling for this. I do not know about you, but I will take the expertise of the TGA and the clinicians who work for us in Queensland Health who are currently practising over the member for Mudgeeraba.

Division: Question put—That clause 22, as amended, be agreed to.

AYES, 46:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 31:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 1—Dametto.


Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 22, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 23 to 26, as read, agreed to.

Schedule—

 **Ms BATES** (5.27 pm): The bill, as I said before, removes the gendered language for the Termination of Pregnancy Act and related provisions in the Criminal Code and the Powers of Attorney Act. 'Woman' is being replaced with 'person'. We will not be supporting this schedule.

Division: Question put—That the schedule, as read, stand part of the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: A division has been called. Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 46:

ALP, 45—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 31:

LNP, 30—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.


KAP, 1—Dametto.

Pairs: D'Ath, Camm; Howard, Molhoek; Pease, Hart; Tantari, Robinson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (5.31 pm): I move—


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

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

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (5.34 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.

FORENSIC SCIENCE QUEENSLAND BILL

Resumed from 29 November 2023 (see p. 3803).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (5.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I want to acknowledge the work of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee in conducting its inquiry into the bill. I thank the committee for its report, tabled on 19 February 2024. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I appreciate the committee's support for the bill. I would like to thank the organisations and individuals who made submissions to the committee, participated in the public hearing and contributed to the development of the bill. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless and courageous advocacy of Vicki Blackburn, alongside Dr Kirsty Wright and Hedley Thomas from the *Australian*. Vicki has pursued truth and transparency and has been instrumental in bringing these issues to light.

Following the two commissions of inquiry into forensic DNA testing in Queensland, the Queensland government has taken clear steps to restore public confidence in forensic services. It is crucial that the community has faith in all aspects of forensic service delivery in Queensland. Significant work is already underway to ensure Forensic Science Queensland is a world-leading facility, and the Miles government continues to build on this work: 103 of the 123 recommendations from the 2022 inquiry have been implemented or partially implemented. The bill is another major step in implementing the inquiry's recommendations and rebuilding Queensland's forensic services system.

Reliable and timely forensic evidence is crucial in the administration of justice. It is often this evidence that is the determining factor in whether a perpetrator is brought to justice. Regardless of the outcome of a case, we know that the quality of forensic services impacts the experience of victims and their families when interacting with the criminal justice system. The Forensic Science Queensland Bill addresses recommendation 121 of the 2022 commission of inquiry. It will create a statutory framework governing forensic sciences to bolster the administration of criminal justice in Queensland.

This legislation marks a significant stride towards reforming forensic services and establishing a high calibre system for the people of Queensland. The bill ensures critical elements of Queensland's forensic science system are established in law. Its primary aim is to ensure the provision of high-quality, trustworthy, independent and impartial forensic services for the administration of criminal justice in Queensland. The bill also requires research, development, innovation and collaborative initiatives to ensure Forensic Science Queensland continues to be a world-class service well into the future. The bill establishes the Director of Forensic Science Queensland, the Forensic Science Queensland Advisory Council and, of course, Forensic Science Queensland itself.

The director will be an essential part of the criminal justice system in Queensland. They will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of forensic services to key stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including the Queensland Police Service, the Director of Public Prosecutions and coroners. Appointment to this position will be made by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Attorney-General. The director must hold a relevant tertiary qualification in a scientific discipline and possess at least 10 years of practical experience in forensic sciences. The bill specifies that the director cannot have a conviction for a serious criminal offence or be an insolvent under administration. These provisions underscore the importance of the director's role in the criminal justice system.

The advisory council will provide advice and recommendations to the Attorney-General on policies and procedures that relate to the administration of criminal justice. The Attorney-General will be able to request advice from the council. The council will also be able to give advice and recommendations to the director on its own initiative. The advisory council provisions ensure that relevant policies and procedures are informed by a range of perspectives.

The bill requires the minister—in this case, the Attorney-General—to appoint six members with specific positions, qualifications or experience to guarantee representation from the Police Service, the Director of Public Prosecutions, victims of crime, the forensic science sector and the private legal profession. It also allows the Attorney-General to make up to five further appointments of persons with qualifications or experience in forensic services, policing, law, support for victims of crime or another field necessary or relevant to support the council's functions.

During the committee process, stakeholders suggested the advisory council composition also include an additional mandatory specialist sexual violence support service representative, private legal representative appointed by the Bar Association and a forensic clinician. I would like to acknowledge the contribution that each of these members would bring to the advisory council.

When Queensland Health consulted stakeholders on the draft bill, there were also various other suggestions for mandatory membership requirements in addition to those recommended by the commission of inquiry. There is always a balance to strike between prescribing members and allowing the administrative flexibility for the council to do its job efficiently. I believe the bill strikes an appropriate balance. All categories of members listed in recommendation 121 are accounted for in the bill. The commissioner, who made the recommendation, raised no concerns with this approach. The vast majority of stakeholders consulted on the draft bill did not raise any concerns about the advisory council provisions.

The bill ensures the advisory council has representatives from key stakeholder groups in the criminal justice system while also allowing for the appointment of additional members whose experience and skills are complementary. The level of detail in the bill reflects the approach taken in the many other Queensland acts establishing an advisory body. It is evident from the commissions of inquiry that responsiveness is paramount when reforming forensic services. Having a large advisory body with a prescriptive list of members can impact the body's effectiveness and responsiveness.

I also note that the Attorney-General has a broad power to appoint members with relevant qualifications and experience. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will be running an open expression of interest process to fill the advisory council membership. I am sure the Attorney-General will join me in encouraging individuals who believe they have the skills to contribute to oversight of Forensic Science Queensland's policies and procedures at this important point in time to submit an expression of interest.


There are also expected to be opportunities to be involved in advisory council processes without being appointed to the council under the bill. For example, the interim DNA advisory board that was established while the bill was being developed receives advice from a range of subcommittees. These committees comprise experts and stakeholders in their respective fields who support the integrity of the Queensland criminal justice system through the provision of independent specialist advice. The bill allows for this kind of subcommittee work to continue.

The bill establishes Forensic Science Queensland as a government office, like the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, to support the director. Forensic Science Queensland will comprise teams of scientists conducting testing and analysis, monitoring quality standards and undertaking research and development, as well as their critical support staff. FSQ will administratively sit within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, in accordance with recommendation 121. While the bill has been under consideration by parliament, an interim Forensic Science Queensland business unit has been operating within Queensland Health. That will transition to the justice portfolio through administrative procedures once the bill is enacted.

Forensic Science Queensland staff are critical to the effectiveness of our forensic services system. To ensure stability for these staff members, the bill maintains the terms and conditions of transferred staff. The primary focus of Forensic Science Queensland will be conducting forensic and scientific testing and analysis to assist with investigations into, and prevention of, criminal and coronial investigations. This will include the provision of expert evidence in court proceedings.

This government has not shied away from the fact that the issues uncovered by the commissions of inquiry have been extremely challenging for victims. As we move forward with strengthening forensic service delivery, victims remain at the centre of this government's reforms. We have committed to deliver \$10 million over four years for victim support services to meet any increased demand for trauma counselling. Government agencies are working together to ensure trauma informed approaches to communication with victims. Yesterday we introduced legislation to permanently establish the Victims' Commissioner. This legislation will also establish the Sexual Violence Review Board and we have allocated \$18 million towards this, and of course we have the independent ministerial advisory council to put victims' voices at the forefront of justice reforms.

The Forensic Science Queensland Bill is designed to keep the role, purpose and impact of forensic services in Queensland at the forefront. It outlines the essential components for excellence in a forensic services system and incorporates measures to safeguard its integrity. The bill is a significant step towards rebuilding Queensland's DNA and forensic services to a world-class standard. We know this will be a complex and challenging process. The bill provides structures and safeguards to support this important work. I am extremely thankful for the dedication of those who have been working tirelessly despite challenging circumstances to uphold vital services essential to our health and justice systems. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.45 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Forensic Science Queensland Bill 2023. Ordinarily, one might remark that this bill is not a particularly controversial one, that it is fairly transactional and matter of fact. There are some technical aspects: a new entity is created as well as a new position to guide it and an advisory council to oversee it. That sounds pretty run-of-the-mill in terms of things that might be debated in this chamber week to week, month to month. That is hardly earth shattering—ordinarily.

It is a bill which, as the explanatory notes so benignly put it, will establish the legislative framework for the provision of forensic services in Queensland. That sounds standard enough, doesn't it? That is what one might ordinarily say, but this is no ordinary bill because, while the Forensic Science Queensland Bill 2023 itself might be uncontroversial, its catalyst, its backstory, the actual reason for its existence, is a tale of disastrous misgivings. It is a tale of government maladministration at its spectacular worst. It is a tale which has shaken Queensland's criminal justice system to its very foundations. For behind this legislation is a tale where repeated systemic failures of the executive government in this state may well have led to criminals walking free for crimes they did commit, criminals who may have committed the most heinous of crimes—rapists, murderers. People who have perpetrated these crimes could be on the street today because of the failures of forensic DNA services in this state and because of a state government which took its eye off the ball.

There is no getting away from it. That is why we are here now debating this legislation. This bill is not some proactive step to improve a key pillar of criminal justice in this state. In fact it is quite the opposite. It is wholly reactionary. It is a bill to clean up a horrible, horrible mess—a mess which has left victims of crime and their families as collateral damage. I say to all members across this chamber: the facts cannot be forgotten as this bill makes its way through the House. There are people's lives who have been irrevocably damaged and up-ended because of the failures of forensic DNA testing in Queensland, and I think that is now a well-understood fact.

Today we should have those victims and their families at the forefront of our minds. I know that, for many of them, learning about the shocking shortcomings of forensic DNA testing in Queensland was not easy and still is not to this day. I along with my colleagues acknowledge their pain and their

anguish. For many, their trust in a system was shattered—and understandably so. Every victim of crime and every family who stands behind them deserves justice, and that is why the opposition will not oppose the passage of this legislation. It is our sincere hope on this side of the chamber that the changes in this bill can deliver just that—justice—because for too long and for too many justice may not have been done.

If it were not for the family of one of those victims, this bill would not be before us today. What is more, there may never have been two commissions of inquiry into forensic DNA testing here in Queensland. Shandee Blackburn was the victim of a truly shocking crime. Her young life was ended senselessly and violently. Shandee's family—her mother Vicki and her sister Shannah—have so bravely and so ardently fought to bring Shandee's murderer to justice. In doing so, they have shone a light on problems scarcely believable and brought about lasting change to an entire system. It is quite remarkable. I acknowledge their tireless fight and advocacy today. This bill is only one part of Shandee's legacy which she has left us, and it is an incredible legacy built on the foundations of her family's unending love and devotion for her.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr Kirsty Wright, the scientist who laid it all on the line and called out the failures of forensic DNA testing in Queensland. She selflessly put transparency, accountability and truth before her own career. She risked her personal and professional reputation. What Dr Wright did took immense courage, and that cannot be understated.

From the moment concerns about failing forensic services was first raised, those opposite were at best slow to act and at worst entirely dismissive. There is no getting around that. Increasingly desperate calls for a commission of inquiry into the DNA laboratory by sections of the media, experts, victims of crime and the opposition were repeatedly ignored and at times even mocked by the government.

It is important to remember that concerns were first being raised by the opposition in late 2021. It was at this same time that the Shandee's Story podcast, led by Hedley Thomas, first uncovered broad issues at the DNA lab and identified a QPS paper which detailed the failings of the lab to extract basic DNA profiles. As the evidence mounted, the health minister at the time said, 'There has been no evidence of systemic failings in our forensic pathology unit.' By May 2022, it was clear to the opposition and many others that something was horribly wrong. We called for a commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of what was going on. Those calls were met with staunch resistance: 'I have no idea why the opposition would be calling for this other than playing pure politics.' That was the member for Redcliffe's response to those calls for a commission of inquiry—'playing pure politics'.

Now we have before us a bill that—and I quote from the minister's explanatory speech—'implements recommendation 121 of the 2022 inquiry'. The minister went on to say, 'Implementing the findings of the commission of inquiry is a priority for our government.' My, my! We are here today debating the bill implementing recommendations from a commission of inquiry the government never wanted. It is as simple as that. It was a commission of inquiry to which they were dragged kicking and screaming—a commission of inquiry that was apparently just about 'playing pure politics'. Goodness me! It was never about that. It was about uncovering the truth and the shocking failures of a forensic DNA lab that quite clearly was failing in its most fundamental of tasks—to actually find DNA. The only people left who did not think there was a problem at the DNA lab are the same people now asking Queenslanders to trust them to fix the mess they pretended was never there. It is galling. With such rudderless leadership, is it any wonder the public's trust might have been totally eroded?

It is worth noting that the same two individuals with ministerial accountability for these failures are the same two individuals who hold ministerial accountability today. The only difference is that they have swapped places. The then attorney-general, who did not want to know anything about it when she was the first law officer, is now the health minister, who is responsible now for implementing the commission of inquiry findings. The then health minister, who said a commission of inquiry was 'pure politics', is now the Attorney-General, who is getting hand-passed back the responsibility of the forensic DNA services. Talk about chaos and crisis! If it were not such a horrible mess and if the issues were not so critical, it would be laughable. However, this is no laughing matter.

We as the opposition will certainly not stand in the way of these changes, but we will be keeping a very close eye on the implementation of the changes outlined in the legislation. The changes bring about: a statutory position of the Director of Forensic Science Queensland; a supporting Office of the Director of Forensic Science Queensland; and the Forensic Science Queensland Advisory Council. These three points are in response to recommendation 121 of the commission of inquiry. In this

recommendation, Commissioner Sofronoff called for the creation of a forensic science institute in Queensland within a statutory framework similar to that of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It is worth noting that the bill will commence by proclamation due to the transition of Forensic Science Queensland from Queensland Health to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. I see it is intended that Forensic Science Queensland will be formally established within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in July 2024, a deadline which was set following the commission of inquiry. We trust that deadline will be met, and we will be keenly observing to make sure that it is. The reason is that there are still significant and genuine questions to be answered about DNA forensic services in Queensland. These are the very things for which a newly established Forensic Science Queensland, outlined in this bill, will have responsibility.

Does the government have an update of the total number of cases that need to be reviewed? How many cases has the legal-led review assessed? Of these cases, how many have been found to have probative DNA samples and need retesting? How many have been retested and, of those, how many have found profiles where they had not previously? Importantly, how many victims have been contacted regarding the retesting of their samples, whether that be their samples will be retested or have been retested? I think it would be entirely appropriate for the minister to provide an update on each of these questions in her reply. These questions are directly relevant to the bill. I think it is fair and reasonable that, before Forensic Science Queensland is established, the answers to these questions should be known. Victims of crime deserve to know. Those working in our criminal justice system deserve to know. Queenslanders deserve to know.

With respect to the bill as it is written, there are only a handful of issues which I will address. I acknowledge the statement of reservation put forward by the members for Theodore and Scenic Rim, as well as that of the shadow minister for youth justice, who was a member of the former committee which considered this bill. Their frustrations at not being able to have questions answered, similar to those I have just put to the minister, are very valid. As I said, we would not be debating this bill if a commission of inquiry did not uncover monumental failures in forensic DNA testing. Answering questions of how many cases need to be reviewed because of past failures goes to the heart of the work a newly established Forensic Science Queensland will undertake. That the answers to those questions were not seen to be in line with the committee's consideration of the bill is of real concern. I thank opposition members of the committee for their attempts to have this information considered as part of the committee's deliberations.


I also note the government's decision to deviate from the commission of inquiry's recommendation 121 in relation to the membership of the advisory council. The commission of inquiry recommendation 121 also outlined that legislation should provide for the appointment of a chief operations officer who is responsible for the administrative duties associated with operating Forensic Science Queensland. The government has also made the decision to omit this position from the legislation. I note Queensland Health's evidence to the committee in taking this approach. I am sure there were good reasons the commission of inquiry suggested a particular make-up of the board and the position of chief operations officer being legislated. I sincerely hope that there have been adequate considerations given to why the government has chosen to deviate from this recommendation.

That effectively rounds out my contribution. As I said, the opposition will not oppose this bill. A properly functioning forensic DNA service is a fundamental pillar of our state's criminal justice system. All those who work across it and rely on it for justice deserve no less. It is, of course, the first responsibility of government to provide for the safety and security of its people. If this was truly the priority of those opposite, it does make you wonder how the failures at the DNA lab were ever able to occur. It should never have been allowed to happen.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bates, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Runaway Bay Police Station; Jabiru Crossing Bridge

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.59 pm): At the heart of community safety in my electorate of Broadwater is the Runaway Bay police station. Tonight I want to again call out the lack of available police officers at that wonderful little station. It is a 24-officer station that has been well below capacity for far too long. Whistleblowers have told me that, at times, less than half of those positions have been available to serve the community in their hour of need. Not only are

those positions often not filled, they are stretched in both directions. They are plugging holes in the very busy and expanding Coomera area. They are on duty at the Southport watch house. They are getting stretched, and the residents who I represent in Broadwater are fed up with it. They love that police station and they historically have loved the passive surveillance that has come from constantly having those officers in the community. They are at breaking point, and every time we raise it we get childish responses from the minister. I am sorry, but the figures are clear. The government's own data shows that there are fewer police today than when they made the commitment to add an additional 1,450. In the case of the Gold Coast, that is replicated in stations across the board.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection; and in Mudgeeraba. Today a whistleblower raised with me the dire state of Surfers Paradise at the moment. Whilst I will not furnish the number in this House, I can tell members that it is well below half, according to that whistleblower. The reason is: despite the pipeline of recruits, experienced police are leaving quicker than they are being replaced. It is time for the government to acknowledge that they need the laws and the resources to do their job.

While I am on my feet, I want to again raise the issue of Couran Cove. I have repeatedly written to attorneys-general—despite the changes of attorney-general over this term—and nothing is changing. In fact, I do not believe I have responses to some of that correspondence. It is situation critical for those residents. I want to give a shout-out to our local councillor, Shelley Curtis, who has been over there listening to residents and is taking up the fight, as I am doing in this House. There must be a solution found. The government cannot say that it is simply too big a deal; it has to be someone else's responsibility. We have people living in Third World conditions; we have imminent fire risk; we have health and safety risk. Nothing is being done and I again want to call it out.

I wish to call out the lack of planning and funding for the Jabiru crossing bridge. It is an issue that we have raised repeatedly, but, I have to say, right now the traffic congestion between Hope Island and Paradise Point is worse than at any point that I have seen, and residents want to know there is a plan for the future.

Cooper Electorate; Charity Organisations and Funding



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (6.02 pm): Someone asked me recently about my greatest achievements in this role. I am not sure about others in the House, but my mind goes to big-ticket items—the election commitments and the huge redevelopments. I have secured more than \$31 million in investment in our local schools; a huge investment in our STEM building for The Gap State High School. That is our biggest public state high school in the electorate—nearly 2,000 students attend that school; it is phenomenal. There have been new prep rooms for Hilder Road State School and incredible nature-based playgrounds for Ashgrove State School. St Joseph's advocated really hard for the Payne Road State School to secure their vertical garden dividing fence, which was a huge thing for their community. I have secured \$15 million in investment for sporting clubs, particularly for lights, so that people can play after-hours and can utilise those sporting fields which we know are in huge demand in the inner city and, of course, ensured that we have women's change rooms to help all of our local clubs secure their goal of gender parity in sport.

I remarked when I was talking to this person that it is the everyday connections that you make in the role that, for me, really make the difference. I wanted to speak to that this evening. I recently helped to connect a couple of fantastic organisations in my electorate. One of those is Trek2Health, of which I am a patron. It is a charity based out at the Enoggera Reservoir led by CEO Bruce Barker, who is fantastic. He runs nature-based programs with first responders—retired serving officers from QPS and QFES—to help boost their resilience and to keep their mental and emotional health on track.


They recently embarked on an incredible new program creating surfboards. When QPS officers retire at 60 they get their officers in to work on these surfboards. They are eco surfboards made of 100 per cent recyclable timber. The officers come together to glue, polish and steam and make these surfboards as part of a social enterprise. In addition to the trekking work they do, they are making this really tactile work, which is phenomenal. They recently partnered with a local artist, Natarscha Schneider, who is fantastic. She creates some wonderful, feminine art pieces, including the shirt that I am wearing tonight. I promised her that I would wear it for her for International Women's Day—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms BUSH:—You are welcome. Sam Matthews is also involved. These are two incredible artists. They mentioned to me they needed help with finding surfboard bags for their surfboards and so I put them in touch with Boomerang Bags. Boomerang Bags is a fantastic organisation. They take all kinds

of products and recycle them so that we have less landfill going into our tips. They have been able to join up with Trek2Health to use old fabrics to bring together these surfboard kits. It is like this beautiful, wonderful arranged marriage in my electorate. We have some great organisations doing great things. I am so proud of them.

Broadbeach Cultural Centre

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.05 pm): The House should be aware of a nonsensical proposal by the Gold Coast City council to demolish the fantastically popular Broadbeach Cultural Centre to replace it with a private consortium owned 10,000-seat entertainment venue. I am all for an entertainment venue on the Gold Coast, but to include this site as part of their planning considerations is absolutely ludicrous. The council has just spent \$15 million upgrading the cultural centre—formerly the Albert Waterways Community Centre—and to bulldoze this excellent community facility makes no sense at all.

There are four other locations that are included as possible sites for an entertainment venue and the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre is a standout location, in my view. It has ample parking, light rail access and fits fairly and squarely within the entertainment precincts of the Gold Coast. On the Broadbeach Cultural Centre site, we have the fabulous Life Education headquarters with Healthy Harold the giraffe doing a great job with our younger folk. Abutting this site is the Albert Waterways community kindergarten, a not-for-profit community group, that has been blindsided by council officers inquiring about the legal ownership of their kindergarten. I have news for the council officers: it is held in trust by deed to benefit the community—not council owned.


I am also advised that Life Education Centre has a nine-year unbreakable lease over their premises at the community centre which will make resumption of their entitlement a legal minefield. It beggars belief that this site was included by council officers as a possible location for a privately controlled development proposal which, in its current form, is one of the city's best used and most loved facilities in community ownership. I have sponsored a petition to parliament to exclude this site from consideration. I have letterboxed the immediate surrounding community to bring awareness to this farcical proposal. A Gold Coast scribe has said 'not to worry about it until the site is chosen', but as a former local government representative I can assure all and sundry that once a site is chosen, no amount of community consultation will turn back the decision.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I was the mayor of Albert shire and the Gold Coast. Now is the time for the Gold Coast council to eliminate the Broadbeach Cultural Centre from the list of possible locations. Given the land ownership impediments and the community angst, council officers should focus their investigations on determining the best site for the entertainment venue from the other four locations and end the speculation about the demolition of this very possible community asset. This is no doubt in my mind that the Broadbeach Cultural Centre is one of the pre-eminent assets in the Mermaid Beach electorate and it should remain so forever and a day. A facility like that in a great location opposite the very busy Pacific Fair Shopping Centre would be irreplaceable if it was torn down, so why waste council officers' time and ratepayers' money by further investigating the site?

(Time expired)

Logan Electorate, Schools

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.08 pm): It looks like it's 'bring back Ray', but this time to the Gold Coast mayoralty! I represent a fast growing area of Logan and there are many school-aged children. Perhaps even tonight there is a young family turning the key at their new house in the area between Logan Reserve and Boronia Heights in Park Ridge for the first time. As a former teacher, I am always excited when we are working and building a new school. This time it is on Park Ridge Road. The last time I updated the House we were turning the sod on the site. I can now update the House that the slabs have been poured and tilt slabs are going up with the cranes. I apologise to people for the trucks moving in and out of the site. We know that we need to be safe moving in and off the site, but local families are incredibly excited to see future classrooms being built.


They also love that the project has the second FamilyLinQ hub to be opened in Logan city, a state-first initiative that will connect education, health and community services all under one roof to improve life outcomes for children and their families. We are building this new primary school with a long day care centre and a kindergarten centre as part of stage 1. Vitally for future health, it is going to

have a multipurpose hall with a stage, outdoor multipurpose court and dedicated music, kitchen, art, science and robotics learning areas. The new school will open for students in term 1 of 2025, with enrolments opening after the appointment of a principal in mid 2024.

That will bring some relief to some of the schools like Park Ridge State School—the original one—where we have just built a new admin centre. That has allowed the old admin space that used to be upstairs, where prams could not gain access, to be developed for new classrooms. The new admin centre has new classrooms as well. That goes along with the new buildings we have built at Logan Reserve State School, which the member for Waterford and I share. That is going to bring relief to both of those schools. As a teacher, I know that great education can make an incredible difference and I know that a growing area needs a government that wants to invest and build in an area that has needs. This is going to take the pressure off other schools but it will also be a great base for those families.

One would think that in a growing area like mine the previous government would have seen this value as well. We know—I have told this House many times before and I will tell it to the people of Logan eternally—that they made no new investments in classrooms in Logan. I do not mean no new schools but no new classrooms. That is why we are at risk: the very fast growing areas are going to be hurt by any future government that does not value that investment. During that time they made absolutely no investment in our schools. They certainly did not invest in Yarrabilba, which is growing very fast. We need a government that understands it. I will continue to fight for the families of Logan every day.

Rural Firefighters

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.11 pm): Tonight I want to shine a light on various issues that have been raised with me, particularly around rural fires. They need support and resources. These volunteers are responsible for looking after 93 per cent of our vast state. They are the ones who come running when the bushfire is bearing down on them. If the state government does not pay attention, I fear—and this is what I am hearing from these dedicated volunteers—that we may see further attrition of our volunteers.

I have an update on the national service medals issue that was raised in the House previously. We know 3,000 nominations were put forward for these medals back in 2019. It took two years for this to go to the Governor-General in Canberra. We have had an update from the Governor-General's office that they expect to start processing a number of these nominations. I find it really disturbing that it has taken nearly five years for these medals to be awarded. Whatever level of government is responsible, it certainly is not good enough.

Another snub I have raised in the House before relates to the hardworking volunteers and their need for a dress uniform. The Rural Fire Brigade Queensland have been calling for this dress uniform for many years, and multiple requests still have not been responded to. Our volunteers attend events like Remembrance Day, awards ceremonies and funerals. Considering their support, I think the least our community could do is give them a clean pair of boots and a clean uniform. They say it is embarrassing when urbans are presented well, all dressed up and looking professional and then our rural fires have to turn up sometimes, in their own words, looking like Brown's cows in these worn uniforms. It is unthinkable that they can be on a fireground fighting a fire and then be expected to use that same uniform for a more formal event. It is an embarrassment. I give another shout-out tonight to those men and women who should at least qualify for that. In Childers they have been fighting for even a jacket to be worn in winter. That still has not been forthcoming.

Another issue I have raised this week relates to maintenance issues, not only in Childers but at the Wyllie Street station as well. There have been reports of mould and buildings and rooms not being suitable for occupancy. Calls to fix the long list of safety, maintenance and mould issues in the Childers fire station have gone unanswered for nearly two years. In their own words, 412 is a disaster and if the public knew how bad the equipment was they would be horrified. I have been hearing of their issues with the equipment and drying cabinets for nearly two years as well as the phone and internet connections that were struck by lightning. They are still struggling to get them right. We heard today from the member for Burdekin about the communication issues. This continues to be a problem for the area around Bundaberg and Burnett as well.

There are reports of serious mould problems at Wyllie Street—and I take this opportunity to give a shout-out to them for the Women's Day event that will be held tomorrow at the Wyllie Street station. We look forward to that but we want to make sure they are given a safe workplace. It is unfortunate that we only get three minutes to talk about rural fires, but we do thank them for the work they do.

Redland City Council, Housing



Mr BROWN (Capalaba—ALP) (6.14 pm): I am happy to announce to the House that Karen Williams chaired her last council meeting for Redland City Council yesterday. However, she did one more despicable act before heading out the door, and that was to launch an appeal against NDIS housing in Redland city. She initially lost the case a couple of weeks ago against these four units in Cleveland that are nearly complete which are now going to be delayed. They have been delayed for 12 months and now they are going to be delayed even more. This means that people with a disability in Redlands—we know this because the *Courier-Mail* has covered it—are going to be stuck in long-stay beds in Redland Hospital. This includes the four units in Cleveland, but there are also seven units in Redland Bay that this action is blocking. That is 11 units for people in my area, in Redland city. That means that every patient in long-stay in Redland Hospital could have a roof over their head today, but she is blocking it in court.

This is all political. The press release states that they are blocking it because they want the state government to change the laws. If they launch an appeal and also call for the laws to be changed, they should know that they will be defeated in court. They have been already. They will lose the appeal in this one, wasting ratepayers' money to block people with a disability in the Redlands having a roof over their head. These places are nearly complete. I have seen and talked with the developers there. They are ready to go. They want to give people a home. In a housing crisis we have an LNP mayor who is blocking—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection because he is against it as well. The shadow housing minister also came to the aid of Mayor Karen Williams on Twitter. Instead of standing up for those with a disability, instead of getting on the phone to their mate, instead of preventing people with a disability in Redlands having a roof over their head, they protect her and they stand up for her. It is an absolute disgrace.

We need to make sure in a housing crisis those with a disability get a roof over their head. These places are nearly complete. It is unbelievable that those opposite are cheering it on saying, 'We're happy for those with a disability not to have a roof over their head. We're happy for them to stay in Redland Hospital in long-stay beds, taking up valuable bed space from those who really need it.' Our hospitals should not be houses for those with a disability. We need to get out of the way. We need to make sure that the reforms we brought in to get more NDIS housing are not blocked by those opposite. We need to ensure that the next mayor who comes along to Redland City Council drops this case immediately and ensures that people with disability can have a roof over their head.

Housing



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (6.17 pm): The doors are closing on the possibility of countless Queenslanders ever owning their own home. Last year the cost of rent in Queensland continued to surge at twice the rate of inflation. House prices grew three times faster than wages, leaving hundreds of thousands of renters stuck paying off someone else's mortgage and putting a deposit for their own first home forever out of reach. Labor, the LNP and their so-called property experts, who I am increasingly convinced are just two property developers in a trench coat on each other's shoulders, say they want big change, but all they are offering is more of the same—the same private market, trickle-down economics housing policy that has failed us for decades. Labor and the LNP have gutted public housing and gifted the landed gentry with tax concessions, handouts and the reins to our planning system. They have only succeeded in driving up the cost of housing.

Capital gains tax concessions, negative gearing and handouts to property developers go straight into bidding up the price of real estate. When property developers know that Labor and the LNP are going to facilitate higher profits on prospective development sites, do they really think they sit around their boardroom saying to each other, 'That's fantastic. There's some more money we can give back to the renters and homebuyers'? I do not think so.

That is the fantasy, though, that Labor and the LNP want renters to believe. Real estate moguls make massive windfall gains from these policies, and in the long run this public money is sucked up by rising land values which adjust to the increase in expected profits—rising land values that increase the cost of housing and encourage land banking. The founder and director of property developer Meriton lays this strategy out explicitly—

I am holding a lot more than I am selling at the moment, and as the value of property goes up, the value of what I have kept rises.

You can always count on one scumbag to say the quiet bit out loud, can't you? The only thing that has reliably worked in this country to reduce rents—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. The only thing that has reliably worked in this country to reduce rents and boost home ownership is public development and keeping a leash on the greed of the private sector. In the postwar period, Australian state and federal governments built one in seven new houses, froze rapidly rising rents and in less than two decades halved the number of people renting from private landlords. Labor tells us it has delivered just 5,000 social homes since 2015. If it was instead building housing at the rate of our 20th century governments, it would have built 46,000 homes.

The Greens are the only party that are willing to back public development of new housing at this scale. Labor and the LNP continue to gift developers huge tax and planning concessions, repeating the same failed policy of the last 30 years, putting renters in crisis and money in the pockets of those who need it least. Meanwhile, the Greens are the only party willing to fight back against greedy developers with a housing policy that is proven to work.

(Time expired)

Housing, Queensland Greens

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.20 pm): After the unrelenting penny-pinching, hard-headedness conservatism and the numerous controversies of the Liberal-National coalition in government at the federal level, we all faced challenges that included rising interest rates, draconian employment conditions and an escalating cost of living. No wonder Queenslanders have had it tough. Unfortunately, some have had it tougher than the rest of us as they struggle to meet the cost-of-living increases and to put a roof over their heads.

Earlier this month I met with a local who faced challenges with her current housing due to complex issues. We spoke and talked about real strategies that could be taken to help. Due to privacy, I am unable to comment further on this case. This person also reached out to the Greens party for help. It was very disappointing that the Greens did not provide any real or concrete action but actually used this person's misfortunes for grandstanding. The Greens could have used their social media presence to assist the person to find accommodation. They could have appealed to their loyal fan base for help, but they did not. Rather, they decided it was another opportunity to talk about themselves. Trying to whip up a public frenzy to attack issues, whether real or imagined, is of no difference for them. They wanted to position themselves as champions. Their manufactured outrage was obvious and almost dripped from the screen. It is disappointing that the Greens seek to politicise Queenslanders in need.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr RUSSO: If they were serious about helping Queenslanders, the Greens would work with us to deliver additional homes rather than play politics. The Miles government has released our landmark Homes for Queenslanders plan—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, member for Gregory.

Mr RUSSO:—a plan which will create more affordable homes faster and work towards ending homelessness. A sound first step would be for the Greens to commit to and start working with the Albanese government.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr RUSSO: This is something which would help more Queenslanders own their own homes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, I called out your name before. I note that you just interjected again. You are on a warning, so you can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 6.23 pm.

Mr RUSSO: The Greens delayed additional investment in social and affordable housing for nearly a year before finally caving in. If that money had not been delayed, then right now—today—we would have more social homes. We would be in a position to help more people right now. I call upon the Greens to put aside their political grandstanding and work to deliver more social housing and more affordable housing and accept additional homes in our communities.

Ipswich West Electorate, By-Election; Fire Ants



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.24 pm): Voters in Ipswich West have a chance to send this Labor government of chaos and crisis a message in the Ipswich West by-election. LNP candidate Darren Zanow, a champion of the Ipswich community, has been delivering for Ipswich for years in his business, where he successfully employed many people, and in the community as president of the Ipswich Show Society, where he managed to get millions of dollars of grants for the Ipswich Show Society. Contrast this with the Labor government, which has taken Ipswich for granted for years. It has overseen 60 per cent ramping at Ipswich Hospital. We have seen tragic deaths there recently, including that of Wayne Irving from the Scenic Rim electorate. A new ED is announced in Ipswich, but it will be at capacity by the time it is built. Labor has failed Ipswich for years and taken it for granted.

Labor failed for years to fix the Mount Crosby interchange on the Warrego Highway and now we are going to have traffic lights on the Bremer bridge to manage heavy vehicle movements across that bridge, probably owing to the lack of maintenance on that bridge because there is a \$5 billion backlog on repairs on state-owned roads. Labor has failed to fix the Amberley interchange for a generation. Even after the coalition federal government put \$170 million on the table to fix the Amberley interchange back in 2018, Labor MP Jim Madden was completely incapable of delivering for his community in Ipswich West. The Labor government in Brisbane took it off the table just as the coalition in Canberra was giving it funding.

It is a disgrace—an absolute disgrace—and the people of Ipswich West need to send this government a message that enough is enough and they will not be taken for granted any longer. Under this Labor government, infrastructure is crumbling and services are failing Ipswich. It is clear that the only message Labor hears is at the ballot box, so Ipswich West voters should send Labor a message that enough is enough and send Darren Zanow here to the parliament to really stand up for the people of Ipswich West.

Fire ants are a massive security risk, and this government has failed completely in its job to eradicate the ants. They continue spreading despite hundreds of millions of dollars being spent, yet there is still no sign of eradication. People in the Scenic Rim electorate have been on the front line of this battle for years and years, and they are telling me that the program needs to change because it is failing. We all know that landholders look after their land better than any other person, so the government should be supplying, utilising funding from the program, bait to residents and landholders and especially farmers, turf growers and larger lot holders so that they can treat the ants themselves. I am not talking about one-kilogram bags; they need to be supplied in bulk quantities so that these people can get on the front foot when they have fire ant outbreaks on their properties. The way the program is doing it at the moment is simply not working to contain these outbreaks. They are into New South Wales and they are going to continue spreading. The government needs to also work with the New South Wales government to ensure that turf and hay growers can send their produce across the border in an efficient way.

Greenslopes Electorate, Women's Week



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.27 pm): Happy Queensland Women's Week. I want to commend the Premier on releasing the fabulous Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy. Tonight I am hosting a group of mothers and daughters from Greenslopes who are coming to Parliament House as an early celebration of International Women's Day. I sincerely hope that some of these fine young women come back here one day and run the joint. That is what I really hope.

I want to make a contribution to Queensland Women's Week by talking about some of the great women of Greenslopes—and, trust me, there is no shortage. She is not from my electorate, but the spirit of Mary Ward lives on in my community at Loreto College, Coorparoo. Mary dedicated herself to educating and empowering girls and women. Her motto was, 'Do good and do it well', and that applies to all of the women that I will now outline. There are wonderful educators and school supporters like Kim Wickham from Loreto College; Chrissie Coogan, the principal at Coorparoo Secondary College; Mel Townsend from the Greenslopes P&C; and Toni Sutherland from the Nursery Road State Special School. I also want to acknowledge all of those fantastic kindy and early childhood educators like Miss Libby, Miss Susie, Miss Anita and of course Miss Sarah, all doing an amazing job helping kids get a great start. Speaking of school communities, I am constantly amazed at the fantastic young female students I meet in my community.

All of our local sporting clubs and rec clubs are doing a great job of getting more women involved, but I want to note a couple of special people: Sharon Flannery from the Holland Park Hawks, Noela Duncan from Metro netball, and Dixie and Colleen Ning from Wynola and Holland Park Guides. We have many great local businesswomen, like Karen Weibler from Books@Stones who keeps us all reading. Sass Lavelle runs an inclusive hair studio which caters for people who are on the neurodivergent spectrum and which looks after women who need privacy due to domestic violence or for religious reasons.

There are just so many great women in our community that are doing so much work such as Sonja Hellier from the Holland Park-Mount Gravatt RSL, Rita Prasad from the World Wellness Group, Cat Hebbard who is the President of the Holland Park Lions and runs indelabilityarts, Prue Long from Inspiring Brighter Futures and Jane Milne from the MND & Me Foundation. The list could go on and on and on.

I want to call out all of those great women who supported the Greenslopes Reconciliation Action Group. I particularly want to acknowledge Alicia Weiderman, who led the Yes campaign, and was so well supported by Karina Maxwell and our young Indigenous leader Tori Clough. Stephanie and the team at Zig Zag young women's support service do amazing work supporting women who have been affected by sexual violence or domestic violence. This is someone who has been mentioned so many times this week, but Sue Clarke from the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation is truly a Greenslopes great.

Finally, I am completely biased about the next group, but I want to finish by acknowledging my personal four favourite Greenslopes great women. My mother-in-law, Nola Adams, is a Greenslopes great.

Mr Lister: Safe one there!

Mr KELLY: Very safe but very sincere. Then there are my daughters, Molly and Brenna—we are so proud of them; and of course my wife, Susan, who is a registered nurse caring for people with cancer at Greenslopes Hospital. I give a big shout-out to all of the nurses, midwives and health professionals. Happy Queensland Women's Week.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting