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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 21 March 2024

Subject	Page
REPORT	823
Auditor-General	823
<i>Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 11: 2023-24—State entities 2023</i>	823
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	823
Endometriosis.....	823
School Group Tour.....	823
MOTION OF CONDOLENCE	823
Greenwood, Hon. JW, QC.....	823
TABLED PAPER	829
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	829
Members of Parliament, Anniversary of Election.....	829
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	829
Satellite Hospitals.....	829
Infrastructure.....	830
Miles Labor Government.....	830
Water Infrastructure.....	831
Housing.....	832
Resources Industries.....	833
Central Queensland, Road Infrastructure.....	833
Manufacturing.....	834
Community Safety.....	834
Tourism Industry.....	835
Education Infrastructure.....	836
India; Defence Industries; Labour Force Data.....	836
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	837
Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	837
Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	838
Central Queensland.....	838
Olympic and Paralympic Games.....	839

Table of Contents – Thursday, 21 March 2024

Cost of Living	839
Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure	840
Central Queensland.....	841
Olympic and Paralympic Games	841
Health Services.....	841
Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project.....	842
Central Queensland.....	843
Crime.....	844
Coal Royalties.....	844
Speed Cameras	845
<i>Tabled paper: Image depicting speed camera with Queensland Government branding.</i>	845
Water Infrastructure	845
Residential Tenancies	846
Regional Queensland, Infrastructure	847
Logan Hospital	848
Regional Queensland, Education	848
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	849
Introduction	849
<i>Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.</i>	849
<i>Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes.</i>	849
<i>Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.</i>	849
First Reading	852
Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee	852
MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL PARKS) AMENDMENT BILL	852
Introduction	852
<i>Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024.</i>	852
<i>Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes.</i>	852
<i>Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.</i>	852
First Reading	854
Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee	854
POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	854
Introduction	854
<i>Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.</i>	854
<i>Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes.</i>	854
<i>Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.</i>	854
First Reading	856
Referral to Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee.....	856
WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	856
Second Reading	856
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	864
Miles Labor Government, Performance	864
Firefighters	865
Crime	866
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 March 2024, to the ministers of the Queensland parliament.</i>	866
Youth Crime	866
Burdekin Electorate, Crime.....	867
Pumicestone Electorate, Small Business	868
Warrego Highway	868
<i>Tabled paper: Bundle of letters from the member for Warrego, Ms Ann Leahy MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Bart Mellish, regarding road works.</i>	869
Cairns, Community Cabinet.....	869
Fire Ants.....	870
Townsville, Electricity Prices.....	870
Local Government, Elections; Inala and Ipswich West Electorates, By-Elections.....	871
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure.....	872
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Brisbane Times, dated 9 June 2019, titled 'Golf course to make way for Brisbane's version of Hyde Park'.</i>	872
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure.....	872
Mansfield State High School, 50th Anniversary	873
Residential Tenancies	874
Miles Labor Government; Liberal National Party	875
State Election.....	875
Liberal National Party.....	876
Coomera Electorate.....	877
Leader of the Opposition, Performance	877
MOTION	878
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	878

Table of Contents – Thursday, 21 March 2024

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	878
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	879
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General’s Report	879
WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	879
Second Reading	879
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.	895
Resolved in the affirmative.....	895
Consideration in Detail	895
Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.	895
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace’s amendments.	895
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace’s amendments.	895
Amendments agreed to.	895
Clauses 8 and 16 omitted.	896
Clauses 8 to 72 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.....	896
Third Reading	896
Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.	896
Resolved in the affirmative.....	896
Long Title	896
Division: Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.....	896
Resolved in the affirmative.....	896
LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)	897
Second Reading	897
ADJOURNMENT	907
BUSHkids	907
Comments by Member for Warrego; Aspley Electorate	908
Warrego Highway; Horticulture Industry	909
Logan Hospital	909
Scenic Rim Electorate, Infrastructure	910
Rockhampton, Netball	911
Finch Hatton, Flood Zoning	911
Redland City Council, Election; Young, Ms R	912
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract, undated, of comments on a social media account made by Mr John Meikle and Ms Rebecca Young—LNP for Redlands Shire.	912
Weather Events	912
Townsville City Council, Election	913
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Ethics Committee: Report No. 206, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 August 2020 relating to the alleged behaviour of a visitor signed into the parliamentary precinct by a member, and the failure of the member to adequately supervise that visitor.	913
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 21 September 2020, from Queensland State Executive Member and Candidate Co-Ordinator, Pauline Hanson’s One Nation, Mr Neil Symes, to Mr Troy Thompson, regarding Mr Thompson’s candidacy for Pauline Hanson’s One Nation and the seat of Thuringowa.....	913
ATTENDANCE	914

THURSDAY, 21 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.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 11: 2023-24—State entities 2023*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 11: 2023-24—State entities 2023 [\[421\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Endometriosis



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, March is Endometriosis Awareness Month. One in nine people who currently or previously have had a uterus have endometriosis. In Queensland, that statistic is greater, with one in six people experiencing endo. Endometriosis is more common than asthma or diabetes, yet many do not even know the name. Endometriosis is a condition where tissue similar to that which normally lines the uterus grows in other parts of the body. Endometriosis can cause excessive pain, fatigue, bleeding, inflammation, scar tissue, cysts and adhesions. Qendo is Queensland's peak body for endometriosis and pelvic pain. They are the only peak of their kind nationwide and they play a key role in promoting greater awareness and reducing the stigma associated with endo and pelvic pain. Qendo will be attending parliament today, along with other healthcare partners and consumer advocates, to speak with members directly about their experiences. This is a great opportunity for members of the House to better understand how endometriosis and pelvic pain impacts on the daily life of those who experience it. Members are invited from 12.30 pm until 2 pm today to the Undumbi Room.

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Joseph's Nudgee College in the electorate of Nudgee.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Greenwood, Hon. JW, QC



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.33 am): I move—

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


John Ward Greenwood was born on 29 April 1934 in Sydney. He was born in Sydney, but John Greenwood made his name and built a reputation in Queensland. Long before John Greenwood entered this place in 1974 as the member for Ashgrove he had established a distinguished career in

the law. Studying law at the University of Queensland, John graduated and began his legal career as a clerk before being admitted to the bar in 1958. During the sixties, John Greenwood taught law and served on the university's faculty board. He joined the Army Reserve and served his country as a Defence Force magistrate, rising to the rank of colonel.

Eventually though, politics came calling. John Greenwood became a member of parliament, winning the then seat of Ashgrove in 1974. He would go on to serve in this House for nine years, including four years in the Bjelke-Petersen cabinet, parliamentary committees, and as a delegate to the historic Australian Constitutional Convention.

The year 1983 was a turbulent time in Queensland politics. From lawyer to lawmaker to lawyer again, John Greenwood returned to the bar as a distinguished Queen's Counsel, appearing often in significant cases before the High Court.

John Greenwood sadly passed away last December but not before establishing a reputation in courtrooms and in this parliament. I know the House will join me in thanking John Greenwood for his decades of service to the law and to our democratic processes and institutions and in passing on our condolences and best wishes to John's wife, Barbara, daughter Kate and son, Nigel, who are with us today. Vale, John Greenwood.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.35 am): Few members of this House have enjoyed such a successful career both before they were elected and after they left parliament than John Greenwood QC. A barrister, soldier, member of parliament and cabinet minister, John Greenwood made a significant contribution across a wide range of endeavours. His life is characterised by his commitment to three significant institutions—the law, parliament and politics—particularly as represented through the Liberal Party and the Australian Army.

Born in New South Wales in 1934, John Greenwood was educated in three states and graduated from the University of Queensland with degrees in both arts and law, at the same time as holding various positions in the student union movement, including president of the UQ student union. He was admitted as a barrister in 1958, became an active member of the Queensland Bar Association, was instrumental in the building of the new Inns of Court in North Quay, and served as honorary secretary of the association from 1959 to 1961. Throughout this period, he was a part-time lecturer in commercial law at the University of Queensland, served on the law faculty board and was a member of the University of Queensland senate from 1960 to 1966.

John Greenwood took silk in 1980, having practised across a range of matters, including constitutional cases before both the High Court and the Privy Council. However, it was after he left parliament that John Greenwood made what many would consider his most significant legal contribution: he appeared in the Wik case—known as the pastoral lease case—in 1996, seeking to ensure native title could coexist with pastoral leases. It was this advocacy, along with that of his colleagues, that was praised by former High Court Justice Michael Kirby.

If there is one thing that can be said about John Greenwood without dispute it is his commitment to liberalism that saw him elected as member for Ashgrove in the election of 1974. It is instructive to note that in his maiden speech during the address-in-reply debate in 1975, his central theme was the importance of strengthening Australia's federal system of government and the dangers faced from an increasingly centralist federal government. Measures to protect Australia's federal compact were significant driving forces throughout his time in this place. In 1976, John Greenwood entered the ministry as Minister for Survey, Valuation and Urban and Regional Affairs, a position he held in this or a modified form until 1980.

While he was defeated in 1983, his nine years in parliament were marked by three characteristics identified by his son, Nigel, at his funeral service at St John's Cathedral: he was famously incorruptible; he loved constitutional conventions, in particular Westminster parliamentary democracy under the Crown; and his commitment to frugality, including public frugality as a virtue in its own right.

John Greenwood will be remembered from his time in this House as a member who advocated for change but sought to base that change on the preservation of those institutions and practices that served the interests in our democracy. This position did not always serve his own personal interests, but he remained steadfast in this desire. His defeat in 1983 saw him return to the bar and continue his career as a barrister until his retirement in 2017.


The third strand in his life was his involvement with the Australian Army and the University of Queensland Regiment. He commenced national service training in 1952 and continued to serve until his retirement as a colonel in 1994. He transferred from the Infantry to the Army Legal Corps in 1973 and was later appointed a Defence Force magistrate.

He championed conservation causes before they became a feature of mainstream politics. As a lawyer he appeared before the royal commission into oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef from 1970 to 1972. He was instrumental in preserving the reef from oil and gas drilling. As a member of parliament he helped convince the then government not to allow mining at the Mount Etna caves in Central Queensland, thus helping protect the endangered ghost bat.

He campaigned to preserve a range of buildings in our city, including the former St Martins War Memorial Hospital adjacent to St John's Cathedral, against opposition from the church and municipal governance at that time.

At her father's funeral, John Greenwood's daughter Kate observed that his life was driven by a sense of fairness and justice and that his lifelong themes were of building and protecting those things that he held dear. Throughout his life and despite the challenges, John Greenwood maintained his commitment to liberalism. Even in his later years he handed out how-to-vote cards at his local booth at Fig Tree Pocket. John Greenwood's family were everything to him. Despite the fullness of his own political and professional life, family was the foundation of all.

Today, we are pleased to welcome his wife, Barbara, back to the House, along with his children Nigel and Kate. They can be assured that John Greenwood will be remembered as someone who sought to bring his better instincts to Queensland's robust political environment. We recognise his contribution today and acknowledge that our parliament is so much better for him having served in this place.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.41 am): John Greenwood QC, MP was a principled man, a man of conscience and courage. John Greenwood lived a life filled with achievement. John was an esteemed barrister. He appeared in one of the most important High Court cases of our lifetimes, formulating the arguments for the Thayorre people in the Wik case—one of the two landmark native title cases in Australian legal history. John Greenwood described his work in that case as an exercise in common sense. Using centuries old land law, John argued that a pastoral lease did not extinguish centuries old native title. The High Court of Australia agreed with John Greenwood's argument. As retired High Court Justice Michael Kirby said, 'The Wik Peoples were fortunate in the advocacy of Walter Sofronoff, Sir Maurice Byers, JW Greenwood and their team.'

John served our state and country with distinction, joining the Australian Army Reserve as an infantryman as soon as he could. He retired as late as he could, on his 60th birthday, as a colonel in 1994. But it was what John Greenwood did when he served in this House that I would like to remember today. John was a principled Liberal Party MP at a time when many of his coalition colleagues, led by Joh Bjelke-Petersen, were not. After winning the state seat of Ashgrove in 1974, John's intelligence, his debating skills and his knowledge of legislative and parliamentary processes saw him quickly promoted to cabinet in just two years. But that same strength of character and principled view of the world saw his position in that cabinet taken away.

In 1980, John Greenwood refused to blindly follow Joh Bjelke-Petersen and then Liberal leader Llew Edwards as they attempted to further criminalise the provision of terminations of pregnancy and the operation of abortion clinics in this state. Speaking in this chamber on the Pregnancy Termination Control Bill 1980, John dissected the bill and, in particular, a clause that, if enacted, would have only permitted pregnancy termination where it was necessary to avoid the risk of death. Using his knowledge of case law, John argued at length that the use of the words 'necessary' and 'avoid' meant that doctors would only be able to terminate a pregnancy to avoid death, not reduce the risk of it. As he said in the debate—

There are the two arms of the strait jacket clamped on doctors: termination must be necessary in the sense of being indispensable (or the only way of avoiding the risk) and, secondly, it must avoid the risk of death. Diminishing it is not enough.

John highlighted how women who faced health and medical issues deserved the right to make informed decisions about their bodies. He stated—

I believe all women should retain that right, the right in those circumstances to make up their minds one way or another in accordance with their consciences and counselled by their family doctor.


In the debate he said—

I have been worrying about this bill, or an alternative to it, since about last October. In the last month, it has been difficult to think of anything else. My wife and I have three children; two of them are girls of 17 and 14 years of age. Anything that I do in this Parliament and any law that we pass on this issue is likely to affect their lives and the lives of many other people for generations to come. I should tell the House right now at the beginning that I have decided to vote against this bill. I cannot do otherwise.

Thanks to the strength of members like John Greenwood, the bill was defeated at its second reading. At the behest of Llew Edwards, John Greenwood's ministerial career was terminated seven months later. John believed it was because he did not vote with Llew Edwards on that abortion bill, but that did not stop John from following the lone star of his principles again, even in the face of protest and the threat of reprisal from the then premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

In 1983 John publicly supported the creation of a parliamentary public accounts committee to ensure executive government in this state would be subject to more effective oversight and scrutiny. Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the National Party detested the idea. The story goes that Joh Bjelke-Petersen and John Greenwood went up and down in the lift in the Parliamentary Annexe 11 times—11 times from top to bottom—as Bjelke-Petersen in desperation tried to persuade John not to support the creation of a public accounts committee. John Greenwood, a man of courage and determination, would not be deterred, nor would members of the state parliamentary Labor Party and nor would other dissident Liberal MPs who also held to their convictions. The principles of those members exposed the moral and political vacuum that was at the heart of that coalition government fomenting a crisis that would, in the end, change Queensland for the better. John lost the next election but he left parliament knowing that he always did what he thought was right, regardless of personal or political cost.

I first met John Greenwood more than 40 years ago as I went to high school with his son, Nigel. From the moment you met John, a man with a warm and welcoming smile, you knew he was a kind, gentle and thoughtful man. His genuineness was obvious to all. He even had time for young men who thought the cause of Labor was the hope of the world. While I cannot say that John Greenwood played a role in my own journey in public life, I can say that men and women of courage, compassion and conviction should always be remembered. Nigel, John's loving wife, Barbara, and his daughter Kate join us in the gallery today. I know how much John Greenwood loved his family and how much they loved him in return. I hope that the words expressed by others since his passing and the words expressed here today in the chamber where John served for nine years are of some comfort to Barbara, Nigel and Kate as they grieve John's loss and reflect on his service to our state.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.48 am): As the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, I rise to contribute to the condolence motion, as moved by the Premier of Queensland, for the former state member for Ashgrove Colonel the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC. In doing so, I wish to formally acknowledge the lifetime of distinguished service that John Greenwood gave to the people of Ashgrove, Queensland and, more broadly, Australia. On 23 December 2023, the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC passed away peacefully at the QEII Jubilee Hospital at the age of 89 years.

Born on 29 April 1934 in Kingsford, New South Wales, John Greenwood's formative years saw him attend some 12 primary schools across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, including schools in Kedron, Wilston and Milton. After high school, John Greenwood attended the University of Queensland where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1956 followed by a Bachelor of Laws in 1957. In 1961 he married Barbara Conrad, with them as a family having three children, Katherine, Elizabeth and Nigel. I take this opportunity to acknowledge that in the gallery today we are joined by Barbara, Kate and Nigel. I also note that John is the much loved grandpa of Nigella, Viola and Annika. At the funeral service and celebration of the life of John Greenwood held at St John's Cathedral Brisbane on 22 January 2024, it was remarked that life's John was significantly dedicated to three main areas, each interwoven throughout his life—the law, Australia's Defence Force and politics.

I first wish to acknowledge his military service. From 1952 until 1994 John was a member of the Australian Army. From 1952 to 1960 John was with the Queensland University Regiment. Then from 1960 to 1968 John was a member of the Reserve of Officers, Infantry Division. He transferred his commission to the Army Legal Corps in 1973 and served as captain of the Reserve Army Legal Corps from 1974. As the Queensland Law Society recently reported, John also served as a senior legal officer in the counterterrorism exercises for Expo 88 with his defence appointments including Defence Force magistrate as well as being a member of the panel reviewing judge advocates of the ADF with the rank of colonel.


Concurrent with his military service, John Greenwood was also a distinguished lawyer, having started his legal career as a law clerk with the Brisbane firm Flower & Hart before being called to the bar in 1958. From 1959 to 1961 John Greenwood served as honorary secretary of the Queensland Bar Association and was a barrister from 1959 until 1976. In 1980 John Greenwood was formally appointed as a Queen's Counsel practising as a QC until his retirement in 2017.

Beyond being remembered as a colonel in the Australian Army and Queen's Counsel, we remember John Greenwood for his service as the Liberal Party state member for Ashgrove from 1974 to 1983. During this time John Greenwood's parliamentary service included Minister for Survey, Valuation, Urban and Regional Affairs from 1976 to 1977 and later the Minister for Survey and Valuation from 1977 to 1980. He was also a member of both the Select Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Select Committee on Privileges.

The month of December of this year will mark 50 years since the election of John Greenwood as the state member for Ashgrove in 1974. As many in the Queensland parliament will know and indeed remember, in 2024 we also recognise the 50th anniversary of the devastating 1974 Brisbane flood. John Greenwood's ministerial and western suburbs colleague the former state Liberal member for Mount Coot-tha and first state member for Moggill, the Hon. Bill Lickiss QGM, was instrumental during the 1974 flood relief efforts, especially for the residents of Bellbowrie. In recognition of outstanding bravery and rescue efforts during the 1974 Brisbane floods the Hon. Bill Lickiss MLA was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

The passing of John Greenwood is a loss that has been felt by Liberal National Party members given his years of faithful service to local party units across the western suburbs of Brisbane, including as chairman of the Keperra branch from 1972 to 1975, serving as the Brisbane campaign director for the 1972 state election, chairman of The Gap ward campaign committee in 1982 and serving on both the Ryan and Brisbane federal electorate area executives.

In preparing to speak on this condolence motion, I spoke with the former Liberal state member for Indooroopilly, Denver Beanland, and the former Liberal state member for Toowong, Ian Prentice. Both former Liberal state members described John Greenwood as a gentleman, a true Liberal, a legal scholar, a man of principle and a fine Australian. On a personal note, I certainly appreciated the wisdom and advice that John Greenwood gave to me during various election campaigns and policy matters and also with respect to legislation in the Queensland parliament. As the Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, I acknowledge and recognise the service of the late John Greenwood to the western suburbs of Brisbane. Vale, the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.52 am): I rise also to make a brief contribution to the condolence motion for the Hon. John Greenwood RFD, QC, who served as the member for Ashgrove for nine years from 1974 as a member of the Liberal Party. My electorate of Cooper, formerly known as Ashgrove, has benefited from some really strong representatives in parliament. Reading through John's speeches in preparation for this speech, I saw that he had some really strong, clear and firm views about things that mattered to him.

Others have spoken about John's extraordinary accomplishments. I am not inclined to repeat those. What I would like to do is comment on the very real difficulty that I feel in speaking about a gentleman I never had the opportunity to meet but whose life has collided with mine through this shared obligation, responsibility and privilege to uphold the rights and interests of the constituents of Ashgrove who are now the constituents of Cooper.


I did want to get a sense of who John Greenwood was and so I reached out to his family. I thank his son, Nigel, for being very generous in sharing his stories with me. I really appreciate that. I certainly will not repeat them all, but I will say that I came away with a very strong impression of a man who was very principled, who had courage and was very devoted to his family and his community and, importantly, had a healthy dose of integrity.

John entered parliament through a sense of civic duty and purpose, something that was imbued in him as a youngster and developed further through his national service. He came into this place as a lawyer and a person who already had a really impressive human rights resume. John was instrumental in putting an end to oil and gas drilling on the Great Barrier Reef and was a real humanitarian and friend to the Solomon Islands. Importantly, his first priority was to work across the political divide to cultivate relationships and to represent the people of Ashgrove with honour and integrity.

I do want to particularly acknowledge John's role in standing up for the women in Queensland. As the Deputy Premier illustrated in his example, when John was asked along with his caucus colleagues to support the government of the time in further criminalising abortion in Queensland and essentially restricting access to legal terminations of pregnancy for women, he was one of a very small number of the caucus who stood up and spoke against that. I understand he may be one of the only cabinet ministers at the time to speak up against that in what was a conservative government. I think we could all relate to the political pressures that that would place on somebody. I do understand that it may have cost him that cabinet position. He did speak up for the women of Queensland amidst that pressure.

When we all reflect on what people might say about us in this place in our condolence motions—hopefully not too soon—we would all like to be remembered as a person who stood by our values, who stood up for our community, who did the right thing by Queenslanders and who had conviction and courage. I certainly hope people say that about me. I hope the family really come away from today with that very strong and shared sentiment from across the chamber.

On behalf of the constituents of Ashgrove, who are now the constituents of Cooper, I pass on my condolences to John's family: to his wife, Barbara, as well as to Nigel and Kate. Our thanks also go to his family. All of us here know it takes really strong family support to help us do the things we do in here and I know they were a huge part of his success. I acknowledge that for them all. Also, I have had the pleasure of knowing Kate through her work in ATSILS and Nigel is an esteemed human rights warrior himself, so obviously the apple did not fall very far from the tree in that regard. On behalf of our Ashgrove community, please accept our deepest condolences and the gratitude for John's service. Vale, John Ward Greenwood.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.57 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for Colonel the Hon. John Ward Greenwood RFD, QC. John was the beloved husband of Barbara and father of Katherine, Elizabeth and Nigel. As we have heard, John started his legal career as a legal clerk for the Brisbane firm Flower & Hart before being called to the bar in 1958, having completed both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Queensland. Not content with simply the practice of law, he contributed to academia through lecturing, serving on the Law Faculty Board and being a member of the University of Queensland's Senate for various periods in the 1960s and 1970s. Appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1980, he was a giant of the legal profession and practised until his retirement in 2017.

In addition to his enormous contribution to the law in Queensland, he also served the people of Queensland as the member for Ashgrove from 1974 until 1983, including serving as Minister for Survey and Valuation from 1977 until 1980. John was known for his keen intellect, his commanding presence in the courtroom and his progressive thinking on issues affecting the community at large including social justice issues and the environment. He appeared as counsel for the conservation interests at the royal commission into oil drilling on the Great Barrier Reef from 1970 to 1972. John also appeared in several constitutional law cases before the High Court and the Privy Council.

As we have heard, John served in the Australian Army for an incredible 42 years. His defence appointments included that of Defence Force magistrate and a member of the panel of reviewing judge advocates, reaching the rank of colonel. John's commitment to the justice system survives through the admirable work of his daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine, who have also been admitted to the bar. John was very proud of all his children and they are each a credit to him.

John was a true libertarian. His commitment to justice and social values through his practice of law and his commitment to his electorate, the people of Ashgrove, bore testament to this. I am thankful to Kate for a small anecdote about her dad. Kate told this story about her dad at his service. What many in this House may not know is that John had a passion for animals, plants and native bees. I understand his home at Fig Tree Pocket had one paddock for animals and one for his own little rainforest. John would often bring back exotic plants from North Queensland for his little rainforest. However, Sadie, one of the family's goats, took a special interest in one of the vines and had to perform Houdini acts to get to this plant, which meant that that vine did not exactly thrive. I understand that John had a special relationship with his native bees and would often seek their counsel. Vale, John Ward Greenwood.

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

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[420](#) 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—

Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—


'Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023'

Insert—

'Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024'

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Members of Parliament, Anniversary of Election

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today marks 15 years in parliament for the members for Mudgeeraba, Kawana, Coomera, Glass House, Oodgeroo and myself who were first elected on 21 March 2009. I recognise and note their 15 years of service in a variety of roles over that time. I also acknowledge other members of the class of 2009—the members for Woodridge, Bulimba and Morayfield who left for three years but not of their choosing. I am sure all members will join me in saying congratulations to all of those members.


Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr Bleijie: We haven't changed, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Some things remain the same, member for Kawana.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Satellite Hospitals

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (10.03 am): From the cape to Coolangatta and way out west to Windorah, we are a government that is listening to Queenslanders, and we are a government that listens and acts. When communities in some of our fastest growing regions told us they needed good, accessible health care closer to home, we acted, and that is why we built seven satellite hospitals. Some 50,000 patients have now been seen across our satellite hospitals since the first one opened in Caboolture eight months ago. That is 50,000 people who have not had to go to our busy emergency departments, freeing up those doctors and nurses to dedicate their resources to our most critical patients. To put that into perspective, each day this month about 85 people have presented to the Kallangur Satellite Hospital every day, 81 have been cared for at Ripley each day, 67 in the Redlands each day, 63 a day in Caboolture and more than 50 a day in Tugun.


Another way we are bringing good health care closer to home is by giving our fantastic pharmacists the tools to help more Queenslanders. Today the health minister will announce a new training pathway to enable pharmacists to prescribe women and girls the contraceptive pill. When I travel across Queensland and talk to people, what I hear is that access to GPs and bulk-billed GP appointments in particular are a huge barrier, so we are giving more people the tools and training to prescribe the medication so many women rely on. I want to thank the women and pharmacists who have advocated for these changes. We have listened to them and we are delivering for them.

When I became Premier nearly 100 days ago I vowed that I would continue to listen to Queenslanders—to listen and act for police when they said they needed a helicopter in Townsville to help catch criminals, and we delivered that helicopter. I listened to our Sunshine Coast communities that wanted to see action on heavy rail to the region. We have announced that our government will work with the Commonwealth to build stage 1 from Beerwah to Caloundra. Last week my cabinet

travelled to Rockhampton to listen to locals. We hosted a town hall meeting with nearly 200 people who were invited to ask anything they wanted. Mark asked what we are doing to secure large accommodation facilities to help some of our most vulnerable have somewhere safe to sleep. I was able to share with him that our \$3 billion Homes for Queenslanders plan is enabling us to buy up hotels and units so we can put homeless people into them.

Before the town hall meeting got underway I had the chance to meet with Nathan and Amanda White along with the health minister and the member for Keppel. Amanda was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer last year. A PET scanner can help our doctors find tumours or diagnose heart disease and brain disorders. If you live in Rockhampton, the closest scanner is in Mackay or Bundaberg. As Amanda told me, some patients need regular PET scans for the rest of their life to keep cancer at bay. I was touched by Nathan and Amanda's story and their advocacy, so our government will give Rockhampton a PET scanner. I really want to take this chance to thank the member for Keppel, who has been fighting to get this one for her community, and the member for Rockhampton, who supported the campaign. We will invest \$7.8 million so that patients like Amanda can get the health care they need closer to home. As Nathan said, having the ability to have this local alleviates one massive stress that cancer patients go through to make it happen. We listened and we have acted. Our next community cabinet will be in Mackay in early April. I encourage anyone in Mackay or the greater Whitsunday region to come and join us.

Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.07 am): The Miles government is delivering Queensland's Big Build. We are in the biggest decade of infrastructure delivery in our history with \$90 billion plus investment over the next four years alone. We are delivering the homes, the schools, the hospitals, the renewable energy infrastructure and the roads and transport our growing state needs. More than half of our Big Build is happening in regional Queensland. In Rockhampton, Mackay and Central Queensland that means projects like the \$1.7 billion Rockhampton Ring Road, the \$350 million Mackay Port Access Road, the \$983 million Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline to improve water security and more than \$9 billion for the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program—yes, we are building trains in Queensland right out of Maryborough!


The Miles government is committed to listening to Queensland. Our community cabinets are a big part of that and it was great to be in Rockhampton last week with the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel. We visited local projects, met with the community about local issues, hosted a town hall Q&A and of course served up some snags at the barbeque. If anyone has ever wondered what happens to the cans and bottles you put in Containers for Change, I had the pleasure of visiting Kriaris Recyclables to see firsthand, and my thanks to Matthew for such a great tour.

Recycled glass is crushed for use in local roads and footpaths and it is so clean that it is even being used for fertiliser. Cans, plastic bottles and cardboard are bailed up in one of Queensland's largest bailers and sold to be made into new products—a true circular economy. After a fire at the facility in 2020, we supported Kriaris with nearly \$1 million in grants through the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program and the Queensland Recycling Modernisation Fund and now they are going from strength to strength.

On this side of the House we are listening to and delivering for Queenslanders. We are proud to be building the infrastructure that our growing state needs, supporting businesses right across Queensland. We are proud to be building a bright future for our children and the generations to come. Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next minister, I advise the House that question time will commence at approximately 10.45 am.

Miles Labor Government

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.10 am): It was such a privilege to visit Rockhampton last week as part of our government's community cabinet. I met with doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals, visited the new Medicare urgent care clinic and met with a GP who is undertaking advanced obstetrics training thanks to our government's investment.


More than anything else, it was a real privilege to meet with Amanda and Nathan White. As the Premier has said this morning, they sat down with both of us and the member for Keppel and bravely shared their story of Amanda's battle with stage 4 cancer. The next day, we had the honour of standing with them and announcing that the Miles Labor government will invest almost \$8 million to deliver a new PET/CT scanner at the Rockhampton Hospital. It was an emotional morning, but a very important one. That scanner will mean better cancer care and diagnosis services for Rockhampton locals and it will eliminate the need to travel vast distances to receive those vital scans. However, it is no small undertaking. This is advanced equipment that requires lead shielding bunkers, radioisotope storage and highly trained nuclear medical professionals. It is worth it because we know that it will make a difference in the lives of so many locals in Central Queensland.

Speaking of making a difference, I can also announce our government will roll out training for pharmacists to allow them to prescribe hormonal contraception to Queensland women. This move will break down barriers that women face in accessing hormonal contraception, particularly in regional and rural areas where seeing a GP can be difficult and costly. We know that 83 per cent of Australian women will use contraception at some point in their life so it makes sense that we make the process as easy and as cost-effective as possible. Last year, the Australian Senate found that many women continue to face barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health care. This move is the latest step our government is taking to address those barriers. In order to participate in the service, pharmacists will have to undergo specific training to ensure contraception is prescribed safely and appropriately. I look forward to those services beginning from July this year onwards.

Finally, today is National Close the Gap Day. As the world's oldest continuing living cultures who, for 3,000 generations, have been the original healers of this land, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people absolutely deserve access to high-quality, culturally safe health care. In 2020, the Miles government created the strongest health equity legislation ever enacted in this country and we are the only jurisdiction to have a Chief First Nations Health Officer.

Recently, along with the Minister for Treaty, I was pleased to release the First Nations First Health Strategy—a bold, 10-year vision built in partnership with First Nations communities. We are beginning to see progress. Compared to other jurisdictions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland have the longest life expectancy and the smallest gap in life expectancy. An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander baby born today in Queensland will have an average life significantly longer than those born a decade ago. Queensland is increasing the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born with a healthy birth weight. We are very close to meeting the target of 91 per cent, with 89.2 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born with a healthy birth weight in 2021-22. Of course, we know that there is more work to do, but the Miles government remains resolutely committed to doing everything we can to close the gap and deliver better health outcomes for First Nations Queenslanders.

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.14 am): When it comes to listening to Queenslanders and delivering the infrastructure that regional Queensland needs, our Big Build program is leading the nation. When it comes to nation-leading projects, they do not come much more impressive than Rookwood Weir in Central Queensland. It is the biggest weir built in the nation since World War II. It is the biggest water infrastructure project built in the nation in over a decade. It has won many accolades and rightly so, if you ask me. To think, the LNP never wanted this project in Queensland.

The Queensland Labor government is leading the way when it comes to delivering big water assets and water security and, despite being completed only late last year, Rookwood Weir is already spilling. That means the economic benefits of Rookwood Weir are well and truly flowing. Agricultural businesses are moving ahead with new horticultural projects as Sunwater continues precommissioning works at the weir.

Last week, while we were in Rockhampton, I caught up with the owners of Lush Lychees. Thanks to a water allocation from the great weir, they are expanding their orchard in South Yaamba to 9,000 lychee trees. The new crop will mean the creation of another two permanent jobs and up to 30 casual picking jobs during the season. Krystal from Lush Lychees said that there is so much work to do: there is the planting, some construction work with the pivot irrigator and, of course, the harvesting later on. All of those tasks mean only one thing: more agricultural jobs in Central Queensland.

Whether it is Lush Lychees, macadamias or the proposed feedlot, there is so much more good news on the horizon in Central Queensland thanks to our government's investment in Rookwood Weir. Seeing those opportunities come to life means so much because we had to fight to get our fair share out of the former coalition LNP government for this project, while the opposition sat silent because they do not support jobs and water security in regional Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker—

Mr Lister interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member for Nanango. Member for Southern Downs, that was disorderly. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, I assume you have a point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. The minister on his feet is clearly misleading the House. I take personal offence at his mistruths. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I will pull you up. I do not believe you were mentioned directly. If you were, I did not hear you mentioned personally. You cannot take personal offence around a policy issue. I remind the minister and other ministers that the convention is that matters of public importance and public policy are to be discussed during ministerial statements.

Mr BUTCHER: While the hard work is done with Rookwood Weir and it moves into the operational phase, we are not stopping in Central Queensland. We are getting on with the job of delivering our regional jobs plan instead of putting a nuclear power plant in the region as the federal LNP want to do. We are investing in the Mount Morgan pipeline and the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline. Both are currently underway and there are jobs on the ground. That is not to mention our investment in Building our Regions and our support for the Livingstone, Rockhampton and Central Highlands councils with their water infrastructure. We will continue to deliver our Big Build to keep our communities strong and create more jobs in Central Queensland.

Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.18 am): Our government is listening and delivering cost-of-living support to Queenslanders right across the state. Last week we were in Rocky, the beef capital, for community cabinet to do just that: listen and take action. We visited new social homes being built and met with our hardworking QBuild crews to see the critical work that they are doing to build more homes for Queenslanders.

I also had the chance to talk with our funded homelessness organisations—groups such as Anglicare Central Queensland, Roseberry House, Darumbal Community Youth Service Inc., Vinnies and Girls Time Out. We listened to Queenslanders and our hardworking homelessness organisations when they told us that they wanted us to do more. When I first came into this role, I visited all parts of Queensland and sat down and listened to those organisations. I was pleased to share with them the news that, through Homes for Queenslanders, we have boosted funding for frontline services by 20 per cent, including in Central Queensland.


Anglicare Central Queensland CEO Carol Goodwin said that funding is vital so they can provide more assistance for people at risk of homelessness and those already sleeping rough. We are also establishing a new team in Rockhampton to rapidly respond and reach out to the most vulnerable and offer them a safe place to stay. The work through our Homes for Queenslanders plan is having a real impact for people like Susan, who just recently moved into her new social home in Yeppoon. Susan says—

I was facing living on the street. Now this beautiful home is offering me security and I'll be living out my days here.

Clifford was struggling to afford his latest rent, so the local housing service centre provided him with direct cost-of-living support. Our \$160 million rent relief package provides even more funding to support Queenslanders find, get and keep their rental.

I look forward to joining the member for Mackay in her community to talk about how Homes for Queenslanders will help them. We will certainly have more shovels in the ground on some new homes there very soon. Only the Miles government listens to Queenslanders. We agree that every Queenslanders deserves safe, secure and affordable housing. That is what we will deliver through our Homes for Queenslanders plan, but all of that is at risk if those opposite are voted in in October.

Resources Industries

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (10.20 am): One of the keys to Queensland's economic prosperity over the past century has been our mighty resource industry—and that includes the coal sector. It is one of our biggest employers in regional Queensland. In fact, the latest data from our Government Statistician's Office shows that nearly 44,000 people were employed in the resource sector in the Bowen Basin alone. Some 95 per cent or 41,600, were employed in coalmining. To put that into perspective, that is a 10 per cent increase in the workforce on the previous 12 months.


Reports of the Queensland coal industry's demise are clearly an exaggeration at best or simply untrue. Coal exports make a massive contribution to the Queensland economy. We exported more than \$62 billion of coal last year, and around \$50 billion was steelmaking coal. We have world-class, high-quality deposits. As the world starts to embrace a decarbonised economy, we expect demand for our steelmaking coal to remain high. That is because the quality and relatively low emissions profile of our steelmaking coal, as well as progress in reducing emissions onsite, will help maintain our global competitiveness.

In fact, the latest exploration expenditure figures shows there is huge confidence in Queensland's coal industry. Spending on coal exploration in 2023 jumped nearly 42 per cent on the previous 12 months to \$239.3 million. That is the highest since 2014. We all know that exploration is the lifeblood of the resource industry. It is this government that backs the resources industry in its entirety. That includes the coal sector because we know just how important that is. We have long held the position that we support resource projects if they stack up socially, environmentally and economically. Our position has not changed.

We are a government that values and supports the coal sector. That is for the tens of thousands of jobs it supports and sustains, for the valuable contribution it makes to regional Queensland economies, for the important role it plays as Queensland embraces a decarbonised future and for the royalties it generates for all of Queensland. These are royalties that support our healthcare workers, our police, our Big Build and our infrastructure delivery. It is these progressive coal royalties that are building the brand new Moranbah Hospital that the former mayor of Isaac Regional Council Anne Baker fought so hard for. That is our progressive coal royalties delivering. Clearly, the numbers speak for themselves.

There is more confidence from explorers to invest in the industry, despite what those opposite may claim. It is about time those opposite backed Queensland progressive coal royalties, which means backing all Queenslanders. It is the Miles government which will always back the people of this state rather than handing back billions of dollars to mining companies, which we know will mean frontline job losses and essential services cuts—just like the last time the LNP were in power.


Central Queensland, Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.24 am): It was fantastic to be in Rockhampton last week for community cabinet. I spoke to many passionate, engaged Central Queenslanders who are working hard for their families and their communities. While in Rockhampton I visited the northern construction site of the Rockhampton Ring Road being delivered by Bielby and BMD in a joint venture. There is significant work already underway on the new Limestone Creek Bridge, the first of 19 new bridges that will be delivered as part of this project. The Limestone Creek Bridge will be 204 metres long and have 66 precast concrete T girders which will form the base of the bridge deck. The piledriving is ongoing and expected to be completed by mid-2024, and the bridge is expected to take 12 months to complete. As construction progresses, locally manufactured precast reinforced concrete T girders will be transported to the site.

With an increased Australian government commitment of \$1.2 billion and an increased Queensland government commitment of \$530 million, this massive investment will deliver the full 17.4 kilometres of the Rockhampton Ring Road, which will of course be part of the Bruce Highway when complete. Not only will this project transform the Central Queensland region by removing heavy vehicles from the centre of town; it will also provide increased connections to key precincts and improve access and travel times to critical services including the hospital and emergency services. Importantly, it will also build local workforce capacity, with an extended pipeline of road infrastructure construction for apprentices and trainees, engineers, technical services and local businesses.

Of the contracts awarded by the contractors to the end of January this year, local content is tracking just shy of 80 per cent, with contracts valued at \$38 million awarded to local suppliers already. Last week, the Miles government also announced a kick-starter package of \$100 million for critical roads within beef corridors. These are the roads that help get our world-famous Central Queensland beef products from the paddock to the plate—roads that will support this vital sector for Queensland. We have prioritised five projects in the region and will continue working on a 10-year Central Queensland beef roads investment strategy with local mayors and other stakeholders to bring on the Australian government's \$400 million investment for these corridors. These works are in addition to the \$107 million early works package announced in November last year to kickstart works on the \$1 billion Inland Freight Route, also known as the Second Bruce. Along with my cabinet colleagues, I am already looking forward to our next visit to Rockhampton for Beef Week and look forward to listening to more Central Queenslanders about delivering these important projects for the region.

Manufacturing

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.26 am): It is good to be back! Good governments invest in local manufacturing. We know that a strong manufacturing sector in Queensland means a strong Queensland. Manufacturing is one of the largest employers in this state, supporting over 180,000 Queenslanders with good, secure jobs and thousands more jobs down supply chains in Queensland.


Since coming to government we have been delivering on our plan to strengthen Queensland's manufacturing sector. We have worked closely with industry to reinstate funding and support programs cut by the former LNP government. We have continued to invest in the manufacturing sector: more grants and more money directly into manufacturing businesses in Queensland; growing our manufacturing hubs program; and certainly delivering more manufacturing opportunities for Queensland workers such as bringing train manufacturing back to Maryborough rather than sending that work overseas.

Like many Queenslanders, manufacturing businesses need support when it comes to the cost of living in Queensland. When I meet grant recipients they tell me that without the support of the Queensland Labor government they would not have purchased new equipment for their businesses. Now, thanks to this Labor government, they have new equipment, new market opportunities and, best of all, new jobs on the ground.

Recently we started to roll out our Manufacturing Energy Efficiency Grant Program in Queensland. Do you know what that means, Mr Speaker? It means reduced energy bills for our manufacturers in Queensland. Thanks to more than \$7 million in funding from this government, local manufacturers across Queensland are installing energy-efficient equipment and slashing their energy bills—like Dean Street Bakery in Rockhampton, which will save thousands on their energy bills thanks to a grant from this government. Last week when I was in Rockhampton I visited this fantastic local food manufacturer. They received \$11,000 in funding to purchase a more energy-efficient prover retarder to cut down on energy waste. This has helped that business save over \$2,400 a year on their electricity bill, which owner Sam Hayman says will go a long way to easing the cost-of-living pressure on his business. Another business that is benefiting is Jabiru Aircraft in Bundaberg. They have been able to save almost \$3,000 a year off their energy costs thanks to a grant from this state government for new equipment in that manufacturing business.

Our energy efficiency grants are supporting businesses with the cost of living. Businesses told us they needed this support. We listened to Queenslanders and we delivered. Our Queensland manufacturers are now reaping the benefits of lower energy costs to do business in Queensland. The Miles government will always back our manufacturing sector because we want a future where we see more goods made in Queensland, not overseas.

Community Safety

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.29 am): Keeping Queenslanders safe is a priority for the Miles government, and that includes providing the frontline services our cities, towns, and regional and rural communities need. Investing in fire infrastructure and frontline staff and volunteers is absolutely essential.

Last week I was pleased to join the member for Keppel at The Caves Rural Fire Service to hand over keys to a \$455,000 Hino 500 tanker as part of the Rural Fire Service Fleet Replacement Scheme. It was terrific to meet volunteers such as First Officer Owen Buckle and his mum, Jenny, who has faithfully served almost 20 years in the Rural Fire Service. The Buckles also have three generations serving at The Caves.


I was so pleased to inspect the new Alton Downs rural fire shed. The Queensland government has contributed more than \$190,000 towards the new shed which will help the local brigade under the leadership of First Officer Owen Buckle to protect their community. It is a fantastic new home for the brigade. Upgrading facilities for rural services like this is part of the \$8.2 million allocated in the budget to provide new and upgraded facilities right across Queensland.

In addition to the infrastructure upgrades, the Miles government is also boosting fleet delivery across QFES with \$18.7 million for new fire rescue service trucks and over \$23 million for new Rural Fire Service trucks and support vehicles. In total, we are delivering 265 new vehicles right across Queensland, with more than half of that fleet boosting our Rural Fire Service and keeping our rural communities safe.

This represents a 40 per cent uplift to the Rural Fire Service over the last 12 months. On top of this, there is a \$38.2 million allocation for capital works within the Fire and Rescue Service, with \$20 million dedicated to constructing new state-of-the-art fire and rescue stations such as in Caloundra South, Moreton Bay Central, Greater Springfield and Mount Cotton Road.

I recently went to Bancroft with the member for Bancroft to open the Moreton Bay Central fire station. Recently I visited the Mount Cotton station with the member for Springwood and the member for Macalister that is nearing completion. That construction is well underway and I cannot wait to see the benefit that that will provide for the local community. I look forward to shortly joining the member for Caloundra when we visit the Caloundra Fire and Rescue Station, which is due to be completed in late 2024. The Miles government will always invest in our front line through new facilities, fleet delivery and safety systems for firefighters to ensure the safety of all of our Queensland communities.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (10.33 am): Queensland is the nation's top holiday destination. We all know that. The Miles government is determined to keep it that way. Pleasingly, one of our fastest growing areas in domestic tourism is Central Queensland. The latest industry research found that to September last year overnight expenditure in the Mackay region was up over 25 per cent to almost \$800 million over the last three years. That is absolutely unprecedented. In the southern Great Barrier Reef region, which includes Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Gladstone, it was up over 11 per cent to \$1.7 billion. Amazingly, that is a 37 per cent increase in the pre-pandemic figures—absolutely unique.

This is a great result for Central Queensland tourism operators, for local visitor economies and, more importantly, for sustainable industry jobs. The Miles government knows that to continue this growth we must take a longer term view by continuing to invest in the industry but, more importantly, back our tourism operators. That is why yesterday I announced the opening of round 2 of our \$15 million Growing Future Tourism fund.

One of the five recipients of round 1 was the Lindeman Island Resort in the Whitsundays—a once iconic resort that is yet to be restored to its former glory. The funding they will receive will build a fixed 50-metre jetty to allow access to the island—which is pretty important for an island. This will also pave the way for a 210-room, five-star hotel, a golf course and a solar farm. As the island is reborn, it will become a beacon of sustainable development, providing a great example to other developers.

In Townsville, Flinders Street Wharves will get a Marine Tourism Hub featuring marina berths and a floating bar and restaurant. I note that this is a first for North Queensland. On the Sunshine Coast at Australia Zoo, four new, two-storey eco-cabins will be built overlooking a freshwater billabong with crocodile views. On the Gold Coast, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital will get a new research and training precinct where students can gain practical skills in treating native wildlife. On the Brisbane River, a 42-berth marina will be built at Raptis Seafood, where commercial and tourist boats can dock overnight.


This is very important—and I know the Treasurer will be particularly happy with this: our \$15 million investment will leverage a further \$66 million in private investment to make these things happen. We are working with industry to ensure these things move forward. This sort of funding would naturally be at risk under the LNP government. The Miles Labor government invests in tourism, in contrast to when the LNP were last in power. They cut \$188 million from the tourism budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HEALY: The LNP do not get tourism. The LNP never have, and they cannot be trusted.

Mr SPEAKER: I could not hear the end of that because of all the interjections. I apologise, members, if I did not pick up something that I should have.

Education Infrastructure

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.36 am): The Miles Labor government is committed to the Big Build for Queensland. In the education portfolio, that means the best facilities for students no matter who they are or where they are in Queensland—from the border to the gulf, from the coast to the outback.


The Department of Education is responsible for managing an asset portfolio in excess of \$30 billion. This equates to more than 35,000 learning spaces and support facilities across more than 1,260 schools in Queensland. In 2023-24, we are investing \$2.1 billion to build, maintain and upgrade school infrastructure across Queensland to make sure students have access to fit-for-purpose facilities that improve their learning outcomes. This includes a planned investment of almost \$400 million in 2023-24 in our regional locations as follows: almost \$75 million in the Central Queensland region; over \$32 million in the Mackay-Whitsunday region; almost \$80 million in the Far North Queensland region; over \$57 million in the Townsville region; over \$56 million in the Wide Bay region; over \$64 million on the Darling Downs; over \$30 million in Outback Queensland.

In Mackay and Rockhampton alone, we have 36 projects underway throughout, including projects at Fitzgerald State School, Calen District State College and Mackay North State High School, as well as 54 projects throughout the Rockhampton region, including at Gracemere State School, Rockhampton State High School and The Hall State School, which I look forward to visiting in a few weeks time.

Just last week I had the great pleasure of joining the member for Rockhampton to open the new \$21.7 million two-storey learning centre at Rockhampton North Special School. It was such a pleasure to meet with the principal Dehlia Dawson and her students who were so excited by this new building. I give a big shout-out to school captains Stacey and Aaron who gave absolutely beautiful speeches and to all the students who gave such a great guided tour.

Our Big Build showcases not only our investment in regional infrastructure but also our strong commitment to supporting students with a disability. The new learning centre has 10 learning spaces with associated collaborative spaces, two breakout spaces, a multipurpose room, assisted persons with disability amenities, a staffroom and a lift. The school has also benefited through the provision of additional car parking and a new pick-up and drop-off area, improving safety for the students. These new facilities support the students and teachers in delivering the best outcomes for all, in an innovative and fit-for-purpose environment. Through our Big Build program we are driving sustainable investment to optimise and renew our state's educational infrastructure to ensure our students and staff in state schools have the best facilities to meet the learning demands of the future.

India; Defence Industries; Labour Force Data

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.39 am): I take this opportunity, at the start of my ministerial statement, to wish the hero of the Gabba, Brisbane Heat's Spencer Johnson, all the best ahead of the start of the Men's Indian Premier League this week. Spencer will be playing for the Gujarat Titans in a home ground designed by a Brisbane company. It is a great reminder of how important Queensland's relationship with India is.

India is a valued friend with shared interests and a nation that will be the world's third-largest economy by the end of this decade. That is why our government is delivering our Queensland-India Trade and Investment Strategy. That strategy is supporting Queensland jobs and Queensland exports. Since I led a four-day Queensland trade mission to India one year ago, Trade and Investment Queensland has supported export outcomes to India worth more than \$44 million. That is, of course, on top of Queensland's growing export of steelmaking coal to India as the world's most populous nation seeks to increase its steel production to more than 200 million tonnes each year by 2030. In the calendar year 2023, Queensland metallurgical coal exports to India were worth \$15.7 billion. Next month TIQ will host a delegation of over 20 Indian buyers on a tour of the state's premier

avocado-growing regions to showcase our world-class produce. India's avocado imports have risen 450 per cent in four years, so the opportunities for avocado producers from Tamborine to the Atherton Tablelands are immense.

Our government is supporting miners, farmers and every other sort of Queensland business to enhance their export capabilities and connect them with relevant networks and partners in India. Last week a series of workshops were held across the state in locations including Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gladstone, Mackay and Townsville to help businesses crack the Indian market. Every session was fully booked, with almost 450 companies attending. I want to thank the Assistant Minister for Trade and Investment, the member for Ipswich, Jennifer Howard, for her attendance at these workshops and her strong support for our strategy.

While I am talking about Queensland's trading partners, I welcome news that Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank will build 100 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles for the German armed forces. That comes after a deal was approved by the German parliament overnight. This deal will extend the pipeline of work for 600 highly skilled workers at Milvehcoe for at least 10 years and further enforces the importance of highly skilled jobs and supply chains in Queensland's defence industries.

Speaking of jobs, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has just released labour force data for February: 10,900 jobs—


Mr Crisafulli: And crime data, too.

Mr DICK: I thought you might welcome it, Leader of the Opposition, because 10,900 jobs were created in Queensland in the month of February. What does that result mean? It is the most jobs created in February of any state in Australia. It takes the total number of jobs created in Queensland since the start of the pandemic—when we stayed strong, kept our borders strong, kept our people safe and did not respond to calls to open the borders early 64 times—to 342,100. Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell further, to four per cent, and is another sign that our economic plan for Queensland is working.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.43 am.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.43 am): My question is to the Premier. Did the Labor government's failure to deliver an independent Olympic and Paralympic coordination authority nearly 1,000 days ago lead to reports of cancelling the games altogether this week?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I can again advise the House that one of the first decisions I made was to introduce an independent delivery authority for the games. That legislation will be before the House. Minister Grace will introduce that legislation, possibly in the next sitting or in one of the coming sittings, and we will have it in place around the middle of the year. It is an initiative that I support, and I hope we can secure bipartisan support for that delivery authority.

We will not charge that delivery authority with making important budgetary decisions. Those opposite have said that the delivery authority will be able to set the budget for the games: if the delivery authority decides to put another billion dollars in then they should let them. The member for Kawana has said that the delivery authority will decide whether to build a new stadium at Victoria Park, which will cost almost a billion dollars more. You cannot outsource important decisions like that to the delivery authority because you are too gutless to make the decision yourself.

Honourable members interjected.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear it, and I will tell you why: the level of interjection is too high. If I am having difficulty hearing, Hansard is as well. If there was unparliamentary language used, I would ask the Premier to withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. You cannot outsource important decisions to the independent delivery authority that rightly should be made by government, because it is about deciding what your priorities are. If your priority is to spend \$3.4 billion—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers!

Mr MILES:—building a brand new stadium at Victoria Park, then have the guts to stand up and explain to Queenslanders why you prioritise that over building more houses, over building more hospitals, over employing more doctors, nurses, ambos and health professionals. It is the end of the sitting week and still the Leader of the Opposition has no answer, no decision and no response. On this side we have been crystal clear. We will deliver the best games ever, but we will do it in our existing venues and the Brisbane Arena, and we will do it within the existing funding envelope. That is what we are very clear about, because Queenslanders know what our priorities are: it is listening to them and delivering for them.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, I caution you. You are interjecting at quite a rate this morning.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The infrastructure minister told the media that the government's cost to build a temporary stadium at QEII did not include the cost of needed transport infrastructure. How was the transport plan not considered before the announcement of another stadium?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the honourable member for the question. QSAC—or QEII, as it has been known for many years—will be an excellent venue for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. As we know, this venue has hosted a lot of people over a number of years, including over 50,000 people who saw the grand final in the 1990s. This venue has hosted the Broncos for a number of years. It is not a new concept to get people to this stadium, as the member would know.

As the Premier has said, we will be developing a comprehensive transport plan to support travel to QSAC, as we will for all our venues. This includes exploring legacy transport opportunities to QSAC, the QEII Hospital and Griffith University to connected precincts in the city. My initial discussions with the department are that a solution would likely involve enhanced bus routes and upgraded linkages to the rail network. This may include a bus layover facility at the venue and an extensive traffic management plan for the duration of the games.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I am answering the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, as I hear the response from the Minister for Transport he is responding to the question, so I would like to hear the answer. I imagine you would too, given the question was asked.

Mr MELLISH: This may include a bus layover facility at the venue and extensive traffic management for the duration of the games, as you would expect. Preliminary advice is that a full Metro station is not likely needed, but I am happy to work constructively with the council and games partners to—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Mr MELLISH: I am happy to work constructively with the council and games partners to further explore our options, including how Metro could support the venue. This venue is well located for access to and from the Gold Coast, where many Olympic visitors will be staying. Planning to increase capacity on the Logan and Gold Coast route is already well underway with the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project. We will be working constructively with council and all public transport operators to deliver solutions well ahead of the games in eight years time.

Central Queensland

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the Miles Labor government is listening and delivering for Queenslanders, including in Central Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 115. 'Risk' is defined as probability of a future event, and probability is how likely something is to happen. It is totally within the remit of 'hypothetical' under standing order 115.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before responding to the point of order, member for Capalaba, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mermaid Beach, I think there is a difference between asking a hypothetical question and asking if there may be matters which pertain to possibility within a public policy context. I will allow that question but I will listen to the response quite carefully.

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. I know that as a member of our government he is determined to listen to his community and see our government deliver for them, like we did last week for the community cabinet. It was fantastic to join the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel. We met with lots and lots of locals, including the 200 people who came along to our town hall. We will do something similar the week after next when we go to Mackay, and no doubt the member for Mackay will do a fantastic job of introducing us to locals and letting us hear the concerns there.

In Rockhampton we met Amanda and Nathan. Amanda is fighting an awful cancer, and she told us about the harrowing ordeal they had getting to and from Mackay for a PET scan. The Central Queensland health service region is growing rapidly and it is important that we deliver more health services and better health care for them. That is why we announced that we would fund the PET scanner that Amanda and Nathan had been campaigning for. It will make a massive difference in that community. It will mean less travel to get the life-saving scans that Amanda and hundreds of others in the region need.

We also heard from locals that they wanted to see more police on the beat locally. I was really pleased to meet Jemma, a new constable, a Rockhampton local, now based in North Rockhampton. She had just started work out of the academy. She is one of 26 more police starting in the Rockhampton and Yeppoon areas. We can only listen and deliver for Queenslanders because we are willing to make the tough decisions and we know what our priorities are. Governing requires a willingness to make difficult decisions, even if they are not popular with the *Courier-Mail*.

While the Leader of the Opposition continues to slip and slide his way out of making a decision, we have been clear about our priorities and clear about how we will deliver for Queenslanders, because you cannot outsource the making of important government decisions to a delivery authority. To govern, you have to stand for something. You have to stand for something more than slogans. You have to stand for something more than sound grabs. You have to stand for something more than motherhood statements and glamour shots. You have to stand for what Queenslanders believe in. You have to listen to them about what their priorities are and deliver—just like we did in Rockhampton with the PET scanner and the 26 additional police officers.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport. It has been reported that the cost of transport infrastructure needed for the QEII stadium announcement is \$500 million. Is this figure accurate?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. In relation to those reports, I would have to question where that information has come from as that would not be the initial advice that I have. As the Premier has said, we will be developing a comprehensive transport plan to support travel for QSAC, as we will for other venues. It includes exploring legacy transport opportunities to link QSAC, QEII Hospital and Griffith University with connected precincts in the city. Initial discussions have been underway with the department, and there will be further discussions to have once—

Mr Krause interjected.

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

Mr MELLISH: About this venue in general: this is not a new thing—getting people to QEII stadium, or QSAC as it is. The Brisbane Broncos record crowd is for the 1997 Super League Grand Final, with over 55,000 people. People have been going to QEII for a number of years. Obviously, there will be transport improvements that we will be making in the lead-up to the Olympics. This is not a strange concept—getting people to QEII.

Cost of Living

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Miles Labor government is listening to Queenslanders by providing nation-leading cost-of-living relief, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. The member for Mackay knows well that cost-of-living relief is the No. 1 issue facing Queenslanders. The member for Mackay knows that Queenslanders care more about cost-of-living relief than they care about a new stadium at Victoria Park, or as the Leader of the Opposition will call the stadium 'You Bet Stadium'—a stadium that the Leader of the Opposition is simply too weak to rule out. When Queenslanders tell us they do not want a stadium but they want cost-of-living relief, we will deliver what Queenslanders want. Already we are delivering \$550 to every single Queensland household and \$1,072 for every vulnerable household—the biggest rebates in the nation. We will continue to do that in the future as well because we will ensure Queenslanders pay no more for power than what the Australian Energy Regulator says. The truth of the matter is that we can do this because of the cost-of-living relief we are providing—the biggest package in the country—which is funded by progressive coal royalties. That is the reality.

Last night I went to the Queensland Resources Council reception and I made clear to members of the QRC what our position on progressive coal royalties is. I told them that they were here to stay and they would not change. I invited the LNP leader to do the same. His response was, 'What we take to the election at the end of the year, you will be able to take to the bank.' I am sure and certain those coal companies will be taking it to the bank. They will be taking it to the bank; they will be taking it out of the hands of Queenslanders and putting it in the bank accounts of coal companies. That is what the leader of the LNP will do because he does not support progressive coal royalties. That tells you every single thing you need to know about the LNP.

There he was, having the chance to tell directly the resources industry what he would do, and he said, 'What we take to the election at the end of the year, you'll be able to take to the bank.' That has made it clear and certain. What is the number? Is it \$7 billion? Is it \$9 billion? Is it \$10 billion? That will be lining the pockets of coal companies. In answer to the member for Mackay, that is the risky alternative. That is the reality. That is the risk facing Queenslanders—a big budget black hole, blown apart by cutting coal royalties that every Queenslanders is going to pay for with LNP cuts.

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Transport. On 30 November the Premier, when minister responsible for infrastructure, said—

The direct Sunshine Coast rail line will be prioritised as part of the transport program for the 2032 Olympic Games.

The Labor government has now cut the rail project from Kawana and Maroochydore. Has the nearly thousand-day delay now cost the Sunshine Coast community full heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. The premise of the member's question is incorrect. We have committed \$2.75 billion to the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line project, the largest investment any government has done. This project is proposed to be delivered in stages, as we have done for many transport projects—as we did for Gold Coast Light Rail stage 1 and stage 2 and then stage 3, which is now underway. What the member is proposing costs in the order of \$12 billion, as the business case has indicated.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Kawana, you will put the piece of paper down. You will stop interjecting. You have asked a question; we will hear the answer.

Mr MELLISH: The opposition want to have it both ways. They want to be able to say that they can get to Maroochydore, but they have not locked in their federal colleagues in funding. Peter Dutton, when asked a couple of weeks ago, would not even comment. He would not support the opposition's proposal to get straight to Maroochydore for \$12 billion. The opposition need to come clean on what they propose to cut, how they propose to fund getting Sunshine Coast direct rail—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Miller and member for Nanango, you are warned for quarrelling across the chamber. We will not have any of that today, members.

Mr MELLISH: We have a proposal to get Sunshine Coast direct rail to Caloundra by the 2032 Olympic Games. We are investigating, as part of the business case, options to get to Birtinya and then further to Maroochydore. For those opposite to propose that they have a plan for Sunshine Coast direct

rail is completely incorrect. They have a \$12 billion unfunded, uncosted plan for Sunshine Coast direct rail. We have a plan on the table. The member for Caloundra is a strong supporter of this. The opposition cannot be trusted to deliver Sunshine Coast direct rail.

Central Queensland

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure and Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister please outline how the Miles Labor government is delivering and supporting Queenslanders—in particular, in Central Queensland and also in my community of Bundaberg—and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Bundaberg for his question. What an excellent local member he is, overseeing a thriving economy in Bundaberg and Central Queensland—and here we are in his area delivering a new \$1.2 billion hospital that will serve that community for decades to come.

While I am on my feet, I want to reiterate the four per cent unemployment rate here in Queensland. We have created over 342,000 jobs since March 2020. The best thing we can do for workers through our infrastructure Big Build is to give workers a job. We are delivering in this state in spades. In February we delivered 10,900 jobs, leading the nation. We can deliver the infrastructure we talk about because of our progressive coal royalties. This is where the funds are coming from for us to deliver in these areas of Central Queensland—Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and other areas.

It was wonderful to be with the member for Mackay and assistant minister to declare a 907-hectare state development area in Mackay at Racecourse Mill and Rosella. That will support industries of the future. How exciting it was to visit QUT to see some of the fantastic bioenergy and biofood production initiatives and technology that will be used in Mackay. It means that Mackay now has a dedicated space for growth. We are looking at industries that are finding new ways to make food, fibre and feed to fuel the world's needs. In Gladstone we are delivering, in partnership with Fortescue Future Industries, one of the world's largest hydrogen equipment manufacturing facilities. There are so many of these projects that it is very difficult to even list them within the time allowed to answer a question.

The Premier and I met LanzaJet and launched Jet Zero last week. We will be the first state in Australia to produce sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel. Those companies are here. We are way ahead; that is what they told us. That is because of the steady and necessary investment of this government to advance these industries. If they do not support progressive coal royalties, all of it is at risk from those opposite if they get into government. These are great projects.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Sport. When did the minister first learn that it could cost upwards of \$500 million if the Olympic and Paralympic Games were cancelled?

Mr HEALY: I would like to thank the member for the question. It has been exciting sitting here, listening to the questions. This is the first question I have been asked. I am just stoked. For a man who struggled to count to six with people throwing balls around him, I am impressed to even get the question.

A government member interjected.

Mr HEALY: I have not been made aware of those. I do want to thank him. At the outset, what stands out most importantly for me is that I am reminded of a quote when I look across the chamber. I am not sure who takes claim for it, but it just seems to be resonating with me this week—at a time of great moral debate sitting on the defence. The hottest places in hell are kept for those people.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr HEALY: If you listened close enough, you would have heard my answer. Thanks.

Health Services

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Cook. Member for Cairns, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked for silence in the chamber—that includes you.

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is delivering health care for Queenslanders regardless of where they live, including in Central and Far North Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Cook for her question. She represents one of the largest electorates in this state and also has been working incredibly hard to get world-class health care to all of her constituents in some of the most remote places in this state. The Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to delivering free, quality health care, no matter where people live in Queensland—whether it is the new PET scanner in Rockhampton, the \$250 million expansion of the Cairns Hospital or the new CT scanner that is operational on Thursday Island—something the member for Cook championed for many years.

It is also why we are doing everything we can to make sure that women and girls are getting the very best health care, particularly in regional and rural Queensland. That is why we also announced \$40 million for our Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan. We know that women in regional Queensland, in rural and remote parts of our state, face barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health care. They are entitled to very excellent health care close to home. When Marie Stopes in Rockhampton closed a few years ago, we know that made it harder for women in Central Queensland to access safe healthcare options. Thanks to the advocacy of amazing women like Linda Kirby, a nurse practitioner in Rockhampton and reproductive rights advocate, we have had termination services reinstated in Rockhampton once again.

However, all of this good work is at risk. Everything that Central Queensland women and women in Far North Queensland—women in every corner of this state—have fought for, to get access to sexual and reproductive health care, including termination of pregnancy, is at risk if the Leader of the Opposition becomes the premier in October. This is a prospect that should raise real alarm for every person in Queensland but particularly women and girls and particularly those who care about reproductive rights.

Mr Dick: Back to 1980.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier: 'Back to 1980.' This is a man who voted to keep abortion in the Criminal Code. This is a man who, in the last parliamentary sitting—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand a bill was introduced two days ago about this very issue. I suspect the minister is anticipating debate.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, because it is a private members' bill, under standing order 231 it is pronounced that a bill can essentially take up to nine months to come to the House. If we were to apply anticipation in every case we would not be able to talk about a number of different things, some which are very different to what may be otherwise discussed in the parliament. I thank you for your point of order, but there is no point of order.

Ms FENTIMAN: We know why the member for Kawana does not want me to point out the fact that his party is removing rights from women because the last time we were in this House the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition voted against enhancing women's rights to termination of pregnancy in rural and regional Queensland. They voted to make it harder for women to access lawful health care. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition need to stand up and tell Queensland women why they are denying them health care.

Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. The Premier says the \$12 billion cost of the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project would likely balloon. How much will the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project cost, and what will Queenslanders' power bills jump to in order to cover the ballooning cost?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Nanango for her question. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is a plan to create jobs right across this state by converting our power system to 100 per cent renewables. It relies, at its heart, on the deep storage that will be delivered by three pumped hydro projects, including the one that the member for Nanango refers to. The fact is that we cannot achieve the level of renewables that Queensland needs and the certainty that industry and households need

without that project. The fact of the matter is that if the opposition would not build it then we cannot do it. Costs for everything have gone up. As costs go up you have to pay what it costs to build what you need, or cut it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier still has almost two minutes remaining. I will listen to the response. I believe he is rounding out his answer to come to something which may appease you.

Mr MILES: We will continue with the detailed planning that is required for a project of that scale. For us to achieve our ambitions for renewables, it is necessary to keep industry strong and to deliver green power to those heavy industries. The member asked what the impact will be on power bills. I can tell you that it will drive the cost of power down and it will make power cheaper. It will deliver cheap solar that we generate during the day to households and industry at night and when it is cloudy. The effect of that will be to push power bills down. We know that the LNP's plan to replace pumped hydro with nuclear would cost five times more. The independent regulator has said that your plan for nuclear would be five times more expensive. Our plan will drive prices down. We will deliver it after doing the detailed planning that is necessary for a project of this scale—the biggest of its kind in the world.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I remind the House that when questions are asked, answers are provided. It may not be the answer that some would like but, if the minister in this particular case is being relevant, there is nothing that can be done about those matters. It is a function of the House.

Central Queensland

Mr MARTIN: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is ensuring Queenslanders, including those in Central Queensland, have access to the services they need, including building services, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Stretton for the question. He is a big advocate for Central Queensland, and particularly a big advocate of rebuilding QBuild, our state public builder. Just last week I had the opportunity to join the member for Rockhampton at our QBuild depot, where we met with the staff and the increasing number of apprentices we have at that depot. It was a hive of activity, with work underway to upgrade that facility and to increase capacity so that we can do even more work in Queensland. That is one of a number of upgrades that we are delivering in Central Queensland, with work completed at Mackay, Bowen and Gladstone and work underway in Emerald. Queensland is unique in having a Queensland public builder. On this side of the House we think it is a good thing to have in-house capacity to build and maintain homes in Queensland, to respond quickly to natural disasters and to train up local tradies. When I meet with other states and jurisdictions, they are incredibly jealous of the fact that we have a public builder here in Queensland. Unfortunately, that is not a view that is shared by everyone in this House.

When we were at that particular facility in Rockhampton, the workers there told us about the fact that QBuild depot was mothballed under the Newman government. It was left to go to rack and ruin. Local workers across this state were sacked. In fact, 1,600 QBuild staff lost their jobs. That was a decision that was made by the member for Everton—the man the Leader of the Opposition has appointed to do it all over again. A man whose sole aim was to destroy QBuild and the department of public works—that was his legacy and the legacy of the LNP. If we are honest, we know why the member for Everton is where he is, despite the fact that he has an appalling record. Now we know the bench is not that deep. We also know that the Leader of the Opposition is fairly short on options, but that is still not enough to explain why he would appoint the member for Everton—the same person who absolutely decimated local tradie jobs in this state.

The only risk to QBuild in this state is if those opposite are elected to government in October. The Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table with the member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Everton—the list goes on. They were all there and we know that they will do it once again. Members do not need to take my word for it. Take the word of the Queensland Council of Social Service in the paper today who said, 'Our minds must turn to the potential ramifications of a change in government. The only risk to housing and to—

(Time expired)

Crime

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. The latest ABS crime victimisation study shows that Queensland has the most assault victims, the highest increase in assaults, the most victims of break-ins and attempted break-ins and the only state with an increased number of theft victims last financial year. Can the Premier explain why crime is only becoming worse in Queensland, while it is decreasing in other states?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. I welcome the opportunity to talk about the ABS crime victimisation data, although it does not say exactly what the member for Currumbin says it does. It actually shows that the trends in youth crime have seen a reduction in offenders. There are fewer young people committing crimes, and that is a result of the hard work of our police.

The member for Currumbin pointed to the victimisation data. The data in the ABS release indicates that the victimisation rate had in fact declined over the reporting period. The physical and/or threatened assault rate had declined from 6.5 per cent to 4.6 per cent, the physical assault rate from 3.2 per cent to 2.4 per cent and face-to-face threatened assault from 3.7 per cent to 2.5 per cent. We will continue our efforts to see them decline further, because any crime is a crime too many. Any crime that impacts on a victim we want to stop. That is why we will empower our police to, in the first case, prevent crime; in the second case, intervene as early as possible; and then, of course, apprehend offenders where necessary and keep them off the streets while we deliver programs to them.

That is why we continue to invest in more and more police. I indicated there are 26 more police in Rockhampton and Yeppoon and 40 more police in the Ipswich region. There are more police cars, more police helicopters, more mobile police beats and more intensive high-visibility policing. That is what we want to see, because we know that when Queenslanders see police in their communities, when they see them at the shops, when they see the adopt-a-cops in their schools, they know that those hardworking police officers are keeping our communities safe. They are preventing crime, they are intervening early, they are investigating crime and they are apprehending offenders. We will back them to keep doing that work. We know that that is what Queenslanders want because we listen to them and we deliver what they ask for.

Coal Royalties

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is listening and delivering for Queenslanders, including through progressive coal royalties, and is the minister aware of any alternative risk for Queensland?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question. We are listening and delivering for people, particularly in regional Queensland, when it comes to infrastructure and creating jobs. Queensland is the envy of the world when it comes to what is below the ground. In fact, there is potentially \$500 billion worth of critical mineral deposits in the North West Minerals Province alone and we want to see that unlocked.

It is our Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy, launched during the World Mining Congress last year, which is a key way we are enabling the industry to get on with what it does best—that is, getting projects started and creating good jobs for people in regional Queensland. Part of the strategy is making rent free for new and existing exploration permits for minerals for five years. I have heard firsthand from companies and peak bodies like the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies how much of a difference this is making for industry. We know that one of the barriers to exploration of critical minerals is the cost of permits. The rent reduction is designed to support companies to redirect funds towards their exploration activities.

Another key to unlocking the potential of our critical minerals is the \$5 billion CopperString project. We all know that power is critical to getting those projects off the ground. Our progressive coal royalties mean we can invest in the publicly owned CopperString project. It is this government that had the courage and the integrity to introduce this because it is what the people of Queensland deserve. We are listening to Queenslanders and the people in Townsville and we know how much they support these projects.

Let me contrast that with the LNP, who clearly do not back our progressive coal royalties. The member for Broadwater needs to stop being shifty and make his position clear on the issue: does he support our progressive coal royalties? Does the member for Burdekin support those progressive coal

royalties? Do they back CopperString? Does the member for Burdekin back the new Moranbah Hospital in his own electorate? Do they back any of the Big Build infrastructure happening throughout Queensland? This is all at risk from the LNP and their secret cuts plan.

The LNP continue to talk down the industry, just like they did in the old days of cutting services. Yesterday the member for Everton said that progressive coal royalties have no relevance to the everyday Queenslanders. We are listening to Queenslanders and delivering infrastructure for them—like the \$530 million expansion to the Townsville University Hospital in the seat of Mundingburra. Our progressive coal royalties are helping us deliver projects like this, and I think they certainly have a lot of relevance for Queenslanders. It is the Miles government that is continuing to deliver on our Big Build investments.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, during your contribution, if I heard correctly, I think you used a word that is considered unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr STEWART: I withdraw.

Speed Cameras

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. TMR-owned speed camera trailers are now being branded with Queensland Police Service stickers, resulting in anger being incorrectly directed at police officers. I table a photo of one of these devices.

Tabled paper: Image depicting speed camera with Queensland Government branding [\[422\]](#).

Given these devices are not operated by the QPS, do not comply with QPS Traffic Manual guidelines and are managed by a private company, will the minister explain why TMR are portraying these trailers as QPS devices?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. Queensland is a big state and, of course, we have the largest state controlled road network of any state or territory. Road safety is very important. No matter where people live or drive, whether it is South-East Queensland or in regional Queensland, road safety cameras are there to save lives, not to make money. We are investing over a billion dollars—\$1.8 billion—in road safety over four years to keep Queensland roads safe. Every single life matters and every single dollar collected by the Camera Detected Offence Program goes back into road safety, including infrastructure and education.

I have met before with the member about our Road Safety Program and Camera Detected Offence Program. As I understand it, the intention of the signage on those cameras that the member talks about is to make them more visible to people so that when they pass one they actually know they are passing a speed camera. The intention is that the incidence of people passing these multiple times without recognising them as a speed camera would be reduced in the future.

I am happy to look at the specifics of the design, but as I understand it there is no police badging and no police logo on these; it is simply—

An opposition member: It is blue.

Mr MELLISH: If the member for Gregory wants to ask me a question, I will very happily answer it—if his side will allow him one. I am happy to talk to members of the crossbench, members of the opposition or anyone in this House about our Camera Detected Offence Program and how we can ensure it is targeting people who are speeding—that is reducing the road toll; how we can ensure it is being directed where needed, to roads that are unsafe; and how we can ensure we are making roads safe for everyone right across the state.

Water Infrastructure

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is listening to Queenslanders and delivering vital infrastructure in regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. I know that he is a passionate supporter of water infrastructure in Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. I want to thank him for his support not only of this government but also of the other regional members in our communities.

As I have talked about this morning, the opportunities we have in Queensland are going gangbusters. There are three projects in Central Queensland. There is Rookwood Weir, as we talked about this morning, as well as the opportunities for the expansion of new industries coming in like

lychees and extra trees. In terms of macadamias, 8,000 trees are going in under Rural Funds Management in Rockhampton. Then there is the feedlot that will come with that. That is such a great opportunity to support our cattle industry in the region. There are opportunities for water for feedlots to support that industry.

I also want to give a big shout-out to the local member in Rockhampton, Barry O'Rourke, for the fantastic work he has done in supporting his community in Rockhampton. He has been an absolute champion for the cause of that project. While he has been supporting this project he has been battling the LNP federal members up there every day of the week, because they did not want to support this project financially. We ended up doing it ourselves with the support of Barry up there.

The other exciting project which has been a very successful job is the Gracemere to Mount Morgan pipeline. The support for that pipeline from that community has come in droves now that it does not have to have water trucked in as it has its own water supply coming direct from Gracemere. Once again the true champion of the cause has been Barry O'Rourke from Rockhampton who has been driving that project and ensuring that it happens ahead of time. I also take this opportunity to give a big shout-out to Mayor Tony Williams, who has been re-elected as mayor. He is a great champion of calls for infrastructure for regional Queensland.

Finally, I want to talk about the other great infrastructure project—the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline that is supporting not only industries and irrigators in the region but also the new industries coming to Central Queensland, particularly in the Gladstone region. I want to tell the House how the LNP treats new industries coming to Gladstone and existing industries. The Gladstone Ports Corporation ran a candidate against me in an election who was put into the Gladstone Ports Corporation with the sole focus to sell the Gladstone port. He stood up in front of my community in Gladstone and told the community that his job was to prep the port to get ready for asset sales. That is the risk of an LNP government in Queensland.

I sat here the other night and listened to some fantastic stories, but then I heard a story from the member for Callide, who talked about the opportunity that he had of going to the Calliope State High School to celebrate that fantastic school. Guess what, member for Callide? When you were in government you had a big 'for sale'—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I remind you that your comments need to be directed through the chair. You got half of the member's title right. I allowed it, but it is the member for Rockhampton.

Residential Tenancies

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Any rights renters have under law, including minimum standards, pets and privacy rights, are compromised so long as a landlord can evict tenants by refusing to renew a lease without any other reason. When will the government genuinely address rental insecurity and end no-ground evictions by giving renters a right to remain in their homes?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. As he knows, we progressed law reforms in this state as part of stage 1 and today I look forward to introducing stage 2 of our rental reforms which do a whole range of things including banning all types of rent bidding, bringing in a portable bond scheme and extending entry notice periods to try to make it fairer for renters. As was discussed at length as part of stage 1 of those reforms, that is a contract that is entered into with a tenant and an owner and so there are grounds that are stipulated, and that was part of stage 1 of those reforms.

However, what I do find a bit disappointing and hypocritical from the Greens political party is that it asks these questions but then its colleagues in the federal parliament team up with the LNP and block housing. I expect that of the LNP, but I do not expect that of the Greens and I think that is disappointing, because there are many people in this state—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Currumbin's interjection. It is the LNP and the Greens that are both now blocking the Help to Buy Scheme, a scheme—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON:—that would help 40,000 Australians get into home ownership and Peter Dutton is blocking it. If those opposite cared about more people getting into home ownership then they would vote for Labor's Help to Buy Scheme, but they are more interested in political pointscoreing than helping vulnerable Queenslanders. As a renter in this place I understand that it is really important that we have fair—

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I know it triggers the member for Everton every time—I am living rent free in your head—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Ms SCANLON:—but on this side of the House we think we need a—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Everton, you have continually directed comments at other members. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Waterford's interjection: whether it is renters or women, the member for Everton has a problem with many Queenslanders. We in this House will make sure that we bring in fair law reforms that protect renters to make the system fairer and I am very pleased that we will be introducing laws this week, and I know I will be meeting with the member soon to talk about some other measures that are important to renters in Queensland.

The only risk to renters is the Liberal National Party in October. It gutted funding to the tenants' advisory service—actually said no to federal government funding. It did not even have to spend any money; it could have just accepted it from the Gillard government and it said no. Of course, we know its treatment of people in public housing is disgraceful. In fact, if it were up to those opposite, they would just get rid of all public housing in Queensland. It is only Labor governments that can be trusted when it comes to housing. We have listened to Queenslanders, and that is why we are delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan—the most ambitious plan in the country.

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister advise how the Miles Labor government is listening and supporting Queenslanders and providing the infrastructure Queenslanders need, including in regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. My first visit as Minister for Transport and Main Roads was to Far North Queensland following the devastation of ex-Topical Cyclone Jasper. On my first day in the job every single state controlled road in the Far North region was underwater or closed in some way, and I know that the member works tirelessly for his community up that way.

It was fantastic also to be in Rockhampton for community cabinet last week—my second visit since commencing in this role. My first visit to Rocky this year was to announce an increased Australian government commitment and an increased Queensland government commitment to deliver the mighty Rocky ring-road. During my second visit last week I saw the significant progress on the northern package for this massive project, with work well underway to deliver the first of 18 new bridges. This project will be delivered in full by Labor governments, creating a pipeline of good jobs for local contractors, suppliers and businesses. We are already tracking at around 80 per cent for local content, and we aim to keep it that way.

It is not just the Rocky ring-road. There is also the \$107 million early works package for the inland freight route and our significant investment in the beef corridors of Central Queensland, with a \$100 million package of works to kick off a 10-year strategy. We are working closely with local mayors to understand their needs and we will deliver for Central Queenslanders. This is what long-term strategic investment in regional Queensland looks like—a true vision, strong policy, backed by funding and listening to Queenslanders.

The only plan the LNP has is a plan for cuts. It has done it before and it will do it again. Its first QTRIP cut \$1.6 billion from road projects across Queensland—\$1.6 billion across the state. It cut 700 proud RoadTek workers from across the state—absolutely shameful. No matter which way you look at it, the LNP in power means fewer upgrades, fewer projects like the second Bruce, fewer people working on roads and less investment for regional Queensland. The LNP is long on talk and short on delivery.

Logan Hospital

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Logan Hospital ED consulting meeting minutes leaked to the LNP show doctors and nurses recommended making risk 63 analysis reports performed every six months public. Why will the government not release all Logan Hospital risk 63 analysis reports done since 2022?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. I was asked this question yesterday. Again for the benefit of the member for Mudgeeraba and those opposite, I do want to explain the nature of these internal risk notes. Every hospital in Queensland is required to manage its risk if it is to get national accreditation. The LNP says that it wants doctors and nurses in charge. If it actually listened to the doctors and the nurses across Queensland who are doing their job in identifying risk and putting forward solutions to help manage that risk, it is then up to the hospital and the Queensland government and Queensland Health to resource those solutions and make sure that our hardworking frontline clinicians can continue to care for Queenslanders.

There are many things that our hospitals report centrally. For the first time in Queensland's history we are reporting tier 3 data, which tells us when our hospitals are at capacity so that we can assist them to manage that growth.

More and more people are moving to Queensland. Who can blame them? It is a really wonderful place to live. However, we also know that that means there is more pressure on our hospitals. Emergency doctors and nurses tell me that the No. 1 challenge is the lack of access to GPs and primary care. We have an ageing population with complex needs, and that means more and more people are going to our emergency departments. As I said yesterday, that is why the federal government's urgent care clinics and our satellite hospitals are so fantastic.

I can tell the House about what has been happening at Logan Hospital since hardworking clinicians have been raising risks and how we have been responding: a new 28-bed modular acute ward, a 28-bed imaging ward, a 33-bed transit care unit, 13 new treatment spaces in the ED, 12 new maternity suites; and nine new mental health treatment spaces, with 10 more coming online soon. We are hiring more doctors and triage nurses to work in the ED. We have hired a patient flow commander to help move patients through the ED. We are hiring more phlebotomy staff and undergraduate nursing students to work in our waiting room to create a direct admission pathway for suitable patients. That is all before we get to our \$1 billion worth of capital at the Logan Hospital which will deliver over 300 new beds for our growing community. That is new operating theatres, new endoscopy suites, a new cardiac catheter lab and a new pharmacy.

Following my regular meetings with emergency department doctors, late last year we invested a further \$20 million for additional patient flow commanders and nurses. We are putting out more data than ever before, we have more beds than ever before and more frontline staff that we will not sack; we back.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Education

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister advise the House how the Miles Labor government is listening to Queenslanders and providing educational opportunities for all, including in regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes.

Mr McCALLUM: I thank the member for the question. I recognise that the member for Thuringowa is a fierce advocate for regional Queensland and that regional Queensland is booming. We have low unemployment and, thanks to the Miles government, our regional economies are in very strong shape.

I am pleased to report to the House that, when it comes to free TAFE in regional Queensland, through Central Queensland University alone more than 5,000 regional Queenslanders have been skilling up with free TAFE. That includes regional Queenslanders such as Rocky local Tammara Cooper, who, after 20 years working in aged care in Rocky, is taking her passion further with a free TAFE Diploma of Nursing. Thanks to the Miles Labor government's free TAFE program, as a mature age student Tammara can pursue that further training to become a nurse for free. I know that members on this side of the House will join me in congratulating Tammara. We are proud to back Queenslanders just like her.


However, there is a risk to free TAFE for students such as Tammara. That risk is the LNP. I am very reliably informed by someone who was present that during the first sitting week of parliament this year the Leader of the Opposition gave a speech at a function where he said that TAFE needs to meet the market. Queenslanders know that that is 'LNP speak' for taking an axe to TAFE. It means savage, fierce, deep cuts to our proudly publicly owned provider, which sits at the heart of our vocational education and training system. It is that heart that the LNP, if given the chance in October, will rip out. We know that they already think they have won the election. They are measuring up the drapes. They are picking out the offices. The last time they were in government they closed over 30 TAFE campuses. If there is one thing they hate—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (11.43 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Fair Trading Inspectors Act 2014, the Local Government Act 2009, the Property Occupations Act 2014, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[423\]](#).

Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[424\]](#).

Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[425\]](#).

The bill includes significant reforms to Queensland's rental laws and amendments to introduce mandatory continuing professional development of property agents. It provides certainty about how leases are ended when a community titles scheme is terminated for economic reasons and it provides local government employees with discretion to change their contribution to accumulation superannuation accounts.

Through our Homes for Queenslanders plan, the Miles Labor government is supporting Queensland renters, including through our \$160 million investment of additional funding to help tackle the cost of living through an expanded range of support and expanded eligibility criteria to help more Queenslanders find, get and keep a rental home. It is no secret that there are many renters in Queensland. One-third of Queensland households are renters, relying on the private market for safe, secure and affordable housing.

Mr Stevens: Are you?

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member. Yes, I am a renter. I think that has been on the public record but I am happy to declare that in the interests of transparency for the House. Like housing markets nationally, Queensland's rental market is under pressure with low vacancy rates and high demand. We listened to Queensland renters and heard their priorities for rental reforms.

We know that today's rental market is competitive and that low vacancy rates are making it difficult for renters to secure a rental property. To help level the playing field for all renters and stabilise rents, we are taking a strong stand and banning all forms of rent bidding. This includes the acceptance of rent higher than the advertised price and rent in advance of more than four weeks rent. We are

applying the annual rent increase frequency limit to the rental property instead of the tenancy agreement, which means that the rent will not be able to be increased more frequently than annually, even if there is a change in tenant. To ensure this reform is effective, the bill requires the date of the last rent increase to be disclosed on the tenancy agreement. Renters will also be able to request evidence from the rental property owner or property manager to substantiate the date of the last increase.

In addition to stabilising rents, the bill introduces a range of reforms to make fees and charges fairer for renters. We heard through consultation that the affordability of reletting costs strongly impacts renters' decisions to not end a fixed term agreement early where they need to and creates a barrier to accessing more suitable or affordable housing or transitioning into home ownership. The bill caps reletting costs to ensure that renters are not unfairly disadvantaged by ending a fixed-term agreement early and allows renters to know and budget for costs involved in breaking a lease. We are making sure all renters have a fee-free way to pay rent to ensure that they do not incur additional fees or charges, and that property owners and property managers pass on utility bills that the renter is responsible for paying within one month so that renters can plan for costs and manage their utility use.

We know that moving is often a stressful and costly process.

Mrs McMahon: Hear, hear!

Ms SCANLON: I take the injection of the member for Macalister, who I know has been through that process, as many of us have. Paying a bond is a large up-front cost and we have heard from renters that they feel the bond process is unfair. We are making the bond process fairer and more transparent by placing the onus on property owners or property managers to provide evidence to prove a claim, rather than requiring renters to disprove a claim made against their rental bond.

We are also introducing a head of power to set up a portable bond scheme, allowing renters to transfer their bond when relocating from one rental property to another. While this scheme is being established, a bridging bond loan product will be introduced to assist households to afford the up-front cost of a new bond, pending release of their old bond. We are committed to working with the sector to design and implement the portable bond scheme. We know that some renters are being charged excessive bond amounts, further impacting the affordability of rentals. The bill caps all bonds to four weeks rent, providing clarity for all prospective renters. We are also delivering to ensure that Queensland has a fair, transparent and balanced rental bond system where all parties have adequate protections.

Renting can be lifelong for many, and it is important that our laws support renters to feel safe and comfortable in their rented home and allow them to make modifications necessary for their safety and security or to better support accessibility. To make it easier for renters to live safely and independently in their rented home, the bill establishes a head of power for a framework for renters and property owners to negotiate modifications to rental properties that are necessary for a renter's safety, security or accessibility. Some renters expressed frustration with how difficult it can be to get property owners to agree to, or even respond to, requests for changes like the installation of disability modifications that would allow them to continue living in their home and the community.

In response to this feedback, the bill includes requirements for renters to use an approved form to request a change to the rental property and establishes a time frame in which the rental property owner must decide and respond to the request. We will work closely with the residential rental sector and peak groups to ensure it provides a clear process for parties to negotiate these important modifications, including responsibilities at the end of the tenancy. Prescribing a clear process will also allow renters to access and maintain tenancies in homes that meet their needs and will benefit rental property owners through longer term leases.

Renters have also expressed their concerns about breaches of privacy and inadequate protection of their personal information when applying for rental properties and during tenancies. The bill will extend the entry notice period for entry other than for general inspections, which is already seven days' notice for residential tenancies, safety checks and emergencies from 24 to 48 hours. We are also limiting entry at the end of a tenancy to twice in each seven-day period so there are not excessive entries and vacating renters can enjoy the remaining time in their tenancy. We have also enhanced privacy protections for renters by making changes to how their personal information is collected, handled, stored and destroyed.

The bill prescribes a rental application form which limits the information and documents that a renter can be asked to provide. This change will drive consistency and fairness in the rental application process. We heard through consultation that renters are concerned about the risk of their personal

information being compromised in data breaches. To address these concerns, the bill allows prospective renters to: provide identity documents for sighting instead of providing copies; requires that renters are given a choice about how to submit their rental application form; and requires that renters' personal information must be securely stored and disposed of within three months for unsuccessful rental applications or three years after a tenancy ends.

The reforms also address concerns about data mishandling by requiring that rental property owners and property managers only collect and use information that is necessary to assess a prospective renter's suitability for the property or to manage the tenancy. These privacy reforms also progress Queensland's commitment under A Better Deal for Renters.

The Miles Labor government has extensively engaged and consulted with the rental sector about how to modernise Queensland's rental laws and better protect renters' rights. We will continue to consult with the rental sector on a new rental sector code of conduct to strengthen the rules and clarify the expectations of the sector as announced as part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan.

Previously, the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 provided regulation of activities, licensing and conduct of professions, including real estate and letting agents, to protect consumers against undesirable practices, except it was abolished by the LNP—in fact, by the current Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We are bringing it back to make it fairer, safer and easier for Queensland renters. To establish the code of conduct, the government will bring all parties together to strengthen rules for rental property investors and property managers.

The act is being amended to establish a head of power to allow a new rental sector code of conduct to be established. The code will be informed by best practice learnings from other Australian states and territories that have successfully implemented similar rules. The bill provides the authorising environment to do this work.

I would also like to thank the thousands of Queenslanders who have had their say about renting laws and who helped inform these reforms. It is important to understand that housing affordability is an ongoing and national issue. While rental law reform alone is not the silver bullet, it can strengthen protections for renters and help stabilise the market. The rental law reforms I present today take a balanced approach and consider the needs of all stakeholders to deliver long-term certainty and stability in the Queensland rental market.

The bill also includes clarifying amendments to the RTRA Act and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997. The amendments will provide more guidance and certainty about how tenancy agreements will be ended when a community titles scheme is terminated for economic reasons. The amendments will address notification requirements and timing for the ending of leases under the termination process as well as making it clear that the District Court can deal with disputes and other matters associated with tenancy related issues arising in relation to the termination of community titles schemes.

Renters, property owners and the broader community all benefit when people working in the property industry achieve and maintain high levels of knowledge, training and skills. Delivering on our 2020 election commitment, the bill contains amendments to introduce a legislative framework for mandatory continuing professional development, or CPD, of property agents. This framework will be included in the Property Occupations Act 2014 which provides for occupational licensing and registration for real estate agents, real estate salespeople, real estate property auctioneers and resident letting agents. The amendments have been informed by a comprehensive regulatory impact assessment process involving broad stakeholder consultation consistent with the government's election commitment.

The bill will amend the Property Occupations Act to require individual licensees and certificate holders complete annual CPD requirements, as approved by the chief executive under the Property Occupations Act, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Failure to complete CPD will impact on the property agent's eligibility to have their licence or certificate renewed or restored by the chief executive.

Finally, the bill makes amendments to the local government employee superannuation scheme, set out in the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012. The proposed amendments remove the requirement for mandatory superannuation contributions by permanent local government employees, other than defined benefit members. I want to acknowledge and thank the Services Union and the Local Government Association for their advocacy on this issue.

The bill gives local government employees the flexibility to decide for themselves if they would like to lower their employee contributions in response to cost-of-living pressures. This reflects the current position for state government employees who have been able to lower their contributions since 1 July 2023. Separate amendments to the Local Government Regulation 2012 are also proposed to ensure consistency with Commonwealth superannuation arrangements.

Our government listens to Queenslanders. The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 delivers on important initiatives in our Homes for Queenslanders plan to support Queensland renters and Queensland's commitment under the national arrangements of A Better Deal for Renters. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (11.57 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

I will just go through the list of those members warned under the standing orders this morning: Southern Downs, Glass House, Capalaba, Scenic Rim, Miller, Nanango, Cairns, Currumbin, Waterford and Everton.

MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL PARKS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (11.58 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024 [\[426\]](#).

Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[427\]](#).

Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[428\]](#).

This bill will improve fairness and transparency for the 38,000 Queenslanders who already call residential parks home and thousands more seniors, in particular, who will consider parks as a retirement living option in the years ahead. The bill delivers on our commitments to address concerns about site rent increases and unsold homes in residential parks.

As part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan, we reaffirmed our commitment to continue to modernise the housing legislative framework to improve consumer protections in residential parks while making sure it is still viable for investors and operators to provide this housing option. In 2022 we heard from more than 2,200 home owners about their experiences in residential parks, with many highlighting significant financial pressures caused by unpredictable and unsustainable site rent increases, with impacts on their cost of living and their confidence in their decision to invest in a residential park.

We are introducing this bill to rebalance the relationship between park operators and home owners. Modern residential parks are usually marketed as 'lifestyle' communities for people over 50. For many people, they are an alternative to retirement villages. The way that these parks operate is that home owners own their home but not the land underneath, with site rent set by park operators.

Most of these home owners are pensioners on low, fixed incomes who often buy a manufactured home with proceeds from the sale of their family home, making them particularly vulnerable to unaffordable site rent increases and potentially unfair business practices. Compounding this, home

owners have a limited ability to move if site rent in their residential park becomes unaffordable, as modern manufactured homes are expensive and impractical to relocate and it is unlikely homes will be accepted into a different park.

A home owner may have no other option than to sell, but they must continue paying site rent until a buyer is found to take over the obligation to pay site rent. Meanwhile, park operators have control over most factors influencing the sale of homes including site rent levels, park amenity and maintenance. They often also act as selling agents for departing home owners. This imbalance of power favouring park operators and the financial risk borne by home owners means that additional protections are required in the Manufactured Homes Act.

The bill will provide greater clarity and predictability of costs for consumers which is vital, especially for people on a fixed income. We will prohibit market rent reviews in new site agreements and stop them being used in existing site agreements. Market reviews have been a significant cause of financial and emotional stress to home owners. Home owners have reported site rent increases of 10 to 30 per cent from market rent reviews. Home owners have told us that when they made a decision to buy into a park they could not possibly have predicted or planned for such increases.

In some cases, site rents have been discounted while a park is under development to attract people to buy new homes while parks are being developed, just to be increased steeply once the park is full. To protect vulnerable Queenslanders, a strong regulatory response is warranted to stop market rent reviews entirely. This will provide relief for current home owners already stressed about their next market rent review and ensure home owners can predict future costs with greater confidence.

The bill will also limit annual site rent increases for current and future home owners to the higher of CPI or 3.5 per cent. Again, this will provide much greater predictability for home owners and will create greater alignment between increases in site rent and the age pension. Limiting rent increases is a regulatory response that reflects the unique risks of the residential park market and the specific vulnerabilities of its consumers. These reforms will be reasonably balanced by allowing park operators to reset site rents to a reasonable market rate at the point where a manufactured home owner sells their home to a new incoming home owner. This provides fairness and transparency to home owners while allowing park operators to adjust site rents, as required, in a transparent way. The bill will also establish a head of power to prescribe the basis on which site rent can be increased.

Through our consultation we heard that home owners can feel 'stuck' in a residential park if their circumstances change and they wish to sell. The bill will establish a scheme which requires park operators to reduce site rent and buy back unsold manufactured homes provided homes are eligible for the scheme, home owners opt in and park operators have adequate opportunity to sell the home. The scheme will reduce the risk of homes remaining unsold for long periods and incentivise park operators to prioritise the sale of previously owned homes. This encourages park operators to take responsibility for maintaining the quality and amenity of the parks and keeping site rents at a reasonable level in order to attract prospective new home owners. After an eligible home owner has opted in to the scheme and the home remains unsold after six months, home owners will be eligible for a 25 per cent rent reduction. This will limit the financial liability of home owners where they experience significant delays in selling their home.

In addition to the buyback and site rent reduction scheme we will streamline the sales process, with updated disclosure requirements and removal of the complexities associated with assignment of existing site agreements from previous owners to new owners. Now it will be easier for all parties involved in the sale, with new site agreements to be made between the park owner and new buyer. Assignment will be retained in limited circumstances for transfers between relatives. Incoming home owners will receive beneficial terms related to utilities and services, while park operators will be able to reset site rents to a reasonable market rate, given that home owners can live in parks for a long time.

The bill also includes amendments to improve transparency and accountability, including new requirements for maintenance and capital replacement plans and park comparison documents, and stronger requirements regarding the registration of residential parks with the regulator.

The bill modernises the act's termination provisions, allowing the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to consider a broader range of factors to ensure home owners are appropriately compensated where it might be necessary to terminate site agreements. The package includes safeguards to ensure park operators can adjust to the reforms, including phased implementation and further consultation with the industry on park comparison documents, and maintenance and capital replacement plans. The bill also requires that a review of the impact of the reforms be commenced within three years to ensure they are having their intended impact.

Finally, but importantly, to underscore the purpose of these reforms and help with interpretation, the bill will introduce new objects into the act including ‘protecting home owners from unfair or excessive increases in site rent’ and ‘preserving the safety and security of tenure for home owners’. The bill delivers a robust set of much needed consumer protections for Queensland seniors while supporting a fairer, more stable and attractive residential park industry for consumers and investors.

I would like to acknowledge the work and contribution of manufactured home owners across Queensland. In particular, I would like to acknowledge those present in the gallery today—Roger, Sharon and Patrick. There are a number of you in the gallery today. I would like to acknowledge your advocacy, along with many members of parliament on this side who have also raised your concerns with me and the government to ensure we are here introducing these laws today. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (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.

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Order in the gallery!

Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.07 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Planning Regulation 2017, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Health Act 2005, the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights on behalf of the Minister for Police. I nominate the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[429\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[430\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[431\]](#).

The Miles government is an inclusive government and we recognise that governments must continue to evolve with modern society. On 14 June 2023, the parliament passed the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023. From the commencement of that act, members of the Queensland trans and gender-diverse community will be able to update their birth record by nominating a sex descriptor of their choice that is most appropriate and meaningful to them.

As part of its consideration of these reforms, on 24 February 2023 the then Legal Affairs and Safety Committee tabled report No. 41, 57th Parliament, *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022*. In relation to recommendation 3 of that report, the Queensland government committed that each agency would undertake an audit of its portfolio legislation to identify and assess the use of gendered language and determine whether any amendments were needed in light of that bill.

Given this, the Miles government is modernising safeguards when it comes to personalised searches, inspection of a person’s belongings and forensic procedures to better recognise and promote the rights of diverse Queenslanders. Every day police officers, watch house officers and protective

service officers search people and their belongings to keep the community safe. They uncover contraband like weapons, drugs and phones and get them out of the wrong hands. Currently, some safeguards require that the person being searched and the officer conducting that search must be of the same sex.

To ensure those searches remain legal, the bill enshrines safeguards in primary legislation around: people who are being searched being able to express a preference regarding the gender of the officer conducting the search; replacing existing same-sex safeguards with a new framework to provide protections in the exercise of powers, enabling the consideration of a person's gender; and remove the ability for any police officer to view the monitor of a video camera in the area where a person is searched. The new safeguards retain the safe gender starting point; that is, the officer and the subject person should be of the same gender. The framework acknowledges that there may be times that a person would prefer to have a power exercised against them by a person of a different gender.

The new framework requires that: before exercising a power, the officer must explain how the power will be exercised and ask the subject person if they have any preference about the gender of the officer who exercises the power; a preference expressed by the subject person must be accommodated unless limited exceptions apply; and for some powers, the power can be exercised by a different officer for the upper and lower parts of the body.

Importantly, there are circumstances in which a power may need to be exercised against a person's preference. These are: where there are reasonable grounds to believe the expressed preference was made in bad faith or for an improper purpose; or where it is not reasonably practical to accommodate the preference; for searches and inspections, to address a concern related to gender in a way that minimises embarrassment and offence; and for forensic procedures, where there is a significant risk of evidence being lost or destroyed if the procedure is delayed to accommodate the preference. This will allow officers to protect the Queensland community while also recognising the diverse needs of members of the public and ensuring that the rights and safety of individual officers are protected in the course of their duties.

The bill also includes amendments to personal search provisions in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to introduce new gender-based safeguards in alignment with the amendments being made to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, and it amends the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Public Health Act 2005. One of the primary aims of the amendments is to remove gendered language from police legislation unless it is absolutely necessary. This includes amendments to procedures related to the photography of breasts and the reporting obligations of reportable offenders. Currently, police officers either require a court order or are prohibited from requiring a female or a transgender person who identifies as female to expose their breasts for photography to capture evidence such as bruising or identifying features such as tattoos. The proposed amendments enable such evidence and identifying features to be recorded.

Consistent with the search safeguard, the bill inserts a new safeguard with the starting point that the photograph must be taken by someone of the same gender as the subject person. Further, it provides that the subject person must be given an explanation of the process and a reasonable opportunity to express a preference about the gender of the person taking the photograph. Requiring a court order in these circumstances would create an unjustifiable impost on the QPS.

The bill will also address critical issues impacting on the safe delivery of corrective services through amendments to the Corrective Services Act and Planning Regulation. We want an efficient and effective parole process that limits further trauma for victims. It is a priority for us. The Miles government will always put victims and victims' families first. Parole is not a right. Parole can only be suitable where a prisoner does not present an unacceptable risk to the community. There will be times when the independent Parole Board considers that the risk to the community is too great and they do not grant parole. Where a prisoner is refused parole, the Corrective Services Act provides how long a prisoner must wait before they can reapply. The majority of prisoners can reapply after only six months. Only life sentenced prisoners, who make up just over three per cent of the prisoner population, can be restricted from reapplying for longer—up to a maximum of three years. In the time that I have been Minister for Corrective Services I have met with several victims of crime and peak bodies. They have been clear that, as victims, repeated parole applications can leave them retraumatised. The Miles government has been clear: we are on the side of victims, and we want to minimise the retraumatisation of victims of crime and their families. That is why this bill extends the maximum parole periods the board may set to protect victims of crime from further trauma.

If Parole Board Queensland refuses a prisoner's parole application, the Parole Board will now be able to set a longer period of time before they can reapply. For life sentenced prisoners this period will be up to five years. For other long-term prisoners this period will be up to three years. For all other prisoners this period will be up to one year. The amendment gives the Parole Board more discretion to set an appropriate period that reflects the prisoner's prospects of release, reducing the need to consider reapplications from prisoners regularly when they have taken no steps towards rehabilitation. The bill ensures an efficient and effective parole system by reducing unnecessary reapplications so the board can prioritise other decisions. These changes do not affect a prisoner's ability to apply for exceptional circumstances parole, and the Parole Board can still consent to a new parole application during the restricted period. This will also reduce the administrative burden on the Parole Board from frequent parole applications and support an efficient parole system. We have heard from victims that repetitive reapplications have a devastating impact on them.

Next I would like to discuss safety order decisions for prisoners. Safety orders are made under the Corrective Services Act. They provide for the effective management of prisoners at risk of self-harm or suicide or harm from, or to, others. Currently, only doctors or psychologists employed by Queensland Corrective Services are approved to conduct clinical assessments of prisoners at risk of harming themselves or others. The timeliness of these assessments is essential to ensuring the continued safety and wellbeing of prisoners and Corrective Services staff. In light of the national critical shortage of psychologists, this bill expands the range of professionals able to be appointed to this role with suitable mental health training, qualifications and experience. As a strong safeguard, this bill clarifies that professionals with these qualifications will also be required to have appropriate training in assessing a prisoner's risk of self-harm or suicide in the context of a correctional centre in order to be appointed.

Lastly, in relation to Corrective Services the bill clarifies the application of planning legislation to the development of Corrective Services infrastructure on prescribed lots of land.

The Miles government is committed to an inclusive Queensland. We will always stand up for the rights of all Queenslanders, including our trans and gender diverse communities, victims of crime and our hardworking frontline officers. In addition to modernising several acts through the removal of gendered language, the bill recognises the trans and gender diverse community by introducing a safe gender starting point for searches and a dialogue model safeguard which recognise gender diversity and provide responsive protections when powers are exercised.

To ensure that the use of powers affected by these safeguards remains both practical and lawful, the amendments are proposed to commence alongside the new Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023. This bill will also minimise the retraumatisation of victims of crime by extending the maximum periods the Parole Board may set before considering a subsequent parole application. 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) (12.19 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.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 790), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.


 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.20 pm), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As I was saying yesterday, I think it is fair to say that in pretty much all recent workplace deaths or incidents there was somewhere on that

site a safety system, a hazard identification chart, a risk assessment or safety policies. However, whilst systems are important, they are not what saves lives. It is the daily work of people on the ground, working out solutions to small daily risks. Most often that is done by union members and in particular union delegates. I want to acknowledge all of the hardworking union delegates who are out there, as we are in here today—in factories, kitchens, building sites, mines, workshops or warehouses. They are often the people their colleagues will go to—

Mr Skelton: Fire stations.

Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection. They are at every workplace in Queensland. Union delegates are the ones who stand up and report to management what their members are telling them, what their workplace colleagues are telling them. Often that is a difficult role. Often delegates can be targeted. Often delegates can feel that they are not being listened to. It is a hard role, and I want to acknowledge every union delegate out there. To anyone who was a union delegate and anyone who is a union delegate: thank you for what you do. Quite often the union delegate is also the workplace health and safety rep. My father was a very proud union delegate at Hastings Deering for many years and also the workplace health and safety rep.

The point at which a workplace will go down the track of being a safe one, in my opinion, is when workers are actually listened to. When they are ignored, their workplace becomes unsafe. All of these small risks happen. They can often build and build, and when they line up with each other these small risks or things that are overlooked can become dangerous and cause major incidents and, sadly, sometimes even catastrophic events. Anything we can do to further improve communication between workers and workplace health and safety representatives to improve the culture in a workplace is a good thing, and I think that is what this bill does. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.23 pm): Well, well, well, if it isn't the Labor Party once again lining up to legislate another protection racket for their political donors! What an absolute disgrace, but more on that shortly.

I preface this speech by reiterating the words of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Kawana. Every member of this House fundamentally believes that every worker has the right to go to work in a safe workplace and come home to their families at the end of every shift. I do not think you will ever find any member of parliament who suggests otherwise. I note that the member for Stretton in his contribution yesterday suggested that the Labor Party thinks that but failed to acknowledge that every member of this House believes that. That is something the LNP certainly believes in.

Safety in workplaces is of course paramount, and one would assume that amendments to a health and safety bill would be focused on safety. However, this bill is less about keeping workers safe and more about the government paying their dues to their union masters. Further, as mentioned yesterday by the member for Kawana, the bill is based on reviews that were undertaken by several former union officials. In Labor world, appointing your best mates to do your bidding is apparently 'independent'.

At the public hearing for these bill amendments, the Red Union Support Hub asked why they were not consulted about the proposed legislation. They noted that they were the largest stakeholder with the highest percentage of representation at the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, yet they did not know anything about the inquiry until it was brought to their attention by the deputy chairman. Once again, this is typical of a Labor government that is more worried about how things look than how they are. If this was about worker safety, they would have proactively consulted with all stakeholders and not just their mates.

It is funny, though, that they did not consult with the Red Union Support Hub when it is specifically them that they are targeting with this legislation. They are doing this by amending to exclude representation by other entities such as associations of employees or independent contractors who are not registered as unions under the Fair Work Act or Industrial Relations Act. It is funny because Labor changed those laws so this particular association could not come under that act. Such is the link between this bill and further outlawing the Red Union Support Hub, the CFMEU's submission included a footnote saying—

The CFMEU has no difficulty with such drafting being undertaken in a manner which excludes "red unions".

They said this, yet the CFMEU did not want to talk about red unions when they were in front of the committee inquiry into this bill. Specifically, when asked by the member for Southern Downs, Mr Ravbar from the CFMEU said—

I am not going to have any commentary about other unions, including Red Unions.

Even the CFMEU noted that they are in fact unions. He continued—

My only concern here today is for the interests of the CFMEU.

The member for Southern Downs then said—

But you put it in your submission. You specifically stated it and singled them out.

Of course the member for Redlands as chair and a union member ran a bit of interference in trying to move the conversation on. Mr Ravbar said—

I am not concerned about other Red Unions. They have never bothered me. If you are doing your job, why worry? I have always had the view that if you are doing everything right, why worry about anything in life?

What a comment. This is a strange series of events and highlights the cloudy, secret agenda going on here. That said, I certainly agree with Mr Ravbar's final comments. If only Labor and their union mates got on with the job, they would be representing workers so well that they would not have to change the rules to stop them bleeding members.

I have spoken in the past about Labor introducing legislation that should be called the 'Protect our mates bill'. Once again, here we are. Let us call this bill 'Thank our donors and pay them back bill'. Labor members are no doubt licking their lips at this one, saying to their union masters, 'Keep the money rolling into our bank accounts because we'll make sure the workers of Queensland are forced to dig into their pockets and roll money into yours.' This is all being done under the guise of workplace health and safety. Further limiting the ability of other entities to represent workers directly reduces the ability of a worker to make a sound choice in who is representing them in workplace health and safety matters. This is yet another nail in the coffin of freedom of choice in this state. Labor try to say they are all about choice but apparently only when that choice is the same one they are making—and, boy, I could talk about that all day.

Mr Sullivan: Oh, please do!

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. Amend the standing orders and let us speak for longer then. Our hardworking nurses, teachers and other professionals want a representative who backs them and offers a service at an affordable price. We are acutely aware of the cost-of-living crisis we are experiencing thanks to the Miles Labor government, which is in the grip of chaos and crisis. This continued attack on workers is clearly an attempt to further punish the nearly 15,000 nurses and teachers who have already left a registered union because they do not want to contribute their membership to the ALP. Perhaps unions should be looking inwards as to why the majority of workers do not want to be part of their movement.

I know a fellow by the name of Fred who is a former copper and works at a coalmine in Central Queensland. He has turned up to a union office and demanded that his fees are only the portion that does not go to the Labor Party. I commend Fred for doing that. I wish more union members would do it. I know of a specific case that we have raised with this minister several times where the education department has failed a teacher—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers, who I understand might be warned.

I know of a specific case that we have raised with this minister several times where the education department has failed this teacher, and the union has failed this teacher. The minister was more interested in palming this workplace matter off rather than addressing the systemic failures in the process for workplace matters within the education department. I will certainly be bringing this to the attention of the government yet again through the current education minister.

The bill also allows a union to enter workplaces and intrude upon WHS matters irrespective of the wishes of the workers involved; in other words, allowing union thugs to turn up without the workers even wanting them to. To make matters worse, they do not even have to comply with workplace health and safety requirements, including site inductions or exclusion zones. They can even turn up without the relevant paperwork filled in properly. If they cannot get the paperwork right, what chances do they have to properly represent workers? Further, it was noted that these amendments mix health and safety with industrial relations, creating a lawyers' picnic. Even the CFMEU made that comment.

To tie this together, about Labor and their union cronies, we know that in the last few weeks the AWU has donated over \$60,000 to the Labor Party here in Queensland, and that is in the middle of the cost-of-living crisis. Going through the ECQ website, there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in recent donations to the Labor Party. What does the Labor controlled committee report recommend? Recommendation 5 states—

The committee recommends that if the bill is passed the OIR consider undertaking an awareness campaign so relevant organisations and workers are fully informed about the changes to who can lawfully represent workers under new definitions contained within the bill.

In other words, Labor want the state funded, the taxpayer funded Office of Industrial Relations to actively promote unions that explicitly donate to the Labor Party. This is a complete abomination and a slap in the face to the hardworking mums and dads of Queensland.

The member for Kawana also tabled a very interesting email which reiterates what I already hear from many other teachers and nurses across Callide. It states—

While the Queensland Government Commitment to Union Encouragement Policy encourages union membership amongst State government employees, TPAQ is not covered by the provisions of the union encouragement policy as it is not an industrial organisation.


That email would be more correct if you changed that last bit to say, 'as they do not donate to the Labor Party'.

So, if you as a teacher in Queensland want a true representative body, then join the TPAQ and you will get real representation without your money funding this tired, old Labor government that is more worried about how things look than how they are.

Mr Hart: Their priorities are all wrong.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. The Labor government's priorities are all wrong. They are all wrong in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, a health crisis and a housing crisis. They are more worried about how things look than how they are, and propping up their union cronies.

To the teachers, nurses and other staff across Callide and Queensland, ask yourself this question: why would Labor outlaw one of the only employee advocacy associations that exists which does not directly fund the Labor Party?

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise very proudly to speak in support of this bill. It is interesting to hear the contributions from those opposite. They are determined to make this bill about unions. This bill is about workers; that is what it is about. It is about workers. There are two things that you need in this life if you want to be a proper representative of Queenslanders—a Labor Party membership and a union membership. The proposals under this bill will strengthen Queensland's already nation-leading laws when it comes to protecting Queenslanders at work. I am very proud to have both of those memberships. It builds on the substantial reforms that we made in 2017 that introduced the offence of industrial manslaughter and established the independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. This is a part of our core commitment as a Labor government—to support the health and safety of all workers and to ensure workers have representation at the table when it comes to their health and safety in the workplace.

Worker fatalities are unacceptable. They cause an immense amount of pain and grief for workers' families, friends and colleagues. I think many of us in here have had those tough conversations with those people. It is simply tragic that, in this day and age, workplace fatalities continue to occur, yet they do. Last year SafeWork Australia reported that 195 workers lost their lives at work in 2022, with 49 of them being Queenslanders. That is an unacceptable figure. We are committed to doing everything we can to ensure every worker at the end of the day comes home safely.

In August 2022, industrial relations minister Grace Grace announced a review into the Work Health and Safety Act to examine if the act was operating effectively enough to ensure Queensland workers were adequately protected in the workplace. I want to thank Minister Grace for the work she has done in facilitating this review and introducing this bill to parliament. I also want to acknowledge the work of the three independent reviewers appointed to undertake this review: Craig Allen, the former director-general of the Office of Industrial Relations; Charles Massy, a barrister specialising in industrial relations and employment law; and Deirdre Swan, former deputy president of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. I also want to acknowledge the stakeholders who contributed their feedback to the review of this act and this bill, including registered unions, employer groups, and industry and government bodies.

This bill has a key focus on the important role that health and safety representatives play in improving workplace safety. The role they play is vital to identify, notify and resolve work health and safety issues. This bill will strengthen and promote the role of health and safety representatives including clarifying powers they can exercise and the function that they can perform in the workplace.

The amendments under this bill will mean that employers will be required to be proactive in supporting the formation of work groups and the election of health and safety reps. Further, it will prohibit employers from intentionally hindering, preventing or discouraging workers from making a request about facilitating the conduct of an election of health and safety representatives. Mandating employers to advise and support workers in forming health and safety work groups and electing health and safety representatives means that workers no longer have to fear reprisal for taking on this role.

Establishing health and safety reps in every place in Queensland is a necessary cultural change that will result in huge improvements for the health and safety of Queensland workers. Having employers play a key part in helping to establish this change is vital to improving the safety of workers all across Queensland.

This bill will deliver on an election commitment which was to have health and safety representatives choose their own training provider. Workers will also be remunerated to attend training, including being paid overtime, penalties and allowances that they would otherwise be entitled to receive if performing their usual duties. This will ensure workers suffer no financial disadvantage for attending training which can often be a barrier to workers becoming a health and safety rep.


The amendments in this bill guarantee that health and safety representatives will be fully integrated in the identification and resolution of safety issues in the workplace. Health and safety representatives will now have to be notified when an inspector or a work health and safety entry permit holder is on site, and they will have to be allowed to join them where the visit is relevant to their work group. Employers will also have to provide health and safety representatives with copies of enforcement notices issued by an inspector, copy of entry notices by work health and safety entry permit holders and mandatory incident notifications made to the regulator by an employee.

The independent review also recommended that the cease work powers of health and safety representatives were improved and made more effective. This bill clarifies that health and safety representatives can issue written cease work directives to employers in the event that serious safety issues have not been resolved, and that they can retain the right to issue cease work directives to workers when a safety issue poses an exposure to risk so serious that prior consultation is not reasonable. It is vital that health and safety representatives are made fully aware of safety issues identified at their workplace to allow them to perform their functions effectively.

In just the last 12 months in Queensland, we have witnessed a horror show of worker fatalities in Queensland—one of the most tragic being the loss of 17-year-old Tyler Whitton, a young man who was just at the beginning of his working life. Many other workers working on construction and mining sites across Queensland also lost their lives too young, and while no-one denies these jobs are dangerous and carry risks, one fatality is one too many. Workplace fatalities are not just the cost of doing business; they are a devastating loss to the family and communities, and a sign that we need to do better to stop all preventable deaths and traumatic injuries in the workplace. The changes in this bill show that only the Miles government can be trusted when it comes to supporting workers' health and safety.

The record of the LNP under Campbell Newman shows that they do not care. Let's look at the history. In 2013 the Newman LNP government made disastrous changes to WorkCover. This had devastating impacts on thousands of workers who had been injured in their workplace. The changes denied many workers the right to make common law damage claims against their employer and implemented a five per cent bodily impairment threshold to be exceeded before common law damages could be made. This prevented thousands of workers claiming damages from negligent employers. Many workers who suffered spinal or shoulder injuries were denied making a claim because they did not meet the LNP's strict criteria. This affected nurses, ambulance officers, transport and building construction workers. WorkCover was working just fine before the LNP came in and broke it. Even their own parliamentary committee at the time told them that no changes were needed, yet they went ahead and broke it anyway. That is the level of scorn that the LNP has for Queensland workers, and I think that has been represented in many of the contributions to this bill.

This bill again makes Queensland the nation-leading state in workplace health and safety standards. We are committed, and we are focused on making our workplaces safe for all Queensland workers, both young and old, and on reducing all workplace injuries and fatalities to zero. This bill is a step in the right direction, and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. As we have heard from the member for Kawana, the opposition are opposing this bill. It is a clear attempt to bolster the power and influence of unions within workplaces under the guise of promoting health and safety. Whilst the opposition believes that the safety of workers is paramount, this bill is based on reviews undertaken by, amongst others, former union officials in an attempt to secure cash flow for unions that give money to the Queensland Labor Party and the ALP. We heard that outlined by the member for Kawana in his contribution.

This bill seeks to establish a monopoly for a specific union to represent or assist workers on workplace health and safety, WHS, matters. This means that only a predetermined union would be allowed to engage in such representation or assistance, excluding other unions or entities from participating. Additionally, the bill proposes new right of entry powers, granting the designated union the authority to enter workplaces and intervene in WHS issues, regardless of whether or not the workers in those workplaces desire their presence. This is intrusive as it allows the union to intervene in workplace affairs, even against the wishes of the workers involved.

The policy objectives of this bill aim to expand the presence of health and safety representatives, HSRs, on job sites, allowing representatives access to enforcement notices, to be informed of WHS entry permit holders onsite and to be notified of any incidents reported to regulators. HSRs would also have the authority to halt work if they deem a hazard to be serious, along with being able to issue provisional improvement notices if they suspect a contravention of workplace health and safety laws.

On the Gold Coast we do not have a great union presence in the general community, for which the electorate is very appreciative. This is evidenced by the fact that 10 out of 11 state seats are represented by the LNP—and hopefully after the next election the member for Gaven will be gone as well. People on the Gold Coast who run businesses want to get on with life. Union disruption is something we have experienced many times on sites on the coast when the government does get involved in construction. I refer to a case from 12 years ago, when the Gold Coast University Hospital was being built. An article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of 18 May 2011 states—

More than 1000 construction workers downed their tools and protested outside the Gold Coast Hospital University site office for “fair” conditions this morning. It is the fifth time workers have walked off the \$1.76 billion project amidst allegations of sham contracting, unpaid superannuation and other entitlements. A CFMEU spokesman said this time would be the last.

We not only saw it at the Gold Coast University Hospital but also saw it for the Commonwealth Games. If there is one reason we see costs escalating, putting this government and our economy into further deficit—that is why the Olympics costs are going up ridiculously—it is unions like the CFMEU. On the Commonwealth Games sites—I remember because I was a shadow minister in 2016—we had Fair Work Building and Construction seeking injunctions to stop the militant construction union from disrupting work on one of the Commonwealth Games sites in Queensland. For three weeks, rolling stoppages stopped any work on the \$126 million taxpayer funded project. The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union was holding two-hour ‘meetings’. This happened for weeks on Commonwealth Games sites. It is no wonder there were constant delays to those projects. Finally, the Commonwealth Games were a success—in spite of the CFMEU and not because of it. An article by Lucille Keen states—

On Thursday, Fair Work Building and Construction sought an injunction in the Federal Court against the CFMEU and two of its officials to end the meetings by workers on the Carrara Sports and Recreation Project on the Gold Coast.

Another great example is at Pacific Fair. In their significant redevelopment, which I know is in the member for Mermaid Beach’s electorate, friends of mine who were tenants were told, ‘Do not do the fit-out for your tenancy at Pacific Fair until the CFMEU has left, because the cost will go up 40 per cent if the CFMEU has anything to do with the fit-out you are doing in your project.’ That is the result of unions in this state and what they have done at the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast consistently rejects the Labor Party.

We have heard from Senator Murray Watt that the problem is that on the Gold Coast the Labor Party candidates are just not good enough. That is something that will continue. I am sure that at the state election later this year there will be repudiation of the Labor Party, just as we saw in the by-elections in Ipswich West and Inala. If a 30 per cent swing is not enough for this government—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.


Mr LANGBROEK: I have made it very clear that the CFMEU and other unions that will benefit from this bill are an example of something the Gold Coast repudiates. If these Labor backed unions had been less disruptive, Queensland would not be in the grips of a health crisis and a debt crisis, with record levels of patient waitlists, ambulance ramping—

Mrs Gerber: And ballooning infrastructure costs.

Mr LANGBROEK: Of course—and ballooning infrastructure costs, which can be laid completely at the feet of these unions and their excessive demands. Under this legislation, HSRs would be entitled to equivalent wages while attending training including overtime, penalties or allowances they would have received if they were working. It grants HSRs autonomy in selecting their training without employer consultation and allows any relevant union—regardless of onsite representation—to act as a representative of workers in WHS matters, potentially fuelling union rivalries.

Under these proposed changes, only unions that are registered under specific acts would be permitted to represent or assist workers or HSRs, limiting the influence of other organisations such as the red union—an organisation run by workers, not union officials, with zero party politics. Additionally, the bill extends the rights of WHS entry permit holders, potentially allowing them indefinite access to workplaces, especially those operating 24/7, and it allows more matters to bypass inspection and go directly to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, QIRC, potentially overwhelming it without providing any additional resources.

It is disgraceful to see such a blatant conflict of interest at play, with the Miles Labor government leveraging its parliamentary majority to push legislation that favours its financial and political supporters. The Labor Party stands to gain significantly from substantial financial and non-monetary support for election campaigns provided by the trade union movement, both directly and through bodies like the Queensland Council of Unions. Queenslanders have had enough of a government that is no longer listening and is only focused on themselves, rather than our state's future. This was made loud and clear by the results of the by-elections on the weekend.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.49 pm): I would have thought that the member who just spoke would have learnt from Homer Simpson that when you join the union you get a dental plan. He would have backed in the dental plan because he is a dentist. How many union comrades have gone to him to get their teeth fixed because of the dental plan in their bargaining agreements? Shame! Who would have thought that someone from such a sunny part of Queensland would have such a dim view on a dental plan? *The Simpsons* is life.

Before I begin I want to thank all of the hardworking members of the Electrical Trades Union who came to my office last week to fight for the rights of their members to ensure they get the best agreement possible. I want to thank and praise every single one of those Electrical Trades Union members who came to my office in solidarity to ensure they and their families have the best opportunity in life.

While I am on the subject, I also want to remind those opposite that unions are a collective of workers and those workers appoint their officials. When they attack unions, they are actually attacking workers in this state: mums, dads and grandparents. They are purely attacking those workers who come together collectively to bargain and to ensure we never again see what happened under the Newman government. The best way to do that is to ensure that the LNP never return to government.

Workers know their workplace—and the member for Stretton highlighted this very well. They know their workplace better than anyone else and they know when their workplace is safe and when it is not safe. There is no-one better than a worker highlighting the safety risks in their place of work to ensure that their colleagues are safe and can return home to their families. This bill empowers workers. It does not slow down production. It enhances the function of a workplace because the safer a workplace, the more productive it is because it will not have shutdowns and workers going outside the gate until the safety standards are met. Unfortunately, some workplaces put production above health and safety. That is why the measures in this bill are so important to ensure that workers have the right to point out when a workplace is unsafe and the employer does not have that power over them.

The Work Health and Safety Act review uncovered examples where work groups and elections of HSRs were discouraged and even at times prevented from entering the workplace. It is an absolute disgrace that a workplace would see the dollar sign as being more valuable than the people working in their workplace.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SMITH: It is an absolute shame. I will take that—no I will not take that interjection because the member is not in their correct seat.

Enabling relevant unions to be a party principal to work group negotiations is absolutely vital to ensure that workers are not being forced to identify themselves as a member of a union. I will give a real-life example of this. When I worked at Riverside Christian College, which is in the great electorate of Maryborough—

Mr Stevens: Part-time.

Mr SMITH: I was full-time, but that is okay.

Mr Stevens: For one day.

Mr SMITH: We can hear the LNP attacking teachers again. They do not like teachers. Even the independent teachers have their own union as well. Let me teach the member for Mermaid Beach a lesson. We could get to maths but that might be a little bit hard for him. He might find English hard, but today we will do history. The principal of that particular school at the time disagreed with the EBA, the first EBA ever to be put forward at that school, the first time ever that parental leave was going to be allowed at that school—and this is in 2019 if honourable members can believe it. That is the importance of unions and making sure there are good delegates pushing for their workers.

When the matter went to the Industrial Relations Commission, that principal wanted to know every single member of the union who was a staff member. They sought in the commission to get a list of every staff member who was a member of the union. People only do that when they want to put pressure on staff, when they want to turn the screws on the workers. We know what this statement of reservation is really all about. It is the LNP's lust to wipe out unions right throughout Queensland. That is what this is about. That statement of reservation states—

The bill in fact removes a worker's right to choose who is involved in representing their interests, and it empowers Labor Party-supporting and/or affiliated the trade unions ...

Let's have a bit of truth here. That is code for backing in their red union mates—sorry, their fake and fraudulent union mates, because they are only associations; they are not registered. They are the red unions, who did not know their own membership numbers when asked about that by the committee, who could not identify their organisers and who cannot even represent members in industrial matters. Let's be honest, my local Rotary Club has a better chance of representing workers at the Industrial Relations Commission than the red union. In fact, I would rather grab my nan, because you do not want to mess with her, especially when she gets out the big thong; she will whack you.

Let's be honest about how fake and fraudulent the red union is. It is a fake and fraudulent coalition sitting opposite, because we know the Libs and Nats hate each other. They absolutely hate each other and that is why they have this unholy alliance.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Could you please draw the member back to the long title of the bill?

Mr SMITH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I will agree the LNP are not relevant to this debate. I will move on.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the member withdraw his juvenile contribution.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. There was no personal reference, member for Nanango. There is no point of order.

Mr SMITH: This debate has been wideranging and members opposite have spoken about unions and their position on unions. We know that their wish not to vote for this legislation, their wish not to see this legislation pass, is code for what they will do. Let's see what they have done as an opposition. They voted against labour hire licensing laws, they voted against paid domestic and family violence leave, they voted against industrial manslaughter laws, they voted against industrial protections for workers—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that the member be brought back to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member?

Mr SMITH: I am referring directly to the statement of reservation where they talk about unions, the Labor Party and the red union.

Mrs Frecklington: Excuse me, do not disrespect the Deputy Speaker.

Mr SMITH: My point of order is that it is relevant.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, I remind you to stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr SMITH: We know that the LNP in their statement of reservation is absolutely disputing that unions should be considered as the principal representative at the Industrial Relations Commission. They are trying to ensure that unregistered associations can fraudulently say that they can represent workers in the Industrial Relations Commission. We know that is not true and we know what the risk is. The risk is that if this legislation does not pass, we know groups like NPAQ will continue to fraudulently pitch themselves as unions. We know the LNP's point of view on this because the member for Burnett stated it is 'time we broke the back of unrealistic employee entitlements'. That is what he said. That is exactly what those in the LNP say.

Mr Bennett: Read the whole lot.

Mr SMITH: I will read the rest of it. The member for Burnett wants me to read the rest of his quote. To a grandmother he said, 'WTF people are losing everything under your mates'. 'Your mates' refers to unions. What did the member for Burnett do? He attacked a grandmother on Facebook and said it was time to break the back of entitlements hard fought for by the union. That is what he stands for. What we also know about the member for Burnett—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you will need to withdraw the unparliamentary language used.

Mr SMITH: I withdraw. This is what we know. What else do we know when it comes to unions? Let's have a look in Bundaberg and all those hardworking QBuild workers who are proud union members in Bundaberg. What happened in 2012? Their boss was elected and then turned around and sacked those workers. Who wants to take a guess who their boss was in Bundaberg at the time? Are there any guesses? It was the member for Burnett. The member for Burnett was sacking his own mates, sacking union workers and sacking his comrades. That is what we know. We know that if the LNP ever get back into government the ETU workers would be done and the United Workers Union workers would be gone. We know how much they do not like the Together union. Together union workers would be gone. QNMU workers, our hardworking nurses and midwives who the LNP continue to attack time and time again, will be marched out the door. A total of 120 nurses and midwives in the Wide Bay region were marched out the door under the LNP and we know that this LNP opposition would do the same again. We know because their leader has said that they will cut from the—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are straying a bit. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.


Mr SMITH: Absolutely. This is about making sure that workers feel empowered and not bullied in their workplace.

Debate, on motion of Mr Smith, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): With respect to the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032, Premier Miles and the Labor government would win gold for an Olympic debacle. We have seen firsthand this week the chaos and crisis of the Miles government right before our very eyes. The Premier said that the Olympic and Paralympic plan by his government is crystal clear. I would say to him: these plans are anything but crystal clear as far as the Labor government is concerned. What would we expect when Premier Miles was the responsible minister who oversaw and delivered Wellcamp—aka 'Wastecamp'—at a total cost of over \$220 million? This Labor government has had more positions on the Olympic and Paralympic Games than games themselves over the years.

This week we have seen an extraordinary leaking against the Premier from his very own cabinet. The most trusted people in the Labor government to the Premier are leaking against him. Let's look at the history of the games where the Premier has had so many positions on stadia, venues, where it is going to be, where it is not going to be, the cost and the funding envelope. He has not had a consistent position for three years and it is no history over the last three years to be proud of. Queenslanders have been taken for a ride.


Today we hear that there is no transport plan for the Premier's plan that he announced this week. It has already blown the budget because he has announced all of these issues this week without any transportation plan, although the only transport plan for the new minister was to have stop-and-go people to deal with the congestion in 2032! That was the government's plan. We have seen a cut to the Sunshine Coast direct rail to Kawana and Maroochydore. The government is only delivering it to Caloundra, it says. What a congestion mess it is going to build in Caloundra city! It has cut the Mooloolah River Interchange. The Labor government has cut these vital projects to the Sunshine Coast. The LNP will deliver the Sunshine Coast direct line all the way to Maroochydore because we need to bust congestion on our roads.

With respect to the Kawana indoor centre, I am disappointed in the Quirk review which recommended that that go ahead. That project is adding to the displacement of so many community organisations such as the Kawana Dolphins. They have put in submissions questioning whether this should go ahead in Kawana based on the fact that we now no longer have the rail connection on Nicklin Way. The Labor government has cut the rail connection. We do not have the appropriate public transport. The Kawana Dolphins submission stated—

Residents are not interested in the indoor sports stadium being built. It will be a white elephant and lead to further high-rise development.

There has also been a submission from Friends of Buddina opposed to this. Save the Beach and the Beach Matters Group are opposed to this indoor centre. I have also met with the Olympic and Paralympic legacy taskforce 2032 on the Sunshine Coast which is advocating for a Sunshine Coast convention and exhibition centre—something the Labor government has ignored. It is time the Sunshine Coast community and the Kawana community were listened to, and I hope the new mayor takes these on board and talks seriously about these issues and what they mean in terms of the impact on Kawana.

Firefighters

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.03 pm): I am proud to be part of the Miles government—a government that continues to invest in our front line and provide the infrastructure and the equipment that they need. Right now, we on this side of the House are proud to support our firefighters. We have seen more than 2½ thousand fire and rescue staff on the front line each and every day. We are supporting them to do what they do day in and day out to keep Queenslanders safe. We are also delivering 500 additional firefighters over six years from 2020-21. We on this side of the House want to see more firefighters, not fewer, and that is because community safety comes first, not last. I have been joined at local fire stations by members on this side of the House—like the members for Bundaberg, Bancroft and Maryborough—and they ask me what they can do to get even more firefighters in our community. The Miles government wants more firefighters. We do not want fewer because community safety comes first. It does not come last.

I visited the Cairns Fire Station. These proud fireies have been out protecting their community right through Tropical Cyclone Jasper. Some of them have also travelled further afield to support communities. Members can imagine my surprise when I visited the fire station in Cairns following a visit to the Cairns fire station by the member for Burdekin. In terms of those frontline workers who had Christmas cancelled to protect their community on account of Cyclone Jasper—the very workers who put their lives on the line to make us safe—what did the member for Burdekin ask them? Does he ask what he can do to help? No, he does not. Instead of asking what he can do to help, I am told that the member for Burdekin put community safety last when he asked the officer in charge, 'What will you do with surplus firefighters?' Who has ever heard of such a thing as surplus firefighters?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms BOYD: I will tell you who: the LNP has. That is who. There are too many firefighters for the LNP, too many police for the LNP, too many nurses for the LNP—and this is just an insight into some of the plans of those opposite.

Opposition members interjected.


Ms BOYD: We have made the tough decisions on this side of the House so we can build up our fire stations so we can employ more fireies. We know that the LNP has a plan to cut. The member for Burdekin is out there right now making a list around who he can cut. It is out of the bag. He is Last by name, last by nature.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I am just going to get some advice. Member for Burdekin, you used some unparliamentary language while interjecting. I would ask that you withdraw.

Mr LAST: I withdraw.

Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.06 pm): Break and enters, stolen cars, lives being senselessly lost: Queensland's record on crime is nothing to be proud of. Yesterday the ABS released the Australian crime victimisation report and the data is abundantly clear: you are more likely to be a victim of crime in Queensland than anywhere else in Australia. Instead of working to make our community safer, Labor is turning a blind eye and allowing Queenslanders to live in fear in their own homes, in their local shopping centres and in their schools.

The figures are clear: Queensland had the most victims of physical assault in the country. The numbers are horrifying: 98,600 victims of assault in Queensland in the last financial year. While the Premier this morning was proud of that achievement, the members on this side of the House do not accept it. This is an increase of over 10,000 more victims than in any other state, and that is just for physical assault. In fact, Queensland is the only state where the number of victims of assault increased in the last financial year and the only state where it has increased since Labor came to power in 2015.

It gets worse: Queensland had the highest increase in threatened assault and the most victims of breaks-in and attempted break-ins. We are again the only state in Australia where this has increased since Labor came to power in 2015, yet the Premier refuses to acknowledge it. Crime is getting worse in Queensland while in other states it is decreasing. Behind every single one of these statistics is a real victim who is suffering, who has been let down by this state Labor government—victims like Gary. Gary, a 14-year-old boy, wrote to the government earlier this month. He said—

I am an autistic 14 year old boy who was attacked on Saturday afternoon for my shoes and my hat. I was also beaten ...

When speaking with police they know one of the kids well ... he had not long gotten out of juvenile detention and is well known to them.

... being autistic it is hard for me to process things normally and this has also been hard on my mum too.

More needs to be done as I saved all my pocket money and what I was given for my birthday and Christmas for the things that I had stolen.

...

Since the attack my anxiety has been out of sorts ... 2 kids ... turned up at my school asking for me but thankfully the school said I wasn't there.

My mum fears for my safety since they know which school I attend ...

I am writing this letter as a victim of crime and a survivor. I would like this to be known that as a youth that it needs to be fixed and how flawed the youth justice is.


I will table the whole of Gary's harrowing letter so that everyone in this House knows.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 March 2024, to the ministers of the Queensland parliament [\[432\]](#).

Victims should not be suffering through this. Gary should not be suffering through this. Victims of crime deserve more than a state Labor government that is going to continue to ignore the crime problem that is plaguing our state.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.09 pm): I am very sorry to hear that story about Gary. I hope that our officers and our youth justice workers were able to assist him and his mum. What a shame it is that the member for Currumbin is not actually offering anything that could help Gary.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms FARMER: I want to come back to that. As usual, the member for Currumbin never lets the facts get in the way of a good story. The ABS figures that were released yesterday show a decline in physical or threatened assault in Queensland, a decline in physical assault, a decline in face-to-face threatened assault, a decline in break-ins and a decline in theft of a motor vehicle. We know that youth crime is an issue that is concerning Queenslanders so we need to offer them evidence that something is working.

It is around 12 months since we introduced the Strengthening Community Safety Act, which the LNP supported. We are very pleased to see that we are getting some good figures from that. For breach of bail offences, more than 2,000 young people are on more than 5,700 charges and for aggravated unlawful use of a motor vehicle offence more than 1,500 charges have been laid. For post and boast—the publishing of crimes on social media—more than 140 young people have been charged. In fact, that policy is working so well that the federal LNP Leader of the Opposition wants to take our policy on social media. He reckons it is really good. It was in the *Courier-Mail* the other day that he wants to take Queensland's social media laws. They must be really devastated about that. I suppose he would take one of your suggestions if you actually had one. All you have are three slogans and 13 words.

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


Ms FARMER: Poor people such as Gary hear you politicising their complaints, but you have absolutely nothing to offer. What would Peter Dutton be able to grasp from that little booklet that you have? Three slogans and 13 words! And you get confused about them anyway.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Surfers Paradise, you have possibly been in this chamber the longest. That behaviour towards the chair is unacceptable. If you want to raise an issue with the chair then I ask you to rise to your feet and take a point of order. You will note that I had been asking the member on their feet to put their comments through the chair. I ask you to put your comments through the chair, Minister.

Ms FARMER: We know that in Queensland we have more young people in detention than most of the other states combined. We know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to remove detention as a last resort, which means that you would have all the kids in detention. However, he does not want to build any detention centres. In fact, when they were in government not only did they not build any detention centres; they did not plan to build any either. On the one hand he wants to put kids in detention but on the other hand he is not going to build any detention centres. I think what they owe victims—and now is the time because you could be in the leadership—is to tell them what you are going to do to help victims of crime and make a real difference.

Burdekin Electorate, Crime

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.13 pm): Three thousand, five hundred and sixty-two: that is the number of signatures on a petition that I presented in parliament yesterday on behalf of the Burdekin community. Three thousand, five hundred and sixty-two residents are calling for additional police officers in that community and if they are not forthcoming then they expect this government to stomp up the money to pay for private security to keep their community safe because they have had enough. They have had more than enough.

I will give this chamber another number: 2,031. It has been 2,031 days since the police minister came to the Burdekin and gave a commitment to that community for a multiagency approach to drive down crime. He made a whole heap of promises and he told the community that he would come back to ensure that those commitments were delivered. We are still waiting. It has been 2,031 days and both of those commitments are in tatters.


To see why those people are up in arms we need only look at the crime statistics. In just 12 months there has been a twelvefold increase in unlawful entry charges in Home Hill. In just three months there has been four times the number of unlawful entry charges in Ayr. Is it any wonder that they are frustrated, they are scared and they are angry? Their homes and businesses are being targeted.

Of their own volition, the Home Hill community has had to step up and introduce night patrols. Residents and business owners are patrolling the streets throughout the night to keep their community safe. Is that what we have come to in this state when residents and business owners have to undertake patrols to keep their community safe? They do not have enough police officers in those communities to conduct the patrols and to keep up with the calls for service across the Burdekin. When there is only

one crew or no crew to service that entire area, we can begin to understand why crime is getting out of control, why we have a youth crime problem in those particular communities and why those communities are now demanding that additional police officers be stationed there.

These petitions are sending a very clear message to this government. It is a message that comes from residents who are absolutely fed up. These demands are spearheaded by Steve Wagner, with the unending support of his wife, Angie, and at great personal cost. They are out there every single day doing their best to keep their community safe. All they are doing is putting their hands on their hearts and asking for a bit of assistance from the government. I do not think that is too much to ask for.

Pumicestone Electorate, Small Business

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.16 pm): In very good news, the Pumicestone Small Business Awards are back for 2024. Last year, I hosted the inaugural Pumicestone Small Business Awards to spotlight our unique small businesses in Pumicestone and the hardworking locals behind them. As a former small business owner myself, I know that running a small business can be tough. The hours are very long and you can feel very alone. Therefore, we designed our Pumicestone Small Business Awards to recognise and thank our local small business owners for the crucial role they play in our local economy, delivering the products and services that locals rely on. It is also about creating an opportunity for them to spotlight and talk about what they do because we know that it is difficult for many small businesses to take that moment to market themselves and what they do.


I say to our Pumicestone community: today, get behind your favourite small businesses by nominating them for one of our many awards. Already over 1,800 locals have nominated more than 100 businesses from Bribie to Sandstone Point, from Beachmere and Toorbul to Caboolture and Elimbah. Our awards are on track to be bigger and better than last year with new categories to recognise a broader range of small businesses, including a Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award to celebrate our hardworking young people in business.

With Queensland facing unprecedented skills shortages, our small businesses are relying on our vocational training sector now more than ever. Those training places are what is needed to support the pipeline of infrastructure that makes up our Queensland Big Build. That is why we are providing more QBuild apprenticeships—jobs that the LNP savagely cut the last time that they were in power. We have provided many young Queenslanders with a fee-free place at TAFE and we have made the Diploma of Nursing free. That is why it was so disappointing to hear recent comments from the Leader of the Opposition that TAFE needs to meet the market.

Last time the LNP were in government, they closed 30 TAFE campuses. Local TAFE teachers in my community lost their jobs and young people could not get the education that they needed. Whether it is through our Small Business Awards or by delivering on key infrastructure upgrades in our community, I am focused on listening and delivering for local small business owners because that is what Labor governments do. We listen and we deliver on the training, the services and the infrastructure that locals need. Whether it is the lights that I had put in at Regina Avenue, Ningi, to make sure that people could get in and out of the local shops, planning for the next Bribie bridge, the upgrade of Beachmere Road or the satellite hospital that we are building in the heart of Bribie Island, we know that those services and infrastructure are crucial to the continued success of our local small businesses and we are with them every step of the way. However, all of that is at risk under an LNP government. They want to be the government, but they have already blown a \$9 billion hole in their budget and they will close our local TAFEs to pay for it.

(Time expired)

Warrego Highway

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.19 pm): I heard this morning from the transport and main roads minister that he is happy to talk to opposition members. Talk he might, but write and correspond he does not. I have corresponded over 35 times to the minister since his appointment to his portfolio regarding the Warrego Highway. I have had no response from him or from his office. Obviously, he does not check his emails.

This minister and the Miles Labor government have given up on the Warrego Highway and bridges. I wrote to the minister in January this year about the oversize overmass restrictions on the Bremer River Bridge on the Warrego Highway. I have corresponded a further six times—no response.


I wrote to the minister in January asking when the government will address the dangerous condition and safety issues of the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Warra. The severe cracks in the surface are dangerous and a safety hazard to all road users. I corresponded another 10 times and there was no response from the minister.

I wrote in January to the minister about the need for passing lanes on the Warrego Highway between Miles and Roma due to the high traffic volumes that utilise this section of the highway. I corresponded another six times to this minister—no response. I wrote in January to the minister in relation to the culverts causing stormwater to back up in the town of Amby on the Warrego Highway. I corresponded another six times—no response. I wrote on behalf of constituents regarding the speed camera on the Bungil Creek Bridge at Roma in January this year. I corresponded a further six times. We have been waiting 11 weeks for a response.

This Miles Labor government has given up on the bridges, the passing lanes, the flooding and safety concerns on the Warrego Highway. Over 35 times I have written to this minister. Clearly, he is not across his brief when it comes to roads and the correspondence in his office. I did not think we could get a worse minister than the member for Miller but, true to form, the Labor Party has managed to find one. Perhaps if the minister spent less time sending calendars with the wrong dates on them to his electorate, Queenslanders would not be risking their lives driving on dangerous roads. I will table the letters for the minister's attention. Queenslanders deserve better than this Labor government.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters from the member for Warrego, Ms Ann Leahy MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Bart Mellish, regarding road works [\[433\]](#).

Cairns, Community Cabinet

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (2.22 pm): Riveting! At the end of February I, along with my far northern colleagues, welcomed the Premier, the Deputy Premier and cabinet to the beautiful city of Cairns for community cabinet. Community cabinet presents a fabulous vehicle for local families, members of the public, business owners and organisations to meet face-to-face with ministers to express their concerns and, more importantly, to share what matters to them. They can discuss local issues face-to-face or simply provide some feedback. Community cabinet includes deputation, which allows not only ministers but also the Premier an insight into community needs and priorities and the challenges faced by our community and the region. It also helps them influence policy and procedures and, more importantly, government initiatives. I note that a number from those still very heavily rain-affected areas north of Cape Tribulation met with the Premier in key areas. They were keen to get those outcomes. That is what these meetings are about.


With 78 meetings being split between 18 ministers in 15-minute time slots, it was akin to minister speed dating. In the allocated 95 minutes, a variety of topics were discussed: from brain drain to the Cairns area, housing, insurance, the recent floods events, the rental crisis and the cost of living. All of these things were discussed in detail. It is fantastic that the people in our community had the opportunity to do that.

The town hall event was booked out. It allowed members of the community—as well as all of the people from Cape Tribulation that he spoke to and the people from the Mossman Mill that he went outside and spoke to—to ask the Premier questions and speak to him about anything that was important to them. The community could ask, 'What are you doing about it?' It was well done. It also provides a valuable platform for the Premier to listen and to gauge what matters most.

Community cabinet also provided a great opportunity for me to accompany Minister Scanlon on a visit to the Cairns Rapid Accommodation Apprenticeship Centre, which is modelled on the QBuild facility at Eagle Farm. This facility has begun producing modular homes for social housing and to be used for remote disaster impacted areas. In fact, the first 10 houses will be delivered to Cooktown by the end of March. This is unprecedented. These portable homes are being built and fitted out under a covered hangar in the industrial area at Redden Street in Cairns to avoid weather delays and the heat challenges that particularly affect this part of the world.

The factory-built homes are built at the same time as the site works are being carried out with the finished home. That is then transported for installation. This process will save valuable time and provide more Queenslanders with a roof over their head in a quicker time frame. I thank everybody who turned up, and I want to thank the people of Cairns for their contribution to what was a successful event.

Fire Ants

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.25 pm): A recent Senate inquiry heard that mismanagement of the Fire Ant Eradication Program is costing Gold Coast and Logan cities' struggling ratepayers millions. There is an absence of open data, failure to share information and to communicate, slow reaction to outbreaks, delays, disregard of any urgency, and ignored warnings. Since 2019, three reports have been scathing of the lack of progress, mismanagement of programs, funding shortfalls and KPI failures. Minister Furner has never fully implemented or accepted recommendations and refuses to implement independent assessments.

When I met with the Invasive Species Council yesterday they raised concerns about the systemic management and funding failures of the program for years. A report three years ago recommended a major change of plan, warning that the loss of momentum between 2015 and 2018 set the program back some years. The minister sat on the report and only released it last June.

Only two months later—in August—a new operational area was declared on the Gold Coast. The government only updated the biosecurity zone in December—a wasted four months. It meant that a large area of the Gold Coast was not following regulations regarding the movement of materials. The eradication program advises a minimum of three treatments per year for two years. Gold Coast had only two scheduled and the eradication zone was reduced from 10 to five kilometres.


Logan includes rural areas like Beaudesert, yet they only started receiving briefings six months ago. Minister Furner dismissed warnings about fire ants rafting during the 2022 floods. Logan's former mayor revealed that council officers watched them: 'They were floating—the officers could see them floating.' The Logan representative said—

The lack of consistent and clear communication over the past decade has severely constrained the ability for local government to play any meaningful roles, as well as public knowledge of the threat ...

Gold Coast said that communication was 'diabolical'. Both councils said that the government is not sharing open data. Gold Coast said that attempts to deliver it were unsuccessful and that any dialogue with the state does not necessarily deliver results. It is relying on informal relationships to learn what is going on. When Logan sought help eight years ago in 2016, former agriculture minister Donaldson said that local government participation did not align with the eradication plan. Now it has been told that from July Logan home owners and ratepayers are responsible for major surveillance and suppression activities, costing an estimated \$1.7 million over three years and millions extra in subsequent years. The mayor said that its ratepayer base is housing commission and it is struggling: 'We haven't got the money.'

Gold Coast now employs 13 full-time staff solely to deal with fire ants. It is estimated to cost \$6 million annually to treat and comes with a \$176 million cost to tourism. This cost to ratepayers is on top of the cost to primary producers, landowners, home owners, businesses and community organisations. Everyone is losing confidence.

Townsville, Electricity Prices

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (2.28 pm): I rise to talk about what the Miles government is doing to support the people of Townsville. We know how many people are struggling with cost-of-living pressures. That is why we are stepping up to help. This government has provided more than 96,000 Townsville households with more than \$59 million in electricity bill relief. As part of the \$1.6 billion cost-of-living relief package announced in the budget, more than 83,500 households across Townsville are estimated to have benefited from \$550 off their electricity bills. A further 12,500 of Townsville's most vulnerable households were eligible for additional electricity rebates, which means \$1,072 cash back per household. This is just in Townsville alone. This is a startling figure and one we are very proud of.

I am proud to be part of the Miles government that is committed to lowering power bills for people in Townsville. The only way we can do this is because we own the assets, and under this government we always will. Those opposite wanted to sell Ergon—those are the facts. Here are some more facts for those opposite. Under the LNP, power prices went up by 43 per cent and bills in the regions went up by \$600 in just three years. Despite the mega hit to Queensland's hip pocket, the LNP did not provide electricity bill relief to struggling families. In fact, they prepared to sell Queensland's assets and risk prices going even further through the roof.


The member for Broadwater and the opposition are full of illusion. We know they do not back our progressive coal royalties and this means there will be a budget black hole. It means they will not support Queenslanders with cost-of-living relief because they cannot afford to do so. It is a pretty simple equation.

While I am on my feet I cannot pass up the opportunity to talk about superstar Pink playing at the Queensland Country Bank Stadium later this week. Up to 65,000 fans are expected to attend both nights, making it the largest event ever held at the stadium. That is why we built the Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We know there is a massive economic boost for mega events like this. We are estimating there will be a benefit of almost \$50 million from this one particular event. There are more than 20,000 concertgoers coming from outside of Townsville which is absolutely fantastic for our city and for our local businesses.

Townsville is the events capital of north Australia. We know how much of an impact events like Pink make, and that is why this government continues to back them. Our local businesses are getting right behind the event with all sorts of Pink paraphernalia. I am even advised that the king of the north, JT, or at least his statue, is adorned in pink headgear.

(Time expired)

Local Government, Elections; Inala and Ipswich West Electorates, By-Elections

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.31 pm): The Brisbane City Council local government elections were an overwhelming endorsement of the stability, vision and plans of Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and the LNP Brisbane City Council team. In stark contrast, the policies of the Labor-Greens coalition of chaos were overwhelmingly rejected.

Whilst the results are yet to be formally declared by the Electoral Commission of Queensland, I am proud to update the Queensland parliament that LNP councillor Greg Adermann now holds the Pullenvale Ward on a two-party preferred vote by 64 per cent to 36 per cent, representing an almost four per cent swing to the Liberal National Party. This has been achieved with an almost 12 per cent primary swing locally to the Liberal National Party. Simultaneously, the Greens vote has dropped and Labor's primary vote has collapsed to a pitiful 11.8 per cent.

If we look at the overall trends, what the Brisbane City Council elections have revealed is that Labor is hemorrhaging support to the Greens political party, whilst the LNP primary vote is remaining stable and, in fact, increasing in many areas including the western suburbs. The Greens are an existential threat to the Labor Party.


The result for Councillor Greg Adermann is well deserved and is a strong community endorsement of his hard work over the last four years. The result was a ringing endorsement of a Liberal National Party candidate and incumbent councillor who chose unity over division and who chose to present detailed and funded plans to local residents over false statements, biased columns, disingenuous editorials and empty promises presented by other local candidates and their supporters. I will certainly have more to say in the Queensland parliament in coming months.

Congratulations again to Councillor Greg Adermann and also Moggill SEC chair, Paul McMonagle, who led the LNP's Pullenvale campaign committee. I also want to acknowledge the incredible effort and result achieved by LNP councillors including Councillor Penny Wolff in the Walter Taylor Ward and Councillor Steve Toomey in The Gap ward.

Finally, we cannot talk about the 16 March 2024 elections without acknowledging the extraordinary effort and results for the Liberal National Party in both the Inala and Ipswich West state by-elections. My congratulations to the LNP's Trang Yen, who achieved a phenomenal result in Labor's safest seat in Queensland, where Labor's primary vote collapsed by over 30 per cent. My congratulations to the new state member for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow.

These results clearly demonstrate that Labor has given up on listening to Queenslanders and the priorities that matter most to them including on cost of living, the youth crime crisis, housing affordability, and the health and hospital crisis. I know that health clinicians in the emergency department of Ipswich Hospital are being let down by a Labor government which has overseen ambulance ramping hit 60 per cent at the Ipswich Hospital, with Ipswich Hospital having the worst emergency department performance in the state. In October this year it is time for Queenslanders and local residents to show Labor the door in 2024.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.34 pm): I rise to speak about the concerns of my constituents in the seat of Mundingburra. I have conducted mobile offices and community events in recent times in my seat and I have met with many residents and listened to their many concerns—cost of living, housing, crime and an extremely serious rise in domestic violence. They have also raised their concerns about the amount of money that was going to be spent on the Gabba redevelopment for the 2032 Olympic stadium.

I support the recent decision and leadership shown by the Premier to address the concerns of Queenslanders and the excessive cost of building a large new Olympic stadium in the heart of Brisbane for a two-week event when we have cost-of-living challenges and housing issues to address as a priority, along with juvenile crime. I am very happy that the Premier is listening and acting to reduce the cost of hosting one of the biggest events in the world. Premier Steven Miles has also shown publicly his position on his preferred site for the 2032 Olympic stadium that will leave a long-lasting legacy for all Queenslanders as well as savings being spent on more housing in Queensland.

What is of grave concern is the lack of leadership shown by the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, when it comes to informing the people of North Queensland where he stands on the preferred Olympic stadium site here in Brisbane. What we have seen in the last 48 hours is the LNP Brisbane mayor-elect Adrian Schinner do all the bidding on behalf of opposition leader, David Crisafulli. Why, you ask? Because the council election is over. Schinner is safe and sound for another four years. The opposition leader, David Crisafulli, must remain a very small target and not show any weakness. The opposition leader, David Crisafulli, does not want the people of Queensland to see him as a fake or lacking in leadership skills when pressure is applied to him.

Recently the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, was asked on 4BC radio by morning host Bill McDonald what his position was on the Victoria Park site for the Olympic stadium. He would not answer the question, ducking and weaving and also showing some anger for being continually asked for a response. That was a perfect example of what Queenslanders can expect from the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, if he were the premier of this state.

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Member for Mundingburra, I ask you to take your seat while I hear the point of order.

Mr JANETZKI: My point of order is to do with correct titles. The member for Mundingburra has repeatedly referred to the opposition leader by name.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the reference, but I caution all members to use correct titles.


Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is actually referring to the 'opposition leader' and then the name. That is acceptable under the standing orders.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mundingburra, I will give you the call and I will get some advice. If you can resume your speech, that would be great.

Mr WALKER: Mayor Schinner has conned the people of Brisbane and more so the surrounding property owners of Victoria Park. They were promised their very own Hyde Park just like New York. I table a media article dated 9 June 2019 where he promised the people of Victoria Park and surrounding areas their very own Hyde Park. Queenslanders expect weak leadership from the opposition leader.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 9 June 2019, titled 'Golf course to make way for Brisbane's version of Hyde Park' [\[434\]](#).

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.37 pm): Do honourable members remember when the Olympic dream was a '45-minute region' and about transport infrastructure? People in Toowoomba were really excited about the opportunity. We even got federal government money to do an investigation into what the rail line to Brisbane would cost. This minister, a Toowoomba boy himself, is now sitting on that and will not release the findings of the federally funded transport investigation into rail to Brisbane. I call on the minister to do that so the Olympic dream can still stay alive in Toowoomba.

Whilst I am on the Olympic dream in Toowoomba, I want to talk about the absolute debacle—the chaos—that was caused by the Labor government and Premier Miles in the lead-up to what we are going to do in Toowoomba. They have a stadium where there is no car parking. There was no


consultation. They did not talk to the community. There is poor access. They threatened some of Queensland's longest standing sporting clubs. It is a complete and utter debacle that has caused great discomfort for many people in my electorate. What they should be looking at is a Toowoomba equestrian centre of excellence. Council think it is a good idea. I think members here would all think it is a good idea.

It would fit very well with the sorts of activities we can provide in our region. Our showgrounds, under the leadership of Damon Phillips, have put together a very good plan. It is quite modest. It builds up over a period of time. It will leave a significant legacy for the region as well as give the equestrian community somewhere to have their Queensland championships. At the moment—with Labor being in government for 30 of the last 35 years—the Queensland equestrian championships are held in Tamworth. This is a perfect opportunity for an equestrian centre of excellence to be built at the Toowoomba showgrounds and to have quarantine facilities built. We could bring the animals straight into the Wellcamp Airport. It would be a fantastic legacy for our region. I think that, in all seriousness, the government should look at it as an opportunity that has come out of the chaos and disaster that was the consultation around the stadium.

While I am on the subject of other potential legacies, we could upgrade our women's changing room facilities and disability access to our various sporting grounds. That would be a good Olympic legacy because they do not have great access in Toowoomba. We could build a tartan track in Toowoomba. Toowoomba is one of the only cities that does not have a tartan track. There is no funding available. There is nowhere for anybody to do that apart from an undersized track at one private school. The government has had its blinkers on when it comes to opportunities in Toowoomba. I ask it to please take them off and look at the equestrian opportunity. Minister, release the fast rail information.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the member for Mansfield, I will ask all members to keep their conversations down or take them outside. It is getting a little bit noisy in here.

Mansfield State High School, 50th Anniversary

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.41 pm): Mansfield State High School is the pride of our community. It is located in the centre of the electorate. Our community is proud of this school, the teaching and non-teaching staff, the leadership team and, of course, our beautiful students. Every day our community witnesses the conduct of Mansfield students—the way they dress, how they demonstrate their community responsibilities, their manners and their commitment to academic excellence.


I rise to share exciting news today. This weekend Mansfield State High School and our community will celebrate their 50th anniversary. This means that for 50 years Mansfield State High School has been educating our local community. More than 40,000 local children over these 50 years have had the benefit of a quality education provided by this wonderful local school.

Recently our community celebrated 71 graduates who achieved an ATAR of 97.4 or above. That is equivalent to more than 35 students achieving an OP-1. At this ceremony the 2023 school dux were announced. Congratulations to Charlotte Albert and Chanithie Arachchillage. Both students achieved an ATAR of 99.9 and had exceptional internal and external results during their senior year. They were jointly named as the 2023 school dux. I congratulate year 12 2023 graduate Samuel Tong on receiving a prestigious Iwasaki Sangyo Scholarship. Samuel delivered a very beautiful speech before departing for Japan the very next day. We wish him the best of luck. We are so proud of his achievements.

Over the weekend the Queensland Labor government's investment in Mansfield State High School will be on show for our whole community to see, including: the new C block year 7 building; the new oval and lights; the refurbished admin building; the new drop and go; the new sports centre; the hall upgrade; the new science centre building; the upgrade to K block performing arts; the upgrade to all kitchens and A block; the upgrade to F block music centre; the new P block building; the brand new J block building; air-conditioned classrooms powered by solar panels; the new canteen, uniform shop and outdoor shaded area; and the F block terraces. This has all been delivered since I was elected in 2017—more than \$200 million of investment.

This is my track record for our community, and our community is well aware of it. On Saturday we will celebrate with a food and entertainment festival, including classroom exhibits. Saturday night we will party at Club Southside accompanied by performances by the music excellence students. Our community knows the value of education, and our community knows who will always prioritise an investment in education in our community. I look forward to the 2024 election.

Residential Tenancies

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.44 pm): Renters in Queensland are angry. Under Labor and LNP governments it seems that rents will continue to skyrocket, renters will continue to be kicked out at the end of their lease for no reason, and more Queenslanders will be pushed into homelessness. The Premier talks about tackling the housing crisis, but he is not willing to put a limit on how much property investors can jack up the rent and he is not willing to ban property investors from evicting renters for no reason at the end of each lease. Is it any wonder Queensland renters are so mad? Until Labor bans property investors from evicting renters for no reason at the end of a lease and bans investors from raising rent by unlimited amounts, renters will be hesitant to enforce what little rights they have for fear they—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Please take your seat, member for Maiwar, while I take the member for Capalaba's point of order.

Mr BROWN: I know that the member for Maiwar is not in this House very often, but before lunchtime the Minister for Housing introduced a bill into parliament on the very issue he is raising in his private member's statement.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice.

Mr BERKMAN: I am happy to respond to the point of order if that would assist.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is okay. I will just take some advice from the Clerk. Member, I will get you to explain how this is not related to the bill that was introduced into the House prior to lunch.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly. The speech I am delivering talks about the government's failure to prevent no-grounds evictions and—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr BERKMAN:—its failure to address landlords' ability to increase rents by unlimited amounts. Neither of those are issues that were addressed in any way by the bills that were introduced by the housing minister this morning.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The matters being raised in the member's contribution could be considered to be alternative policy approaches and therefore are captured in terms of anticipation.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are just having a decent scrutiny of the bill that was introduced. Member, I will allow you to continue your contribution. I just caution that I may pull you up, depending on what we can find in the bill. I will allow you to continue for the moment.

Mr BERKMAN: It is fascinating to see that members are so sensitive about issues their government is not willing to touch. Every renter in Queensland knows that if they want their lease renewed—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, that is skating close to a reflection on the chair. I will ask you to contribute to the debate.

Mr BERKMAN: My apologies, Madam Deputy Speaker. I did not intend to reflect on you in any way.


Renters know that if they want to stay in their house and not see their rents jacked up then they need to keep their mouths shut. Right now, renters are denied lease renewals for simply speaking up about their existing basic rights. Because renters do not have the wealth and income to pull together a deposit and somehow outbid all of those investors using tax breaks to drive up house prices, they have literally no way of knowing how long they will be able to stay in their home.

As long as landlords are allowed to increase rents by unlimited amounts or kick renters out at the end of their lease with no good reason, there will be no such thing as secure housing for Queensland renters. Not a single renter knows whether they will be able to stay near friends and community, near their work and community clubs. Because half of all renting households live with their children, a massive number of Queenslanders do not even know if they will be able to keep sending their children to the same school once their lease is up.

Labor and the LNP stand by laws that have seen rents rise at truly obscene rates and have seen countless renters kicked out at the end of a fixed-term lease without any good reason and in retaliation for renters sticking up for their legal rights. When the Greens say 'no-grounds evictions', we actually mean it. We mean a guaranteed right to stay—a guaranteed right to lease renewal unless there is an

actual reason to evict the tenant. No-grounds evictions go straight to the core of the power imbalance between property investors and renters in Australia. The government's claims that they have ended no-grounds evictions are complete rubbish. As long as no-grounds evictions remain while unlimited rent increases remain, all other renters' rights become compromised. What is the point of minimum standards in rental properties or any other rights for tenants if a renter seeking to enforce their rights can have their tenancy ended in retaliation or their rent jacked up by hundreds of dollars so they simply cannot afford to stay in the property?

Miles Labor Government; Liberal National Party

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.49 pm): The Miles Labor government is listening to Queenslanders and delivering for all Queenslanders right across the entirety of this great state. The Miles Labor government is making the strong decisions to address the matters relevant to Queenslanders and relevant to those in my electorate of Bundaberg and the whole of the greater Bundaberg region.


One of these strong decisions is free TAFE, which equals jobs in our communities. It is not just for those who are entering the workforce for the first time; it is also for those wanting to make a change in their career. The free Diploma of Nursing is saving people in Bundaberg \$25,000 that they would otherwise have to pay out of their own pocket. Last year over 1,300 Bundaberg locals took up that chance for free TAFE, after that strong decision made by the Miles Labor government.

We also have strong decisions such as backing in free kindy, which is providing an early start to every single four-year-old across our state to ensure they have the best opportunity to succeed in life. We are making these strong decisions on the back of our progressive coal royalties stance. We are making sure that the money that belongs to Queenslanders goes back to Queenslanders.

What have we seen from those opposite? We have seen decisions that are not strong and decisions that are not of conviction. We have seen an alternative in Queensland in the Liberal National Party which is too scared to make the tough decisions. They are too scared to tell Queenslanders what they are thinking and too scared to tell Queenslanders what they are scheming. In the case of the opposition leader, he is too scared to tell Queenslanders what they are running from. I observed earlier this week the Leader of the Opposition at a doorstep interview after he got held up by Channel 9. Normally when you do a press conference you stand in the one place so the microphone is in front of you and you can look at the journo. You do not try to move away from the microphone because when you do the microphone has to chase you, but that is what the Leader of the Opposition did. He ran away and then he ran down the corridor and had to be physically chased.

The LNP are too scared to tell Queenslanders about their weak schemes and their weak decisions. That is why, instead of backing in a new hospital in Bundaberg, they are backing in a new stadium in inner-city Brisbane. They are backing in a \$3.4 billion fourth stadium for Brisbane and saying they will not build the hospital in Bundaberg. Members do not have to take my word for it. Take the words of their candidate in Hervey Bay. They backed him and said, 'No hospital for Bundaberg if the LNP ever got elected, but inner-city Brisbane can get a brand new, shiny stadium.' The people of Bundaberg know what they want. We want our hospital, not the LNP.

State Election


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.52 pm): Queenslanders have expectations of us as members of parliament. They want debate on issues impacting them with proffered solutions, not rock throwing, blame or posturing. As leaders, we set the example for our communities by our own behaviours. With the state election in six months time, let us demonstrate what Queenslanders are asking for—to be respectful, honourable and genuine. We can do this by committing to end the mis- and dis-information, smokescreens and divisions created prior and during campaigns. Queenslanders want to hear what we can deliver, not what someone else cannot. They want their issues debated factually, clearly and without whitewashing and personal attacks.

Some years ago, I said in this chamber that Queenslanders can handle the truth, and they can. Let us start with a debate on ending practices that hoodwink. An example is those reply paid envelopes for postal vote applications that are sent without letting Queenslanders know where they go prior to the ECQ. What about the data mining via newsletter subscriptions and other means to bombard households with robocalls and texts? What happened to privacy of information, as well as common decency?

Cost-of-living pressures include fuel prices. It does not matter which level of government is responsible; we are all weary of the excuses and lack of explanations as to the vast variations between suburbs and states. Then we have statistics that are used to deflect and confuse, with our communities caught again in the middle of the two sides stating vastly different 'facts' about everything from crime to electricity prices, taxes, insurances and all the way to environmental health. It is time that in every realm a national standard for comparative reporting is adopted that cannot be misconstrued showing how we stack up against other states. Yes, the government's financial reporting needs to be understandable by all, not just by analysts.

This election say it as it is and avoid the dangling of carrots. Promises are empty when there is no clarity around how these will be delivered, where the extra funds are coming from and which projects or services may miss out as a result. Making anything complex is its own form of hoodwinking, whether intentional or not, and does not pass the pub test. Make these coming months count for all Queenslanders on what they seek, with campaigns that are informative, not mis- or dis-informative. Remember, we are only as strong as our weakest and we need to lift our communities up every day, not drag them down. That includes during elections.

Liberal National Party

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.55 pm): Elections are a contest of ideas but importantly a contest of leadership. This week we have witnessed strong leadership from Premier Miles—listening to the people of Queensland. Whether they speak via the ballot box, on the doorstep or at community events, he listens and he is taking action on issues that matter—cost of living, housing, community safety and health care. He is strong enough to listen to the people of Queensland and prioritise cost of living over new stadiums. What of the alternative? We have witnessed leadership that could only generously be described as weak by the Leader of the Opposition. Like nearly 70 per cent of the people in my community who voted 'yes' in last year's referendum, I was shocked when the Leader of the Opposition backflipped on his vote in this parliament on the Path to Treaty.

Ms Pugh: Shame.

Mr KELLY: I will take that interjection—shame, indeed. Many would describe that behaviour as weak. It continued, as displayed in that great interview with Bill McDonald when the Leader of the Opposition was unable to form a position on the Olympic stadium. When it comes to displaying weakness, the Leader of the Opposition is truly a team player. His 2IC, the member for Kawana, a former attorney-general, had his attempts to get a matter referred to the Ethics Committee struck down because he did not even attempt to make out the elements that are required to demonstrate that someone has misled the parliament. A lawyer and a former attorney-general could not even do that. I am not a lawyer, but there are only three elements. Those weak legal skills were on display again in last night's dissent motion.


Let us go to the member for Toowoomba South, aspiring weekly to be the treasurer. He is clearly too busy pandering to the Queensland Resources Council to bother thinking up any questions for the actual Treasurer, with not a single question since estimates last year—nada, zip, not a one. As for the member for Mudgeeraba, she is the only nurse in this chamber who voted against safe nurse-to-patient ratios. I know that all nurses would think that is very weak behaviour. The member for Maroochydore, who is the self-proclaimed doyen of integrity, remains weakly silent after all the claims she and the Leader of the Opposition made about a certain laptop proved to be false.

Mr Stewart: Where's the apology?

Mr KELLY: Where is the apology? How could anyone forget the weak efforts by everyone's favourite COVID party boy, the member for Toowoomba North. My neighbour the member for Chatsworth demonstrated why he should never be the transport minister when he slammed the placement of a speed monitoring device in a school zone. I know most people in my community think it is pretty weak if you think you should speed near school students. Being worried about the number of women on government boards is also pretty weak-minded, and that is just what the member for Everton did when he took a break from yelling over women in this place. The member for Burnett apparently has the strength to break the back—

(Time expired)

Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.58 pm): A real potpourri of events have occurred over the last few weeks in the state seat of Coomera—not the least of which was the presentation of a new bus by the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama to Esuarve. The member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition, from the adjoining seat, came along to witness that. Esuarve is an amazing organisation that has a gold standard youth program that is turning lives around. Once again, the member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition attended a crime forum with me where we heard from Melinda Belovari from Autobarn Upper Coomera who was ram raided not once but twice within a week. We met many other residents who have been targeted by youth and young adults in and around the northern Gold Coast.

We had a coffee with a cop to discuss what is going on locally. I have to say that our police are working very hard with very limited resources. I know that police numbers at the Coomera and Pimpama stations are down by 25 per cent. In that regard it is a real battle for them, but they are doing the best they can with those limited resources. I also had the pleasure of being grilled by year 6 students from Coomera Anglican—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock, please. Members, there is too much noise in the chamber apart from the member who has the call. Could you please take your conversations outside or be quiet.

Mr CRANDON: I also had the pleasure of being grilled by year 6 students from Coomera Anglican College about what a member of parliament does and, indeed, what some of the local issues are. What did these year 6 students raise with me? You guessed it: youth crime, traffic issues and roads. Would you believe that they were the questions that came from those year 6 students? Of course, the school is located at exit 54, which is an absolute nightmare every day, so they live it every day.

We had a wonderful JPs' morning tea. I want to thank Commissioner of Declarations Mary Taylor for her 25-plus years of service to the community and Russell Linwood, who has done 48 years as a justice of the peace. It was a wonderful morning tea enjoyed by all.


I also had the pleasure of presenting to Sara Syme, P&C President from the Pimpama State Secondary College—in fact, the inaugural P&C chair, having been there for 12 years. She has now stepped down after 12 years, having seen all of her kids go through as students at the school.

I celebrated International Women's Day last Friday with 11 amazing women at a high tea co-hosted by Dr Tanya Unni and with four wonderful speakers, not the least of which was a young lady who was the junior member for Coomera for two years in this place. Today I celebrate 15 years in this place—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Mr CRANDON: I look forward to continuing to serve the people of the northern Gold Coast—
(Time expired)

Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (3.01 pm): Being premier of Queensland is a great honour, and Queenslanders have never elected a weak premier. We know the record of the Leader of the Opposition. We know that he took a seat from the youngest ever woman elected in this parliament's history at that point. We know that he took preselection from her. We know that he alleged terrible things about the laptop and then was caught cold by the CCC report. He never apologised. He went to ground, just like he did this week. He went to ground to avoid responsibility for being found out. We saw him make treaty a personal issue of principle, but how long did that last? It lasted about four months before he folded like a stack of cheap playing cards with a little bit of pressure from his federal colleagues.

We see recent commitments on the Sunshine Coast line—an area ignored by him in government and ignored by the LNP after nine years in Canberra. We see his shifting position when it comes to the \$3.4 billion stadium—shifting away from responsibility, shifting away from being there and shifting away literally today—literally! He was doorstopped by Tim Arvier and Channel 9, and he literally shifted himself away from the camera. He gave sand crabs a good lesson in scuttling away when he was confronted by Tim Arvier and Channel 9. What he wants to do is keep his position secret until after the election.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Member for Callide, why don't you just can it. Really? Unbelievable!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please. Member for Miller, I am advised you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also remind you of your obligation to direct comments through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The volume from the member for Callide is absolutely difficult to deal with while I am speaking. He is yelling—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Miller. I acknowledge your point of order and I will take care of order in the chamber. You have the call.

Mr BAILEY: I hope so. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Where was the Leader of the Opposition for three days? He was hiding from the media and hiding from the public, because he wants to hide his position on a \$3.4 billion commitment to a stadium that Queenslanders do not want. They want to see a games that is within a reasonable budget line. What we see is a leader of the opposition without heart, without strength, who was hiding from the media until he was flushed out today. He was finally flushed out for a press conference today, only after incredible pressure from the public, from media and from this government. He is a weak opposition leader, he does not stand for anything, he has no policies and we will continue to apply the pressure on him.


(Time expired)


MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended during this day's sitting to allow the nominated maximum time of the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill under the business program motion for this week to be extended to 4 hours and 30 minutes.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.06 pm): The LNP will not oppose this, but I will point out how this yet again demonstrates how farcical is the Business Committee meeting held on the Monday of every sitting week and the business program motion itself. The government, at a whim, has decided that it has run out of time and needs to extend the time for debate of a bill. Again I point out that this is a ridiculous system that the government has imposed and it should be withdrawn post haste. We should go back to the old system of longer hours and more opportunity for members to speak.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.06 pm): I would like to respond to the points raised by the Manager of Opposition Business. There has been a lot of discussion in the House over a long time about points made particularly by the Manager of Opposition Business and members of the opposition on giving members the opportunity to speak to bills of importance. I think, based on the debate that we have seen so far in relation to the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—

Mr Watts: Need more time?

Mr de BRENNI:—that it is—


Mr Watts: Is that how the decision was made?

Mr de BRENNI: I am not taking the interjections from the member opposite. It is one of interest to many members. There are a number of members remaining on the speaking list, and all the motion seeks to do is give an opportunity for those members to contribute to that debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.08 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 April 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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) (3.08 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that: the Cost of Living and Economics Committee report on the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 10 May 2024; the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report on the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill by 10 May 2024; and the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 10 May 2024. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's *Report 11: 2023-24—State entities 2023* be referred to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 864, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There are a lot of different aspects to this bill, but one thing that always worries me is when regulation creates a monopoly. We hear about supermarket duopolies. We hear about different kinds of monopolies. Monopolies will often lead to price gouging, poor service and poor behaviour and when they are protected by government regulation that can become even worse.

One of the things that worries me about this bill is that the unions will be given monopolistic control over what will happen in particular workplaces. There has been a lot of talk about where these laws came from. It should be noted that in the 2002 review Deidre Swan, a former Queensland Industrial Relations commissioner and former AWU branch vice-president, and Charles Massy, a barrister and former Queensland Council of Unions policy officer, found that this might be a useful idea. It is a bit of a shock to think that people who come from the union movement would think that centralising more control and power in the hands of the unions would, in fact, be a good outcome for the workers of Queensland and the small businesses and other businesses in Queensland.

There are a couple of other things that should be spoken about. One of the unpredictable things coming out of this legislation is that different unions will be able to send their HSR, their health and safety representatives, onto a site where they actually do not represent anybody. Not only are they being given—through their membership to the central body in Queensland—exclusive control over this so that other people cannot do it, the two unions are going to ultimately start pushing back against each other in the duopoly of power and control. We will have CFMEU health and safety representatives being able to walk onto an AWU site. The CFMEU will not have anybody there at all. They will be able to walk onto a site where the only membership is AWU membership, and they will be able to shut that site down.

You have to ask yourself: how comfortable are those on the other side of this chamber, the Labor members, with this factional deal that potentially could blow up in their face? Of course, what would be really interesting would be to have AWU health and safety representatives walk onto a CFMEU site and shut it down. I want to make it very clear: I do not think there is a member in this House who does not want our workplaces to be safe. I think everybody has an expectation that we should have good regulation to ensure that people who go to work can do it in a safe environment and go home safely and see their loved ones. I have had the privilege of going underground on a couple of mine sites. They are particularly difficult environments. The health and safety regulation that this place puts in place around dangerous work sites is very important, but let us be truthful about what is going on here—this is a union deal. This is a union deal so that they can control and close down particular work sites at a whim.

We have to look at the training that is involved. Before someone can close down an entire work site and cost a business millions of dollars, should they be well qualified? Should they have gone through a proper and appropriate training course? Should that training course have been one that their

employer would have endorsed or could they pick any training course they like—particularly one offered by the union that employs them? Will it be a few days, maybe five days—not a certificate course? People can do a certificate IV in a lot of different things. One would think that work and safety in the workplace should at least be a certificate IV qualification.

What concerns me is what this legislation is achieving. Who has brought this legislation forward, under what set of circumstances and why are we here? We know that the AWU donated \$43,000 prior to the election on the weekend. Imagine the AWU's power from this bill when they can walk onto a CFMEU site and shut it down. I will be interested to know what the CFMEU's opinion is on that. They are thinking that this will be great for them and they will be able to walk onto other people's sites and shut them down and they will be able to flex their power and control and increase their union membership by forcing people to sign up. What we could see is the exact reverse of that, and that will be challenging.


Imagine someone from the AWU walking onto a CFMEU site and telling the crane operator, 'I have done my five-day course. This does not look safe to me at all. I think we should shut it down.' What is the recourse internally? What will happen internally within the Labor Party as these unions go to war? They will go to war with each other about power and control over our manufacturing sites, our construction sites and our workplaces.

I think this legislation is somewhat ill-conceived. What concerns me most is the people who will ultimately lose out. That will be the workers and that will be the people who have employed those workers to come and do something for them. Whilst there is a power and control game being played out by the Labor Party and the union movement, everyday ordinary Queenslanders are having their pockets emptied. As often happens with monopolies, there is a potential for people to be gouged because there is no competition around costs in the environment that they are operating in. I do not like monopolies. When there is a natural monopoly, it should be well regulated. It should be carefully considered. We should make sure that it does not give extraordinary powers to someone who comes from that monopoly. That is the exact reason there should certainly be a fit and proper person test applied to someone.

Imagine this: the person in charge of everybody's safety on a site where there is no representation or membership can be not a fit and proper person and unable to pass the test but can walk straight onto a site and shut it down. I will be curious to see what happens when someone who does not qualify as a fit and proper person walks onto an AWU site and shuts the whole thing down to flex their union muscle. I will be curious to see what reaction comes in regulation going forward around this particular piece of legislation because I think a fit and proper person test and a certificate IV should be in place.

There should at least be one person on the site from a union that is looking for representation. None of that should take away from us having a safe workplace for people to go to. Construction sites can be dangerous places. I do not want anybody to misinterpret what I am saying here. I am not against having health and safety officers and regulators and people who can go onto those sites and make sure things are safe, but there should be a proper process. It should not be a reward for someone who has monopolistic control over what is going on. It should not be done so that you can gouge businesses and/or squeeze your competitor out of the market by having control over their work site and the ability to shut them down.

Those are things that I think should not be regulated by this House. That control and power certainly should not be given to someone who then just gives their money to members of parliament who can then come in here and write more regulation to build stronger monopolies and give them more power and control. Interestingly enough, my hope is that the two unions are the ones who blow it up as they fight each other for power and control over our manufacturing and construction sites and our mine sites. Imagine the AWU shutting down a mine site in Queensland.

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank all members of this House for supporting the Leader of the House's motion to extend the time for debate on this bill. I know that the ability to contribute to debates is a passion that is held very deeply by members right across this chamber, so it is wonderful to see cross-chamber support for the Leader of the House's motion.

Every worker deserves to come home safe at the end of their shift or at the end of their working day. Absolutely no-one should be killed at work. No family and no loved one should have to be informed that their dear father, mother, friend or partner has been killed at work. This legislation that is currently before the House is about making safer workplaces in Queensland.

The Miles Labor government leads the country with what is some of the most effective and some of the strongest workplace health and safety legislation that is protecting Queenslanders while they are at work. This bill is an important extension of the reforms that have happened here in Queensland under successive Labor governments. This bill is also a culmination of extensive reviews that have involved widespread consultation and input from experts in the field, and they really stand as a testament to this government's commitment to protecting the wellbeing of workers right across Queensland. It is a crucial step forward in enhancing our existing workplace health and safety laws. In my opinion, it really raises the bar nationally when it comes to workplace health and safety.

This bill recognises not only our hardworking health and safety representatives that help keep our workplaces safe but also the essential and crucial role that registered unions have in advancing workplace health and safety. It is beyond argument and the evidence is clear that they play a vital role, particularly through health and safety representatives, HSRs, when it comes to creating safer workplaces in Queensland.

In turning to the committee report—and I want to acknowledge the work of the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee in their inquiry into this bill—I want to thank all of the organisations that took the time to make a submission to this bill. I note in the committee's report that one of those organisations is the Red Union Support Hub. I also note the statement of reservation to this report from the members for Southern Downs and Buderim. We have heard from the opposition spokesperson for industrial relations that the LNP will not be supporting this bill. That is a little bit confusing when we consider that so many contributions from the opposition on this bill have included the words 'every member in this House supports safer workplaces'. They will say it in here, but when we look at their actions in terms of their voting record when in government we see: stripping away common law workers compensation rights for around 9,000 injured workers, using workplace health and safety as a political football and removing the rights and entitlements of workers.

Even in opposition we saw them voting against industrial manslaughter laws; voting against industrial protections for workers subject to sexual harassment and gender-based harassment and improvements to birth related parental leave; and voting against the wage theft inquiry. If they really want to have safer workplaces, if they say they support safer workplaces, why on earth would their members, who purport to hold those positions and those beliefs, be voting against the interests of workers and the creation of safer workplaces in Queensland? Unfortunately, we are seeing it in this very bill and I suspect we are going to see it when it comes to a vote on this bill, based on the contributions of the opposition members who have spoken.

The statement of reservation to the committee report is clearly standing up for unregistered organisations that are not subject to the same rigorous, transparent and accountable registration requirements that come under federal legislation. We know the fake red unions have none of the strict and comprehensive reporting and accountability requirements that real registered unions that deliver for their members have. I acknowledge every single union member in Queensland—hardworking Queenslanders who keep our state moving forward, hardworking Queenslanders who are members of recognised industrial organisations that have been delivering for their members with higher wages—


Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr McCALLUM:—with good wages, creating more secure jobs and creating safer workplaces.

In relation to the Red Union Support Hub, which made a submission to this bill, I note there is a very close nexus between some people who are involved with red unions and the LNP. I will not give them the pleasure of naming them, but the managing director of the Red Union Support Hub is a member of the LNP. Then there is the president of the QUT LNP Club; the NPAQ president has been the state LNP candidate for Pine Rivers and Bancroft—that did not go too well, did it?; and the former NPAQ secretary is a director of the now seemingly defunct Business Union.

There have been a lot of contributions from the other side about links to political parties and about participating in the democratic process, but, when it comes down to it, it is nothing more than hypocrisy. We are not going to stand here and listen to the utter hypocrisy from those on the other side—saying that they support safer workplaces but then voting against legislation that delivers exactly that. It is completely hypocritical and they will stand condemned by their hypocrisy and their failure to back Queensland workers.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.30 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Workplace health and safety laws are fundamental to upholding workers' welfare and their right to safety. These laws are not mere concessions to workers and they are not just nice to have; they are absolutely critical to a just society, a fair economy and a good life for all. Corporations do not want to improve working conditions because improving working conditions costs owners and shareholders money, and this is the reality of our capitalist economy that puts businesses and company profits in direct competition with workers' conditions and safety. So long as it remains in the interests of the profit makers to cut corners and to spend as little time and money on workers' welfare as they can get away with, workers will have to organise and fight for fair and safe working conditions. The Greens absolutely commend and support this bill and the tools it gives workers to do just that.

The improvements to workplace health and safety laws in this bill will make it easier for workers to organise, negotiate and participate in workplace health and safety work groups. Health and safety representatives of these work groups will have greater rights and powers to represent their co-workers and ensure that their health and safety are appropriately protected in the workplace. Unions acting in the interests of workers will have a greater ability to assist workers in negotiating workplace conditions and enforcing safety standards, workplaces will have a greater responsibility to reduce risks to workers' health and the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission will have greater jurisdiction to decide disputes between workers and their workplaces over health and safety. The Greens unreservedly support all of this. We support workers' rights to safety and we support workers and their unions having a say in workplace conditions.

This bill improves workers' ability to protect themselves against obvious risks to their physical health, whether they are working on a busy construction site or stocking shelves in a grocery store. While we support this bill, we also challenge the Labor Party to go further in backing workers' rights to organise. The Work Health and Safety Act appropriately includes psychological health within the meaning of 'health', but workers have little ability to bargain over the myriad issues that impact their mental wellbeing. I think every worker knows that there is no way to separate their mental wellbeing from their working conditions more generally. There is simply no amount of PPE you can wear to protect against the precarity caused by casualisation or the stress and mental anguish of unfair workloads, falling wages and the rising cost of living.


More than ever workers need the rights, powers and protections required to organise in the workplace and stand up for their interests in all aspects of their work and not just those facets of work that the legislation attempts to separate out into matters of health and safety, because every worker knows that there is no bright white line between their wellbeing and their general working conditions. In this regard, our existing legislation is sorely lacking. Workers in Queensland are still tightly constrained in how they can organise to collectively bargain for better working conditions. They are limited in the types of industrial action they can take, when they can take it and by the number of bureaucratic hurdles they need to address in overcoming that action.

Now more than ever workers need to be free to organise in their workplaces to negotiate better conditions. After three decades it is clear that the restrictive industrial relations regime introduced by Labor in the nineties is not fit for purpose and has been a disaster for workers and union organising. Real wages have stagnated while corporate profits soar. More and more workers are stuck in casual and insecure work without the rights of permanent employees. Since 1992 when the first of Labor's accords was passed, union membership has fallen from 41 per cent of the workforce to just 12 per cent, leaving the vast majority of workers without the protection of a union and without the ability to collectively organise and bargain for better working conditions. If we want workers to be able to stand up for their health and safety as well as their rights and conditions more generally, then we need to fix Labor's broken industrial relations laws which are, in many respects, doing the LNP's job for it. Until we do, workers will not get a fair share of the enormous wealth they create for this country or the rights they deserve, including the right to come home from work fit and healthy in body and in mind.

The Reserve Bank reports that workers' share of national income has continually fallen for the last three decades as increased profits for owners and shareholders outpace wages growth year after year. This is a longstanding trend and it is only getting worse. Since 2019 corporate profits have risen 43.6 per cent, more than double wages growth. Pay packets have not kept up with the cost of living and real wages have fallen so far that they are back to 2006 levels. If instead wages had grown at the same rate as profits in the last four years, workers would have an extra \$5,000 in their pockets. Workers' share of income now is the lowest it has been since the 1950s according to the RBA, with workers making on average just 52 cents out of every dollar they earn for their employer. Let us pause on that

for a moment. For every dollar workers make, their employer is taking 48 cents out of the dollar. We cannot turn these things around without giving workers the tools and protections needed to organise. The punitive restrictions on industrial action within the existing IR framework fail to protect actions taken by workers unless they navigate these very complex bureaucratic obstacle courses.

The Greens are calling for workers to be given the ability to bargain at any level and at any time by ending laws that restrict workers to bargaining and taking action during narrow bargaining periods and only at the enterprise level. Without a doubt there are some great improvements for workers to negotiate with their employers and ensure their safety in this bill, but for workers to properly protect their rights, including their rights to a safe workplace, workers have to be able to organise and take action at whatever level they consider appropriate, including at an industry level when they need to and not just at the expiry of existing agreements which can last up to four years. If we want to see working conditions improve and if we want to see wages increasing in line with profits, then we need better laws that give workers the ability to organise and take the industrial action that is required to do just that.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.37 pm): Apparently unions are not much good according to the member for Maiwar, but it is amazing how much time the LNP and the Greens spend talking about unions. If their memberships have shrunk so much and they are no good we must not be much to worry about, but gee the subject absorbs a lot of time in this place. I want to get on to the contribution to the debate from the member for Toowoomba North. I do not know whether he read the bill or he read the February edition of the HR Nicholls Society magazine, but I am pretty sure it was the latter rather than the former. I do not think he actually read the bill because the things he was saying demonstrated a complete ignorance of what is in this bill. He was referring to an AWU official showing up at a CFMEU worksite and walking in and shutting down that worksite. This bill is about elected workplace health and safety representatives who are elected from within the workplace where a relevant union has coverage, so the very description that that member put on the floor of the parliament today is completely and utterly wrong. I am not going to waste my time writing to you, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, about him misleading the House because I am on my feet pointing out that he is wrong. He has just demonstrated his own ignorance of this bill. I will get on to the training that he talked about in a minute as well, but I am going to reserve that for the member for Kawana because he made some great statements in relation to that yesterday.

I absolutely support this bill. My uncle Alan Kelly died in a construction workplace accident in the 1970s. He was a good bloke lost to the family too early. I did not get to know him particularly well—I was too young when he died—but I am sure my parents missed him greatly. That is an experience that far too many Australian families would share, particularly working families. In my time as a nurse I have lost count of how many working people I have cared for who were injured or made sick as a result of the work that they were undertaking. It would also be remiss of me not to mention during debate on this bill the 220,000 nurses around the world who died as a result of caring for people during COVID.

I have been a workplace health and safety representative, elected by my colleagues; I have been a union delegate, elected by my colleagues; and I have been a union official. As a manager in organisations, I have always taken workplace health and safety seriously. Workplace health and safety is at the forefront of my thinking when I sit on various boards and management committees in the community. I am very saddened every single time I hear about reports of a workplace death because I think about my uncle.

I am proud to be part of a movement that has worked to ensure that every Australian worker is safe at work. This bill makes a number of really important improvements to our workplace health and safety system. It has provisions that improve the role of workplace health and safety reps. I know from personal experience that once you are elected as a workplace health and safety rep it can cost you both time and money to obtain training. This bill ensures that workers are not financially disadvantaged by attending that training. It will make it more likely that workers will take on those roles and undertake the necessary training, which means they will be absolutely more effective in their roles.

I take a little time to reflect on the WHS training. I start by rejecting the entire ridiculous contribution by the member for Kawana, particularly the statement he made about the training of workplace health and safety representatives. I did that training and it was not delivered by someone from my industry. That really did not diminish the effectiveness of the training because the training covered legislation, responsibilities, roles and obligations of workplace health and safety representatives. The training was not industry specific because the legislation applies across all workplaces. We were advised that there is some specific additional training that you can do in specific areas, but that was not the purpose of this training. Far from turning me into a rabid radical bent on destroying my workplace, which is what the member for Kawana was implying about people who do

this type of training, the training actually made me understand how to work with employers or managers to prevent safety issues from harming or killing workers and how to deal with genuine safety issues in a legal manner. Perhaps if we had this type of legislation in the 1970s, my uncle Alan might not have perished at work. The contribution from the member for Kawana deserves no further consideration.

The provisions that better integrate health and safety representatives in the workplace are also welcomed. Empowering reps to request and receive information will help them perform their role and they will also be able to accompany permit holders or inspectors to stay informed about issues.

I turn to the contentious part of the bill. I think we should be extremely proud of the industrial relations system that we have built in Australia. It has evolved over time and has led to relatively peaceful and harmonious industrial relations in the workplace. Disputes have generally been resolved peacefully. We have also seen a more even distribution of wealth, which plenty of evidence tells us leads to much better social outcomes in terms of health, education, social cohesion and many other things. It has also led to ongoing prosperity across our society as workers are incentivised to increase productivity because they get a fair share of what they produce and they are involved in the decision-making processes of their organisation. As a society, we have not witnessed workplace disputes spreading into the broader society and we have certainly not witnessed worker-led revolutions as we have seen overseas. This may all seem a little remote from us in this day and age, but the reality is that that has been avoided because of our fair, robust and evolving industrial relations system.

One key element of the industrial relations system, while I believe is based on the ILO conventions, is the principle of not forming a new union where there is one that is convenient to belong to. It is a widely recognised principle in industrial relations and it is in place because it protects workplaces from competitive unionism, which, in the past in Australia and much more frequently overseas, has led to very bitter and protracted disputes that have been very detrimental to the workers and very detrimental to the businesses and the organisations, and in some cases so detrimental that they have led to death and destruction of property in society more broadly. The provisions in this bill continue that practice that has led to good outcomes for our state, for our nation, for workers and for employers and managers.

The LNP want to rail against this on the basis that registered unions tend to support or are affiliated with the Labor Party. When workers formed trade unions and then formed the Australian Labor Party, they had a pretty simple goal: to improve the welfare of working people. They knew that by doing that they would improve the welfare of the entirety of our society. When paid-up LNP members set up businesses such as the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland, they did so for a number of reasons. No. 1: they did that to make some money for themselves. No. 2: they did that to try to undermine the Labor Party. Let us look at who owns them and for whom they are making money. I will look at just a couple because I cannot go through them all. Graeme Haycroft, the architect of the red union phenomenon—I am going to call them the scab union phenomenon; I am not going to call them red unions—a member of the ‘Joh for PM—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Member for Greenslopes, could you please withdraw that unparliamentary language?

Mr KELLY: I withdraw. Remember him? He is the guy who has never done a single day of nursing in his life but has appointed himself as the spokesperson for nurses and midwives on behalf of NPAQ and spreads misinformation about nurses being forced to announce their white privilege. What about Jack McGuire, managing director? He has been a member of the LNP and was president of the QUT LNP club. Remember him? In questioning before the parliamentary committee that examined the IR bill, Mr McGuire, the managing director of the whole red union operation, could not name the positions he held within various fake unions. He had to take the question on notice.

I have no doubt that the decent hardworking workers who join those fake unions do so for a range of reasons, but they should know that they are joining an organisation that is not formed for their benefit. They are joining an organisation that is making people such as Graeme Haycroft rich. Those are the organisations they are joining.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KELLY: Deputy Speaker, I am not taking the interjections of those people who are shouting over the top of me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left—

Mr KELLY: I ask that the clock be stopped.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:—your interjections are not being taken.

Mr KELLY: They should know that they are joining an organisation that is supporting the LNP, an organisation that since 2015 has significantly and consistently voted against—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KELLY:—consistently voted against—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KELLY:—consistently voted against the interests of workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr KELLY: They have voted against labour hire licensing laws. They have voted against paid domestic and family violence leave. They have voted against industrial manslaughter laws. They have voted against industrial protections for workers subject to sexual harassment.

I am used to being yelled over by people who do not like unions. I will stand up for myself every single day. I will stand up for the rights of workers every single day. I will push for better laws that make sure we keep workers in this state safe so that people like my uncle can go to work and can come home and do not get killed. I am not afraid to stand up to anybody who wants to shout over the top of me in my pursuit of that goal of keeping the workers of Queensland safe.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sitting not very far away from the member for Greenslopes and I could not hear a lot of his contribution because of the interjections from the member for Callide.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): What is your point of order?

Mr BAILEY: My point of order is that, as a member of the parliament, I have a right to hear the speaker.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Callide! Member for Miller, please take your seat for a moment. Member for Callide, I will hear points of order in silence. I caution you. Member for Miller, what is your point of order again?


Mr BAILEY: My point of order is that I could not hear the speaker on regular occasions due to the very loud interjections from the member for Callide. It is my right, as a member of parliament, to hear the speaker outline what they are speaking about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Miller. I will take some advice.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana. Members on my right and members on left, I am taking advice from the Clerk. I ask that I hear that advice in silence. Member for Miller, thank you for your point of order. I acknowledge the point that you are making. I myself have been able to hear all of the speakers. As I can hear the speakers, I have been satisfied that members' privileges are not being impinged upon. There is also a balance between interrupting speakers on their feet and dealing with interjections as they occur. Members on all sides, I want to issue a general caution that interjections have been erring on the side of disorderly and to bear in mind that members who are speaking need to have their rights respected. Thank you, member for Miller.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.49 pm): I too rise to talk on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. It probably should be called the 'Kickback Bill', the 'Payback Bill' or the 'Pay-Off Bill' because that is exactly what it is. It may surprise some members on the other side—although I have spoken about it numerous times in this House—that I was a union representative and a workplace health and safety representative back in the early eighties in a union called the ALAEA, the Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers' Association. I am sure members appreciate that working on aeroplanes can be quite a dangerous business. I totally agree with every other member who has spoken today that workers deserve the right to go to work in a workplace that is safe and go home at night without injury—or even death.

I start by rebutting some of what members opposite have said. I will start with the member for Bundamba. The member for Bundamba said that this bill was consulted on widely and that it raises the bar nationally. It certainly raises the bar nationally with, I am sure, their Labor Party in Canberra in terms of trying to play catch-up to protect their Labor mates. As far as widespread consultation goes, I

understand that there was a so-called independent inquiry which played right into the Labor playbook. They always have rigged inquiries that come up with their desired result. In this case, it is exactly that. I understand that the independent committee members were not so independent. Member for Bundamba, we do not in fact know exactly what submissions were made or who made them because all of that information was suppressed. I would then assume that that means that the only people who were in fact consulted were the people who will benefit from this legislation—the union movement.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. If the member could be bothered to read the entire report, that is what part of the report actually says. I would also like to comment quickly on what the member for Ipswich said—and I think I am quoting her correctly. She said that you cannot represent Queensland unless you are a member of a union or a member of the Labor Party. That is what they would really like to see—the only members of parliament in this place being union members or members of the Labor Party. That is how they try to rig this place. We see it constantly through the committee system and the way that this parliament operates. We saw it again today when this bill had a time limit and, all of a sudden, the government came in here playing silly games and extended the time limit for it saying, ‘This is an important bill and we have to talk for longer on it.’ Yes, it is an important bill. It is an important corruption risk for this state. We need to talk about it more. I encourage all members to come in here and talk about it. There are other bills that are important, too. Why is it that all of a sudden this bill needs more time? It is just a silly game that this government wants to play.

I return to the comments of the member for Bundamba. I was talking about this being a payback bill. The member for Bundamba has form in this place because he was quite involved in the mangocube affair. Members might remember from years ago that he submitted a list of board members to the member for Miller in a private email telling the member for Miller who should and should not be on boards anymore. At the time, he was a senior policy adviser in the ETU in, I think, Sydney. The member for Bundamba can correct me if that is incorrect, but I understand he lived in Sydney and his payback was the seat of Bundamba. They imported him from Sydney and he became the member for Bundamba.

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

Mr HART: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Burleigh.

Mr McCALLUM: I have a further point of order on relevance. I ask that the member be brought back to the long title of the bill. He has had a go.

Mr HART: On that point of order, I was rebutting some of the things—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you do not need to make another point of order. Please remain relevant to the long title of the bill and resume your contribution.

Mr HART: This is a grubby bill providing payback to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, could you withdraw that unparliamentary term?

Mr HART: I withdraw. This is a payback for all members opposite who rely on the union movement for their bread and butter and their seat in this House. There is no doubt about that. They have talked a lot about registered unions being the only ones that can represent members in industrial cases, workplace health and safety, access to work sites—all of the above—but then they prevented others from becoming registered unions. They blocked them. Then they go out and start calling them fake unions. These are people trying to represent members to get the best deal for them and provide them with a far better deal than the existing unions do. The fees are cheaper. Why are the fees cheaper? The fees are cheaper because these unions that are not allowed to register do not pay the kickbacks to the Queensland Council of Unions that then flow to the Labor Party. What does the Queensland Council of Unions do? I had a quick look at its website that states—

... advocate for improvements to industrial, work health and safety, and other laws impacting on workers ...

They are getting their way here, aren't they? In return, no doubt the QCU will be donating to the Labor Party. While I am talking about the QCU, I recently learned that the government gives the QCU a million dollars a year for its May Day march. In return, I am told that the QCU funnels funds back to the Labor Party.

The member for Bundaberg said in his contribution that the leaders of the union movement are elected by the members. Who elects the leaders of the QCU? They are not elected by rank-and-file members of the union, are they? They are elected by the leadership of the unions that kick back to them. That is who elects them. In all honesty, they are just as corrupt as this government.

This government has rigged a whole series of laws over the past nine years that it has been in government, and this is another one of those. It put in place donation laws that meant that normal rank-and-file people cannot donate more than \$4,000 or \$6,000 to political campaigns but that unions can donate whatever. We already heard from the member for Kawana that the AWU donated \$43,000 in the week before the last election. It is pure kickback.

I was quite taken back by some of the contributions from Labor members who seemed to think that the red unions are somehow aligned with the LNP and, if they are, that is apparently inappropriate yet we all live every day with the relationship between the Labor Party and the union movement—the CFMEU, the AWU, the education union, the nurses union and all of the other unions that are associated with the Labor Party and all of the members over there who are completely reliant on them. Then we have famous ‘Blocker’ telling the Premier exactly what he needs to be doing—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock.

Mr WALKER: Can we come back to the bill, please?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is your point of order on relevance?

Mr WALKER: Yes, it is on relevance.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr WALKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member was interjecting while I was trying to speak. I thought there had to be silence when trying to get a point of order heard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no further point of order. I did not hear any interjection from members on my left.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned. Member for Burleigh, you have the call. You have 22 seconds to complete your relevant contribution to the bill.

Mr HART: It is a shame that the member for Mundingburra is not paying attention to the report because the report states—

Mr WALKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am offended by that direct reference. I want him to withdraw, please.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member?

Mr WALKER: I am offended by those remarks.

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


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, before I hear your point of order, I am going to seek some advice from the Clerk. Member for Mundingburra, I have heard your point of order and your request that the member for Burleigh withdraw his personal reflection on you. Member for Burleigh, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HART: I withdraw. The report states—

... the ascension of Premier Steven Miles to his current position was extensively reported in the media. This dependence of Labor MPs upon union influence to retain their jobs is another clear conflict of interest.

It is in the report.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.01 pm): A union is a group of workers. A union is made up of workers. From the way unions have been spoken about by those opposite you would think they were aliens. They are the people who serve you in the shops. They are people you will see at hospitals and in your schools. They are everyday men and women from our communities. They are the kids with the part-time jobs. They are not evil and they are not corrupt; they are just workers of Queensland.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Coomera, you need to be in your seat when you interject.

Mrs GILBERT: Ensuring Queensland workers are protected by robust and contemporary work health and safety laws is really important to this side of the House. It is front and centre for this Miles Labor government. The Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 continues our long record of strengthening workplace health and safety laws in Queensland. We are leading the nation in doing so. We have the best laws in the country. This bill builds on the reforms that we started in 2017.

I would like to take a moment to extend my condolences to anyone who has lost a family member, a friend, a work colleague or a community member to a workplace accident. The loss is devastating and long-lasting, as we heard from the member for Greenslopes. Too many times in my region we have felt the impact of workplace injury or death making headlines in our local news. This is something we should not hear about. It is not just close associates of the people involved in the accident who are touched; it is the whole community that feels the pain. When a person comes to work in our community they become one of us. We feel their pain, we feel their loss and we remember them.

I was appalled by the behaviour of the member for Callide when the member for Greenslopes was referring to his uncle Alan, who was killed in a workplace accident. He upped his yelling. He upped his interjections. I was appalled by his behaviour. It has always been unspoken in this House that when a member—and it does not matter from which side of the House—is talking about the loss of a loved one we give them respect to be able to do so. The lack of empathy—whether it is his immaturity or he is just straight out rude—


Mr Bleijie: The member for Callide wasn't yelling at that stage. It was the member on his feet yelling.

Mrs GILBERT: The member for Kawana is probably supporting him when it comes to the member for Callide's lack of empathy when the member for Greenslopes was referring to his uncle Alan. That is for them to sort out.

We have some really heavy industries in my region—the mining and engineering industries and also the agricultural industry—where heavy machinery is used. There is no second chance when using big machinery. We need to make sure that we have safe work practices, and that is what this side of the House is doing. We make sure there are investigations. We want to know why accidents have happened and how we can stop them from happening again.

I know that it is the workers on work sites who are the best people to identify incidents at work. When we were investigating black lung disease, it was the workers who were able to come out and say, 'This is what is happening on our work site.' They are the ones saying that they were not allowed to speak up—that their jobs were at risk if they were to say what was unsafe in their workplace. It makes sense that we have workplace representatives who are out there making sure that their colleagues are safe, that they are able to speak up and that everybody on that work site is safe.

We are here to support workers. Just recently I went to a Women in Manufacturing Breakfast on International Women's Day. Two young apprentices, Ainsley and Aisha, were praised by their supervisors because they had identified practices that were unsafe in their workplaces. Sadly, when it came to the discussion panel there were women in the audience who put up their hand to say that that is still not the case across workplaces in Queensland: they are afraid of losing their job if they identify something that is unsafe. I highly support this bill. It is something that the workers of Queensland need.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.07 pm): I rise to speak on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I wholeheartedly support the idea of workers coming home safe. I wholeheartedly support the idea of a safe working environment. I have good friends who work in the construction industry and in the road construction industry. I have family members who work in those industries. Safety should be paramount.

One of the interesting things about this bill—I tried to bring this up during the committee process and I asked submitters for their opinions—is that we need to ensure that individuals who come onto sites are properly trained and that they understand the legislation and what permit holders are required to do when it comes to workplace health and safety. During the committee process I asked questions about the role of individuals who come onto sites to check safety issues. During the committee process I found out about these individuals' lack of necessary training. The Australian Meat Industry Council agreed with my comments that there needed to be better training of individuals who come onto sites so that they understand the laws and the workplace health and safety issues to better represent their

workers. They suggested there may be an alignment with a certificate IV in some type of training process—or even a diploma—to ensure that individuals coming onsite are properly educated in terms of the workplace health and safety regulations before them. Conveniently, this bill leaves it out.


Another interesting fact brought up during the committee process was the fit and proper person test. You would have to ask yourself how many officials would fail that fit and proper person test. I did question some of the union officials. I also spoke to the Australian Meat Industry Council, and they wholeheartedly agreed that there should be some type of test to weed out individuals who are not there to serve the best interests of the workers. Having a fit and proper person test like most industries have would ensure that you get the right people for the job. That is very important.

When it comes to freedom of association, this is one thing I am quite passionate about. People should have the right to find an association they deem appropriate to represent themselves. When we look at the right of association, Australia is party to seven core international human rights treaties. The rights of freedom, assembly and association are contained in articles 21 and 22 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. People should have the ability to choose an association that represents their interests. People should be allowed to choose whether or not to be aligned with an organisation that does not want to align with the Labor Party.

As I said, I have a lot of friends in the construction area who are union members. They cannot sever their union membership because they know they would not have a job on those sites anymore. When it comes to the Teachers' Professional Association, it should be the fundamental right of an individual to have that choice. If they want to stay with the QUT they can go right ahead. If they want to stay with the Queensland nurses union they can go right ahead, but people should have the ability to join the professional association of their choice and not be blocked from being able to make that choice. Labor members do not seem to understand this issue. We are talking about having a situation in this state where individuals can have a fundamental choice of what they deem appropriate.

We keep coming to this chamber to discuss these issues. I have no qualms about unions. I have no qualms about what they do. Throughout history unions have served a role, but I am also interested in competition for those unions. Competition is important. As a society, we should be mature enough to give our citizens the right to associate with any organisation they deem appropriate. As I stated, I have no qualms about the minister being in a union, but I still deeply feel that a person should have the right to be part of any association they deem appropriate that fits them and their ethos.

We could debate this all night and fight over the same issue, but this debate will be cut. Again, we will quash debate on something that is very important to the rights of workers. I will leave my comments at that. I would just like to say it is very important that people have the right to associate with any association they deem appropriate for them.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.14 pm): Where do I start with the contradictions? Under the association law the red unions do not have to be fit and proper persons, but what do you need to be a right of entry holder in this state and under the federal legislation? You have to be a fit and proper person. Another contradiction I have heard in this debate is that time after time those opposite are mixing up officials and workplace health and safety reps. They do that because they do not understand workers. Workplace health and safety reps are workers on the site. They should not be put to a higher standard while they are doing their job as a kitchen hand, a chef, a labourer or an electrician on the site. These people put their hand up because they are looking out for their mates onsite. They get assistance from a union official if they are a member of that relevant union.

It should be a one-stop shop, and I will address another contradiction. When those opposite were in power I remember—because I worked for the ambulance union at the time—EMSPA, which used to be the breakaway before the red unions started. I can remember a former member for Gaven being a member of that fake union. The member for Kawana had the opportunity to amend legislation between 2012 and 2015 to accept EMSPA, but did he do it? No, he did not. He chose not to because, at the end of the day, they do not want multiple unions. If they get back in power again, do you think they are going to give red unions the same ability as the relevant unions? No, they are not. The reason those fake unions can charge less is because they do not have to go through the same rigours of financial accountability that unions have to. They have to ensure they report properly, that they are fit and proper persons for right of entry and those regulations they put on top of it. They want to have the ability for any association with limited reporting each year to have the same powers and responsibilities as the relevant unions. It is hypocrisy at its worst and it is contradictory as well. I will get back to the bill, because that is the reason we are here today.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr BROWN: I will take the interjection from the member for Kawana. I think you took 30 minutes and you did not touch on the bill, so I am getting to it after three minutes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Capalaba, could you direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BROWN: We on this side of the House understand the importance and value of workplace health and safety and what it brings to Queensland workplaces. This is why we are enshrining the protections into legislation. One person is one too many when it comes to workplace deaths. That is why our government introduced the offence of industrial manslaughter back in 2017 and the independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. These amendments before the House today build on these measures.

The Work Health and Safety Act review report made 31 recommendations consisting of 55 sub recommendations, all of which the Queensland government has accepted in full or in principle. Today's bill brings in the majority of those recommendations; however, the remaining recommendations are expected to be in future legislation.

To put the amendment bill into plain words, it essentially clarifies the role of a workplace health and safety representative and how they are elected and how workplace disputes are handled, and it streamlines the dispute processes so we can have faster outcomes. This is vital when it comes to safety in the workplace. Workplace health and safety reps play an integral role in improving workplace health and safety outcomes in the workplace through providing representation and the support necessary to identify, notify and resolve workplace health and safety issues.

To achieve its policy objectives, the bill will amend the Work Health and Safety Act to strengthen the role of workplace health and safety reps by clarifying their powers and functions in the workplace. It will also promote consultation about workplace health and safety with workers and their representatives. We understand that some workers may feel uncomfortable declaring they are part of a union. That is why the new laws allow union representatives to observe workplace health and safety disputes. The bill implements the recommendations of the reviewers that relevant unions, by written request, can be a party to work group negotiations. This enables relevant unions to become a party to any resulting disputes without requiring a worker to make the request and identify themselves as a union member to their employer. We are also stopping people from entering into beneficial insurance contracts or being granted indemnity to cover liability for workplace health and safety fines.

The bill also proposes we move certain proceedings from the Magistrates Court to the QIRC as part of streamlining workplace dispute processes. Further, if there is a dispute regarding work group negotiations or the establishment of workplace health and safety committees, an inspector can be appointed to assist the parties to reach an agreement or to otherwise make a decision within seven days. If required, a party to the dispute can refer the matter directly to the QIRC for resolution.

Further changes include allowing workplace health and safety reps to select their own training provider, as well as extending the 12-month deadline to 18 months, for a person to request prosecution for a category 1 or category 2 offender. This includes allegations of reckless conduct or failure to comply with workplace health and safety standards and therefore putting someone at risk.

The bill requires employers to be proactive in supporting the formation of work groups and the election of workplace health and safety reps. This includes: advising workers about the role, powers and functions of a workplace health and safety representative; the election process; and who may represent workers in negotiations for work groups. Additionally, the bill requires workplace health and safety reps to be notified when an inspector or workplace health and safety entry permit holder is onsite and to allow them to join them where the visit is relevant to their work group.

Employers are required to provide workplace health and safety reps with copies of enforcement notices issued by inspectors, workplace health and safety entry permit holders' entry notices, and mandatory incident notifications made to the regulator that are relevant to the workplace health and safety rep's work group. To ensure that a workplace health and safety representative has information on enforcement notices issued, the representative can also request the information from the regulator. Through the tireless efforts of the committee, reviewers, employers, unions and stakeholders during an extensive years-long consultation process, we are at the stage now of codifying and bringing the improvements to workplace health and safety into this House.

While I have one minute and 47 seconds remaining, I was reminded today during the condolence motion of a Liberal member who had the integrity to stand up to someone on their side. I want to remember the work that the member for Coomera did when he was chair of the finance committee and

the member for Kawana took an axe to workplace compensation. He stood up to his minister at the time and I feel like he has paid the price for that. He has never been able to go down to the front bench because he did stand up for workers.

Mr Crandon interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock! Member for Coomera!

Mr BROWN: I also remember the member for Coomera calling out how the big insurers came to visit him about how the LNP needed to privatise workplace compensation and how he had the bravery to come into this House and let us know about that. We know that if they get back into power they will do the same again. They will take an axe to workplace health and safety laws, they will take an axe to workplace health and safety compensation, and they will probably privatise it. That is why I wholeheartedly support workers in this place and support the relevant unions, even ones that do not affiliate to the party—like the nurses, like the police, like the doctors. Most of the unions that do not affiliate to the Labor Party are covered by this legislation—and so they should be.

An opposition member: They still give you dosh. They pass it through the QCU and you know it.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection. They do not do that. That is just a falsehood at the extreme. What they do every single day is represent their workers and look after their delegates for workplace health and safety on their sites.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.25 pm), in reply: Before I begin, I want to extend my condolences to the families and friends of workers who have tragically lost their lives or had injuries as a result of work related incidents and illnesses. We on this side of the House expect that those in control of workplaces comply with all workplace health and safety laws, regulations and codes of practice. In instances where this does not occur, I expect that they will be held to account under our nation-leading laws. We have some of the best laws in the country.

I thank all members for their contribution on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I think over the course of the lengthy debate we have had, the key purpose of the bill has been lost in the usual and predictable attacks by those opposite about who pays what to the QCU and where they spend their money. This is such furphy and such irrelevant discussion when we are talking about health and safety laws, in particular workplace health and safety reps.

Let me remind the House of what this bill is all about. It is about improving the safety of workers. It is about ensuring workers are safe at work and, because they are safe at work, they come home safely. As I said in my second reading speech, workers sell their labour, not their health. All this nonsense about payback and payments and everything is just clouding a very important issue, and those opposite should be ashamed of themselves in relation to it.

The key tenets of the bill are: empowering workers to elect their own workplace health and safety representatives; making sure these representatives are properly trained, informed and supported; and ensuring workers are properly and appropriately consulted on work health and safety matters that impact them and their fellow workers. As Craig Dearling from Master Builders Queensland said—

Our position on HSRs is that they are workers—

This is a fact lost by those opposite. He went on to say—

... they understand how to do the work and how to work safely. Good PCBUs will work closely with their workers to understand what the safety issues are.

This bill at its heart is all about ensuring that workers are safe and that safety issues are resolved quickly. It is a shame, but not surprising, that the true nature of this bill has been lost in the debate by those on the opposite side. On this side of the House, we are committed to ensuring workers are safe; those on the other side sadly only care about workers' safety as a political football.

The member for Kawana and others have gone on their usual anti-union rant, repeating the same old tired lines they have been trotting out for ages. Let me be clear: workers can choose to join whatever organisation they want, but industrial representation is enshrined in legislation at both a state and a federal level. One minute the member for Kawana says that they are leaving in droves and joining the fake unions; the next minute he says that they do not have the right to join the organisation they want. Which one is it? During 10 years of a Liberal National Party government federally, they oversaw the Fair Work Act and consciously had a policy of driving workers' wages down, and they did not change

their legislation on registered industrial organisations. They did not change it once, so members should not come in here and talk nonsense because they are talking absolute nonsense. Organisations registered under these acts are required to meet stringent legal requirements around transparency, reporting, prudential standards and democratic processes—an important issue lost on those opposite—at both a state and a federal level.

The registered employer and employee organisations have always played a central role in the industrial relations system, and all colours of governments—federal and state—have not altered this fact, so those opposite should not come in here talking nonsense. As the Law Society in its submission to the committee wrote—

... it is incongruous that unregistered organisations can operate and attempt to exercise representational rights and other rights without the correlative obligations that registered organisations are required to comply with to exercise those same rights.

One part—no scrutiny, no regulation whatsoever—is trying to come up against those registered under laws at the state and federal level—laws that, I might say, under 10 years of a conservative government, did not alter; did not change. I will tell members why. Employers do not want to see unregulated, unregistered organisations trying to gain entry into their workplace, no matter who or what they are. Can you imagine the outcry? Every worker in their workplace goes out and joins any unregistered organisation they want and then all of a sudden, all of those unregistered organisations have rights to enter their workplace—not controlled.

Let me tell you who will be knocking on the door of those opposite. It will not be the union movement; it will be the employer organisations—the same ones who tried to come up against them when they were unregulated with regard to labour hire. Three of the top employer labour hire organisations knocked on my door when I was QCU secretary because they put in an agreement under the previous conservative government laws that undercut every single one of them. They came knocking on my door to knock it out because it was not a level playing field. Be careful what you ask for and be careful what absolute nonsense you talk about in this House. It is absolute nonsense.

As I said, unregistered organisations do not have to meet the same legal requirements. For example, during the committee hearing for the IR bill in 2022, Mr McGuire, the Managing Director of the red union group, could not remember which positions he held. What election process did that person go through? It is a sham. There is no transparency. We have members saying, 'There is no fit and proper person provision,' and all that kind of thing. It is under the IR Act. It is under both the state and federal IR acts. In fact, it was under the act when the previous federal government, the Morrison government, was in power. It is absolutely mind-boggling the nonsense and misinformation that is spoken in this place.

I now turn to matters during the debate. We know that those opposite are hell-bent on stripping away workers' rights. I note the comments of the member for Kawana questioning the independence of the review. That is exactly his style: 'Let's not talk about the issues. Let's not talk about health and safety reps. Let's not talk about the five-year review. Let's talk about the reviewers; let's attack them personally.' They are three eminently qualified people who consulted widely with all registered industrial organisations. To suggest otherwise is nothing but base politics. When it comes to ceasing workers' notice—

Mr Bleijie: Union hack.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana because that is disrespectful to those people. I will take that—disrespect.

Mr Bleijie: Two union hacks. Two out of three.

Ms GRACE: No. I will take the first interjection, not the rest that you are trying to convey.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, member for Kawana!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms GRACE: It was the member for Kawana who introduced a bill when he was the IR minister which cut the rights of workers to cease unsafe work. Can you believe it? Think about it. They came into this place and deliberately stripped away the rights of workers to stop unsafe work. It was this government which restored them. The member for Kawana and others talked about alleged additional powers to shut down worksites.

It is important that this furphy is cleared up. The bill does not create a new right. It clarifies an existing right for HSRs to protect their fellow workers and to ensure unsafe work stops; that is all. That power has been around for ages and there has been minimal misuse of that power. Do not just take my word for it. Once again, Craig Dearling from Master Builders Queensland stated in his committee testimony—

One of the things I noticed in reading a lot of the other submissions is that it has perhaps been forgotten or missed that HSRs have existing powers to cease work. What is happening here is that is being put in writing.

As I said earlier, it is about empowering HSRs to conduct their role. It is about ensuring training is provided and removing the financial and practical roadblocks so that experienced workers who want to take on the role have those rights under this legislation. It is about ensuring barriers are removed.

There was the suggestion that workers are denied representation—the nonsense just continues—and that unions are bleeding dry. The last time I had a look at unions—real unions—that report to the QIRC and the federal commission, they are growing. The two that he mentioned as losing members are growing. The QNMU is now at 70,000 members. It grew by 3.5 per cent. The QTU is at nearly 50,000 members, according to their report. It is nonsense for those opposite to come in here and say they are bleeding.

I was looking on Facebook the other day and I noticed that the teachers' fake union has \$1 membership. They are doing so well that they are selling \$1 membership. 'We are trying to harness you now for a buck, but that's only for a limited time. You then have to pay the full fees.' What absolute rubbish coming from those opposite. They have no obligation to report. Outside of parliament, Jack McGuire claimed the red union had a membership of 17,000. When he came before the committee it was 11,000. He did not really know. Who really knows? There is no reporting, and that is the issue.

Then we talk about the links. The Labor Party has always been very open about our links to the labour movement. We have never hidden it. Affiliated unions, QCU—we never have ever hidden that. The member for Southern Downs has a lot to say on this.

Mr Lister: Oh, I am not finished yet either!

Ms GRACE: I am glad that he finally admitted he was a member of one of the fake unions.

Mr Lister interjected.

Ms GRACE: I am glad the member finally owned up to being a member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Southern Downs!

Ms GRACE: You had the choice. You are a member. Nobody has taken it away from you!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Southern Downs, I will not have you yelling across the chamber. Any repeated behaviour like that will result in a warning.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister was referring to the member as 'you'. I believe the member had every right to respond when he is being personally spoken to in that way.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I was present and I saw what happened, and that is the call I have made. The minister was not taking the interjections. I understand it was a provocative debate, but that yelling across the chamber I am cautioning him to not repeat.

Ms GRACE: If I was a member of a fake union, like the member for Southern Downs, I would be provoked, too.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, it would help if you just moved on.

Ms GRACE: Members opposite have at length discussed registered unions' links to the Labor Party like it is some sort of secret; that nobody knows that that is the case. However, I notice that not one of them talks about the links of the fake unions to the LNP.

Mr Lister: Well then, don't take their cash!

Ms GRACE: Let's have a look at who is running these fake unions.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Southern Downs, I did caution you. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: Let us have a look at who is running these fake unions. Graeme Haycroft, the creator, was a member of the 'Joh for pm' campaign. No wonder those opposite like him. He was a member of the National Party and has been a chair of the LNP's industrial relations and employment policy committee. They have never admitted to that, have they? Jack McGuire, managing director of

the red union group, when he can remember what position he holds, was a president of the QUT LNP club. Kara Thomas, NPAQ president, was a state LNP candidate for Pine Rivers in 2020 and the LNP candidate for Bancroft in 2017.

Ms Boyd: She also ran for Bancroft.

Ms GRACE: And ran for Bancroft as well—I will take that interjection—in 2017. Aenghas Hopkinson-Pearson, the current 2IC of the red union—if he knows that that is his position—was the LNP Moggill SEC treasurer for the member for Moggill and was thanked in parliament by the member for his efforts. Come clean! ‘We do not want registered unions or unions that have any kind of affiliation or link to the Labor Party. We like the fake unregistered unions that have links to the LNP.’

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms GRACE: They don’t like it, Madam Deputy Speaker. They don’t like it over there when the truth is borne out. What nonsense they come in here talking. What hypocritical nonsense is raised in this House when nothing is said about the truth of the links that those opposite know exist.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The House will come to order! Members, I have taken the chair because the level of interjection is not facilitating good debate in relation to this bill. I will start to warn people and to eject people.

Ms GRACE: The member for Buderim argued that stopping businesses being able to insure against workplace health and safety monetary penalties for noncompliance is the same as a nurse taking out professional indemnity insurance. As a proud former official of the QNMU, I can say this is rubbish. Professional indemnity insurance exists to protect highly skilled medical professionals from legal action arising from an error or omission in the performance of their professional service. It is nonsense to equate this to insurance for noncompliance with health and safety laws.

The member for Warrego discussed entry permit holders being able to remain in the workplace. There are workplaces now that operate around the clock. Allowing unions to represent their members in relation to contraventions from only 9 to 5 is out of step with modern workplaces and we are fixing that.

The member for Hinchinbrook recognised the importance of workers being able to stop work and address safety issues when they arise. I thank him for bringing his lived experience as a former miner to this debate. I also thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his recognition of the importance of cease work notices in saving workers’ lives.

A lot of issues have been raised in this House with regard to this legislation. A lot of it is based on misinformation, on misunderstanding and on confusing a workplace health and safety representative—elected by their workplace and trained in the industry in which they work and operate—with a registered union official who may be able to enter the workplace, registered under the IR Act and the federal Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act and subject to the fit and proper person test that applies to them, and the manner in which they use right of entry under the workplace health and safety laws. That, members opposite, is how it works. That is what we are talking about here. Members should not confuse these issues.

In government, we will always stand up for workers being able to be represented. This bill strengthens the right of health and safety representatives to undertake their job without barriers. It gives them the ability to take time off to have training. If you are trained, of course your workplace is going to be safer. Even employers recognise this. We will give time for transition so that changes can be implemented. It is about lifting the standard of health and safety representation in the workplace. That is a key element. We do not want to take away, like those opposite did previously, the right to cease unsafe work. Entry permit holders should not be delayed 24 hours when there are serious safety issues. If there is a serious and imminent safety issue, they should be able to go into the workplace and represent their workers. We want to ensure workers have the right to do that. One injury or death in the workplace is one injury or death too many.

As I have said previously in this House, my father had a very bad industrial accident while working in a tannery in Stafford. We were six girls in the family. My father could basically never return to that workplace and he never worked again. He had his left arm caught in a faulty machine through which pelts were fed in order to turn hides into leather. It chewed his arm right to his elbow. My mother refused

to have that arm severed. They did a number of skin grafts from his abdomen and wrapped him up, and he had back issues. My father went through a lot of issues. Following a back operation he could not walk, and he was never able to work again.

I thank those members—yourself included, Deputy Speaker Kelly—who shared their stories. They are heartbreaking. I know the difficulty my mother went through. If it was not for the union at the time—the Miscellaneous Workers’ Union of which he was a member, who helped him through WorkCover—our family would have suffered. He had common law rights taken away by those opposite. There were common law rights because the machine was faulty. When he pressed the ‘stop’ button it did not automatically stop; it kept going, and that was the cause of the accident. It was that common law action that managed to save our family from destitution when my father could not work. Let me tell you: it played on his mind every single day of the rest of his life, God bless his soul.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Education, Employment, Skills and Training Committee for their detailed consideration of the bill. I thank those on this side of the House for defending the rights and the obligations contained in this legislation. I would like to thank the independent reviewers—Charles Massey, Deidre Swan, Craig Allen—and those who made submissions and attended public hearings on this bill. I thank the mighty union movement for their contribution as well. I know that health and safety will always be in their DNA. This bill strengthens protections and representation for workers and, in doing so, makes our workplaces safer and more productive—the best laws in the country. I commend the bill to the House.

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

AYES, 45:

ALP, 44—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O’Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 31:

LNP, 29—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Furner, Robinson; Lauga, O’Connor; Pease, Molhoek; Ryan, Mickelberg; Tantari, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for this stage of the bill has expired. I call the minister to table the explanatory notes to her amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.



Ms GRACE (4.53 pm): I table those documents.

Tabled paper: Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace’s amendments [\[435\]](#).

Tabled paper: Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace’s amendments [\[436\]](#).



Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That the minister’s amendments Nos 1 and 2, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 8 (Amendment of s 21 (Reckless conduct—category 1))

Page 11, line 24 to page 12, line 8—
omit.

2 Clause 16 (Amendment of s 31 (Reckless conduct—category 1))

Page 16, lines 3 to 14—
omit.

Clauses 8 and 16 omitted.

Question put—That clauses 8 to 72 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 72 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will be rung for one minute.

AYES, 46:

ALP, 44—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 30:

LNP, 29—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Furner, Robinson; Lauga, O'Connor; Pease, Molhoek; Ryan, Mickelberg; Tantari, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

In division—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, standing orders apply when division bells are ringing and during division counts. I ask you to cease your interjections.

AYES, 45:

ALP, 44—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

NOES, 30:

LNP, 29—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: Furner, Robinson; Lauga, O'Connor; Pease, Molhoek; Ryan, Mickelberg; Tantari, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Resumed from 15 November 2023 (see p. 3502).

Second Reading



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (4.58 pm):
I move—

That the bill now read a second time.

I would like to thank the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee for its consideration of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I also thank those who took the time to lodge a submission and participate in the committee process. This bill amends the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Act 1994, the Land Regulation 2020, the Land Title Act 1994, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Place Names Act 1994 and the Recreational Areas Management Act 2006. I note that the committee recommended this bill be passed.

Firstly, I would like to speak to the land related amendments. The bill updates the Queensland state land administration framework under the Land Act 1994 so that it is contemporary and responsive to meet the emerging needs of Queenslanders. An objective of the bill is to make it easier for trustees of reserves to make decisions about how those reserves are used. The bill does this by consolidating the list of community purposes under the Land Act into six broad categories. This is being done by removing the existing prescription from the definition of community purpose in schedule 1 of the Land Act. These six categories will enable an expanded range of related uses that trustees of reserves will be able to support without having to seek ministerial approval. There are also numerous 'community purpose' Land Act leases that are held by community groups and charities. This amendment to the definition of a community purpose will also introduce greater flexibility and opportunities for the holders of these leases.

I know that this change will certainly be welcomed by the member for Burnett, who has long advocated for these changes which will be of assistance to the Agnes Water Surf Life Saving Club and the Goora Gan Steiner School to continue its existing sublease arrangements. I do not intend to go into detail on complex land use issues on the floor of the parliament; however, I can assure the member for Burnett that the amendments that are already contained within this bill will enable the subleasing arrangements for the Goora Gan Steiner School to be assessed against the criteria of a new and broader schedule 1.

It is probably pertinent for me to also mention that the member for Mermaid Beach met with me about a surf club in his electorate that was looking at a sublease arrangement with a developer. Under the current legislation that would not be possible, but by moving this piece of legislation it frees up those surf clubs to be able to look at other revenue sources and other revenue streams. I know that this is particularly important for the member for Mermaid Beach because that surf club will be able to undertake quite extensive renovations that it certainly would not be able to afford in order to accommodate and work with the developer to ensure there is a great symbiotic relationship, and that is what this is all about. It is about modernising our Land Act.

I also want to be clear that the bill will not change how reserves dedicated for stock route purposes are used. We know that the stock route network is important agricultural infrastructure. The stock route network is a key piece of infrastructure for our multibillion dollar agricultural sector, with drovers moving and feeding up to 330,000 head of stock across the network each and every year. The 72,000-kilometre network is used to feed and move up to 330,000 stock each year across 48 local government areas. That is why a level of continued ministerial oversight is considered appropriate for these reserves.

The bill also gives trustees expanded powers, enabling them to approve diversification of reserves. Trustees that are state or statutory bodies, including local governments, will have the ability to approve uses of reserves that are inconsistent with the reserve's purpose without having to seek ministerial approval. To exercise these powers, trustees will need to develop a management plan demonstrating how the proposed use will not diminish the reserve's purpose and adversely affect the public interest. In applying these powers, trustees could decide, for example, to allow a small cafe run by a third party to operate in a park or on a recreational reserve. Particularly during adjournment speeches, a lot of members in this House stand up and talk about the sporting clubs in their electorates and the great work they do in their communities. They run on a shoestring budget and volunteers ensure these sporting organisations continue to operate and to run.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr STEWART: No, I am not giving you any money. I take the interjection: there is no money in this for you. This means that it allows third parties such as coffee vans to come along to our sporting fields and clubs. These coffee vans will be able to operate under this legislation which means that it enables parents to come along and watch their kids play sport. It is really encouraging that connection back to community and the modernisation under this bill is about looking after those small businesses and allowing them to operate in those areas and providing customers with what they want, again creating that great symbiotic relationship between small industries like our coffee carts and coffee vans and our community recreation spaces.

Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Mr STEWART: Thank you. These trustees are not compelled to use these expanded powers.

To support our local governments, the Department of Resources will establish a Local Government Advisory Panel in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland. This will provide a forum for local governments to work with the department on key implementation tasks. Occasionally, unforeseen circumstances arise when land is required to deliver an unanticipated community need. To be responsive, the bill introduces a power enabling the minister to dedicate a reserve for a community purpose. For example, a community might require land for a temporary school following a natural disaster that has caused infrastructure damage. In this case, the minister can exercise this power by having regard to the community need and public interest.

Many decisions under the Land Act require consideration of public interest. While the definition of 'public interest' is broad, it does not specifically include consideration of economic interests. To address this, the bill will add 'economic interest' to the definition. This amendment will allow decision-makers to form a more balanced view that takes account of economic growth and sustained prosperity.

The bill supports diversification on state land by allowing lessees of term leases for pastoral purposes to apply to use the land for additional complementary purposes. This aligns with what other leaseholders can do, allowing for secondary sources of income during tough economic or climatic times. A great example of this is on some of our cattle leases where, during tough economic times, this will allow for other opportunities such as tourism opportunities.

Mr Hinchliffe: Absolutely they will.

Mr STEWART: I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate. What goes through my mind is *City Slickers*—that great movie—

Ms Richards: It's an oldie but a goodie.

Mr STEWART: It is an oldie but a goodie—a bit like me. This is about—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEWART: I withdraw. This is about providing opportunities for tourism ventures where, in this case, you will be able to do a cattle drive and sleep under the stars, but it actually helps out those primary producers during really tough times. This is about freeing up those land uses. When I spoke to my daughter about this she thought it was a great opportunity to get out there, even though she talked about *Yellowstone* rather than *City Slickers*.

Mr Hinchliffe: Go Beth!

Mr STEWART: She does call me 'Dutton'.

I am also pleased to announce that the bill simplifies administrative processes and removes regulatory duplication from tenure allocations. New processes will make it simpler to grant unallocated state land in freehold to Queensland government departments to deliver important projects. The amendments mean that we no longer need to develop special purpose legislation by removing the need for a public purpose assessment.

The bill also removes the mandatory requirement under the Land Act for decision-makers to evaluate the most appropriate use of land before deciding to allocate tenure. This has been an unnecessary step that duplicates land use decisions that are taken using the state's transparent planning framework. Lastly, the bill amends the Land Title Act 1994 so that public purpose land in freehold subdivisions can no longer revert to unallocated state land by default upon registration. In future, it will be mandatory for public purpose land to be dedicated for specific purposes like a road.

I now turn to the amendments related to the Place Names Act 1994, the primary legislation for naming geographical features and areas in Queensland. Placenames are essential for administration and governance purposes, identifying administrative boundaries and allowing accurate emergency service delivery. Placenames are a part of the geographic area's brand or marketing, attracting investment and visitors or increasing awareness of cultural heritage or natural environment. We have seen the importance of placenames and the impact that they can have. We saw that just last June when we reinstated 'K'gari' as the official name of what had been known as Fraser Island. That was an emotional day for many people and a special one in Queensland's history. It was done through the Place Names Act 1994.

Sadly, yesterday during a debate, in his speech the member for Buderim argued that we were wasting our time renaming places. I remind the member for Buderim that for 65,000 years the island was called K'gari. For decades, the Butchulla people worked hard to get that name back and we worked with them. In fact, we got a smidgen under 6,000 submissions to rename Fraser Island as K'gari, as it had been called for 65,000 years. That may not be important to the member for Buderim but for our First Nations people it was a momentous day. It meant that this beautiful area will carry its true name in all aspects: the national park, the heritage area and the official placename. That is why it is important that this act is fit for purpose.

Giving a place an official name requires consideration of a broad range of issues. The Place Names Act lists 10 place-naming issues that may be considered when giving a new name or changing or discontinuing the name of a place. This bill refines and extends the place-naming issues to align with present-day needs. Additional matters to consider include government initiatives for policies relating to placenames, the socio-economic impacts of placename changes and compliance with legislative requirements.

The bill enables the chief executive to develop, publish and make a recommendation about placename proposals to the minister. The minister continues to have sole responsibility for deciding such proposals. The separation of functions will increase transparency and accountability, particularly where a placename change may be controversial. This is a sensible reform, noting that the placename process is not application based and there is no right to appeal a decision.

The bill enhances public engagement by enabling the use of contemporary technology to make submissions such as using audio or video. This will certainly be helpful for those people with a disability or for whom English is a second language.

The bill provides efficiency by reducing the minimum consultation frame from two months to one month. This is consistent with consultation in other Australian jurisdictions. There is flexibility to extend consultation periods if so required. The bill provides four avenues to waive community consultation: firstly, the proposal is limited to a minor or technical matter; secondly, to remove or change distressing, derogatory, racist or sexist placenames; thirdly, for a proposal that is unlikely to generate substantial community interest; and, finally, for a proposal that has been subject to adequate consultation under a separate process or where further public consultation is likely to cause substantial distress.

This amendment does not prevent the chief executive from publishing a place renaming proposal that had been exempted. For example, public consultation might be beneficial for a complex or controversial case such as removing a distressing name that has historic or cultural significance. The bill maintains a safeguard so that the minister can require exempted renaming proposals to be released for consultation. Currently, under the Place Names Act there is no ability to transition from an existing name to a replacement name. This is an important issue for complex name changes, for example, in a built-up area with a large population base.

The continued contemporary use of an existing name as an approved name alongside a new name is supported by the bill. This gives the community and business sufficient time to transition to the new name for a period of up to five years, with the possibility of one extension. This bill expressly provides that giving, changing or discontinuing a placename does not affect a person's rights and obligations, either retrospectively or prospectively. Examples of documents are title deeds, leases, penalty infringement notices, court documents, search warrants and criminal charges.

The bill allows the chief executive to delegate their functions and powers—for example, the power to prepare a placename proposal—to the chief executive of either a department or a local government or to an appropriate qualified Public Service officer. This new flexibility will enable greater participation, including by local governments, in place-naming processes. Through this new power, the proposal prepared by local government would satisfy the requirements of the act right up to the minister's final decision on formally deciding the name.


Similarly, the bill provides for the delegation of ministerial powers but this ability to delegate is limited only to another minister. This new ability will facilitate the delegation of ministerial naming powers where another minister has an overlapping interest. As an example, the power to name geographic features within national parks could be delegated to the minister responsible for administering the Nature Conservation Act. The key reforms to the Place Names Act that I have outlined are a positive step towards improving Queensland's placename framework. The bill streamlines the place-naming process to make naming more transparent, flexible, inclusive and responsive to the community.

I now turn to the amendments to the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006. The amendments will provide the power to change the name of a recreation area in the future by regulation. The amendments are made in response to the name of Fraser Island being officially changed to K'gari last year. Under the RAM Act, the name Fraser Island Recreation Area needs to align with the new official placename. Currently, there is no provision in the RAM Act to enable a name change. This amendment will provide for a name change to be made to a recreation area by regulation. The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation has advised representatives of the Butchulla First Nations people of the amendment and they support changing the name of Fraser Island Recreation Area to align with the official name of the island, K'gari.

I now turn to the amendments to the resources acts. The bill amends Queensland's resources legislation to promote a fair approach to ensuring resource companies comply with their obligation to pay local government rates and charges. We all understand the significant role that the resources sector plays in Queensland, to our economy and particularly to rural and regional communities. The resources sector provides the essential materials we need for infrastructure, manufacturing and energy production as well as high-quality jobs and prosperity in our regions. Queenslanders expect resource industries to fulfil their responsibilities to the communities in which they operate and to pay their local government rates and charges. Local government rates and charges are an important way that resource companies foster social licence and ensure regional Queenslanders receive direct benefit from the extraction of their resources. That means better local infrastructure such as roads, libraries and parks; better local services; and a stronger economic foundation, which improve the quality of life in our regional communities.

Local governments have requested support to recover unpaid rates and charges from resource companies operating in their communities. The Queensland government has responded to this issue by progressing amendments to mandate the payment of rates and charges as a condition of a resource authority. These amendments will ensure resource companies fulfil their obligations to pay outstanding local government rates and charges. If resource companies do not comply, penalties can include reducing the term or area of the resource authority, imposing a monetary penalty or, in fact, cancelling the resource tenure. These amendments simply make it a condition of the resource authority for resource companies to comply with this existing legal obligation. The amendments will provide greater support for local governments by enabling security paid by the resource company to be applied to their outstanding rates and charges.

Ultimately, the Queensland government is committed to ensuring the regulatory framework supports the sustainable development of our resource industry. I again thank the committee for its consideration and for its support of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to speak to the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. At first glance this bill appears, as the minister described, to provide a contemporary approach to several issues; however, on further inspection there are some elements of this bill that do generate concerns across the state. I will certainly be highlighting those as part of my contribution to this debate.

The purposes of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023 are to: improve regulatory efficiency; ensure the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs; and introduce the payment of local government rates and charges as a consistent mandatory condition of a resource authority. The bill contains amendments to several acts and regulations. Amendments to the Land Act 1994 and the Land Regulation 2020 aim to: reduce administrative complexity; remove regulatory duplication; improve the allocation of tenure; support the delivery of strategic government projects; clarify policy intent; and support contemporary decision-making.

The changes to the act and regulation include: removing the requirement that the chief executive assess the most appropriate use of the land, which is a duplication of provisions in the planning framework established under the Planning Act; enabling the minister to dedicate a reserve for a purpose

other than a community purpose including allowing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, installing community batteries on under-utilised state land and allowing coffee carts at community parks; enabling the minister to proactively offer to recommend to the Governor in Council that a trustee of an operational reserve be offered a deed of grant as opposed to the current process where a deed of grant must be applied for; removing the restriction preventing certain trustees of operational reserves from accessing a pathway to freehold conversion of the land; allowing the freeholding of a part of an operational reserve, as opposed to the current situation where a deed of grant can only be issued for the whole of the reserve; enabling a pathway to freehold conversion for non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust; enabling the Governor in Council to grant non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust as tenure in fee simple; extending mechanisms for trustees to approve additional uses of trust land and to streamline administrative processes, with a self-assessable framework being established to support effective decision-making; allowing unallocated state land to be granted to the state without requiring a public purpose assessment; enabling efficient allocation of state land for government projects; amendments to provide that an additional purpose for a lease may only be approved if the rental category does not change; removing restrictions that prevent additional purposes, including farm-based tourism, being approved for term leases for pastoral purposes; providing that additional purposes cannot be approved for leases for grazing purposes on state forest and timber reserves under the Forestry Act 1959 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992; replacing the existing list of specific community purposes under the Land Act with six categories of community purposes; amending the definition of 'public interest' to clarify that public interest matters also include economic considerations; removing the requirement for an approved form in various provisions in the Land Act to provide consistency with current practices and support the overall intent for administratively efficient processes for managing land tenure; and making other minor administrative and consequential amendments to other legislation.

Amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 aim to reduce administrative burden and risk to the state by removing provisions that allow the creation of unallocated state land without consent and removing requirements for an approved form to provide consistency and clarity for common practice.

Amendments to the Place Names Act 1994 aim to provide clarification and broaden place-naming considerations to reflect contemporary issues, reduce the regulatory burden and make the decision-making process more inclusive, flexible, objective and transparent. It seeks to achieve its objectives by: refining the place-naming issues to be considered when developing and deciding a placename proposal to suit current needs; providing clarity around what a place is, that changes to locality boundary are included in place naming, for entries in and amendments to the Gazetteer for places and the scope of the offence provision for using an unapproved name in trade and commerce; refining the issues to be considered when developing or deciding a placename proposal; enabling placenames approved under previous acts which no longer fall within the current definition of 'place' to be discontinued and removed from the Gazetteer for places; enabling the chief executive to develop and publish public consultation proposals and updating the chief executive's delegations; modernising the submission time frames and methodology to increase efficiency, provide flexibility and ensure that the place-naming process is inclusive; reducing the regulatory burden of undertaking inconsequential or duplicative consultation processes; enabling the prompt removal of placenames that are offensive or harmful to a community or part of a community, supporting the proactive implementation of outcomes from other government initiatives and policies; providing continuity and legal certainty that changing or discontinuing a placename does not affect any person's rights and obligations under other legislation or legal documents where a previous name is referenced; for a placename that is to be changed or discontinued, enabling communities and businesses to transition to a new placename by continuing the existing name as an approved name in addition to the new name over a period of up to five years, with the possibility of one extension of up to five years; and enabling ministerial delegation under the act to remove the reliance on the delegation provisions of the Land Act.

The reason I have read out all of those points is that the opposition has some significant concerns around that particular amendment. I will be saying more about that later in my contribution.

I note that amendments to the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 allow the name of a recreation area to be changed in response to changed circumstances such as the alteration of an official name under the Place Names Act by insertion of a new provision to allow a name of a recreation area to be changed by regulation.

There are four acts referred to in the explanatory notes as resource acts. Those acts are the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009. The amendments to these four acts aim to ensure resource companies support the sustainable development of regional communities by: inserting new

provisions in each act to make the payment of applicable local government rates and charges a mandatory condition of a resource authority; amending provisions in each act to allow the minister to use the resource authorities' security payments to remedy unpaid local government rates and charges; and amending provisions in each act to allow the minister to consider the non-payment of local government rates and charges during the renewal process for the resource authority. I will have more to say about that particular amendment during the course of this debate.

This bill was referred to the former Transport and Resources Committee and then transferred to the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee, whose sole recommendation was that the bill be passed. The LNP members of the committee issued a statement of reservation along with the committee report that outlined the concerns that those of us on this side of the House have with regard to this bill.

A large portion of the amendments in this bill have implications for local government. Submissions to the former committee were received from both the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council. What we see in both of those submissions is examples of a lack of consultation—an all-too-familiar occurrence in terms of looking at bills in this place. Such is the arrogance of this government that, more and more, we are seeing examples of a lack of consultation, especially with key stakeholders.

All four issues that are explored in depth by the Brisbane City Council, for example, require clarity—clarity around when the minister would dedicate a reserve for purposes other than community purposes; clarity around ensuring land for infrastructure networks will be preserved; clarity around the expanded trustee functions and powers; and clarity on the changes to additional purposes under a lease. In addition, the Brisbane City Council also highlighted concerns of reduced transparency and increased uncertainty.

The LGAQ's submission makes 13 recommendations centred around consultation and the benefits that come with consultation. The LGAQ goes as far as recommending a local government advisory panel be formed with the express goal of ensuring detailed engagement and consultation with councils. As Alison Smith, Chief Executive Officer of the LGAQ, told the committee, this panel would work with government not only to improve the amendments included in this bill but also to develop and implement subordinate legislation, funding, guidance materials, policies and instruments to support the Land Act amendments.

Those of us on this side of the House believe in good legislation, and it is for that reason that we support the calls of the LGAQ. As we have seen time and time again under this government, it is the people of Queensland who bear the cost when the government gets it wrong. In addition to their calls for a local government advisory panel, the LGAQ have also highlighted the need for an education and training package for local government as well as funding for a range of activities.

One of the activities that the LGAQ referred to when calling for additional funding is the implementation of placename changes. Regardless of who we are, the name of the place we call home is important. Those names are not just a word. They are a link to the history of our communities, a link to family history and, in the case of Indigenous Queenslanders, a link to culture and thousands of years of history.

The amendments to the Place Names Act adds three issues for consideration when giving a place a name, changing or discontinuing the name of a place—one of those issues being government initiatives or policies. Also included in the amendments is the transfer of responsibility for developing, publishing and making a recommendation about placename proposals from the minister to the chief executive. On the one hand, we have amendments increasing political influence on the naming of places. On the other hand, we have a minister outsourcing responsibility and therefore politicising the Public Service and the names of places where we live.

While politicising a Public Service role is unacceptable, this government's amendments reducing the period for public consultation can only be described as completely unacceptable. When a government cuts in half the consultation period on such an important decision, it is an illustration of sheer arrogance, but that arrogance does not end there. This government's amendments also broaden the circumstances under which publication of a placename proposal may be dispensed with. There would be very few who would object to removing or changing a placename that is distressing, but the replacement of section 10 of the Place Names Act also includes a provision that means publishing is not required where it is decided that the proposal is 'not likely to be of substantial interest'.

In their submission, the LGAQ voiced their concerns regarding consultation on proposed name changes, including when the chief executive has not published the proposal. This is of particular concern given the cost impacts on local government resulting from renaming. I note that the minister has the ability, where a proposal has not been published, to require that the proposal be released for consultation prior to making a decision. I call on the minister to clarify what is the measure of 'substantial interest' and also to advise what would trigger a decision to require an unpublished proposal to be released for consultation.

As stated in the explanatory notes, this amendment decentralises the place-naming powers of making, publishing and deciding a proposal based on principles of good governance and separation of powers. It removes the risk of apprehension or suspicion of a lack of impartiality, accountability and transparency in naming a place, particularly where a name change may be controversial. As a consequence, the opposition believes that delegating the minister's powers as proposed and not legislating the scope and limits of the delegated authority may be seen as an abdication of the minister's responsibility to make important policy decisions.

In relation to the Land Act and Land Regulation amendments, another area of concern is the removal of a public purpose assessment when granting unallocated state land to the state. I note that in the explanatory notes this is to enable efficient allocation of state land for government projects—another example of reduced transparency. Industry should pay fair and reasonable local government rates to support local infrastructure and local services usually provided by local government.

During the committee process it became clear that there are no statutory constraints on the power of local government to determine rates and charges. It also became clear that there is no provision to consider how rates and charges should be determined and applied. To put it simply, a balance must be struck. The committee at the public hearing on 12 February 2024 heard an example where rates increased from \$25,000 to \$300,000 in just one year. That is a twelvefold increase in just 12 months.

The Queensland Resources Council raised the issue of the current rating system both in their submission and during the public hearing. I will say it again: industry should pay their fair share but we need a fair, sustainable and equitable rating system that allows industry to grow, and this must be achieved in consultation with local government. The opposition supports the amendment mandating the payment of applicable local government rates and charges as a condition of holding a geothermal lease. I also make the point that it makes sense that a geothermal lease—resource authority—holder should pay applicable local government rates and charges, including any interest on overdue rates and charges, before being able to make an application to renew their resource authority.


Those of us on this side of the House are proud to support primary producers, and we fully support primary producers diversifying their income and providing visitors with the opportunity to experience agriculture rather than the skewed views promoted by some interest groups. In the Burdekin, for example, farm stay tourism has long been touted as an opportunity for farmers and the wider community. However, in most cases it has simply been too hard. For these reasons, I support the removal of restrictions that currently prevent additional purposes such as farm-based tourism.

Like most Queenslanders, I enjoy a cup of coffee of a morning, so allowing coffee carts at community parks is not just good news for me but good news for the operators of those coffee carts who are usually small businesses. I feel an important point must be made though when it comes to dedicating a reserve for purposes other than community purposes.

In his introductory speech the minister referred to the installation of vehicle charging infrastructure and installing community batteries on under-utilised state land. As was revealed during the estimates hearing on 9 August last year, the then commissioner of QFES referred to electric car fires as 'a new and emerging risk for fire services'. Up to 60,000 litres of water is currently needed to fight an electric vehicle fire. In Victoria, we saw more than 150 firefighters fighting a battery fire for four days. More recently a battery fire at Bouldercombe near Rockhampton, according to ABC News, generated hazardous smoke across that community. I call on the minister to give assurances that appropriate resources—staff and equipment—are in place prior to the installation of either charging infrastructure or community batteries on reserve land.

There are some issues with this particular bill that I have highlighted and principally amongst them is the lack of consultation that is becoming the norm under this government. This government, as I have often said, needs to take responsibility but instead has politicised the Public Service. There is no greater example of that than around the place names amendment contained within this bill. It is a sad day for Queenslanders when their government strips away their chance to be heard. Those of us on

this side of the House will not stand by while this government seeks to silence Queenslanders. I will not be supporting the amendments relating to place names, and I call on all members to ensure Queenslanders are heard by doing the same.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023, a bill that is designed to improve regulatory efficiency and ensure the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs. The former Transport and Resources Committee, which I chaired, started the inquiry into this bill and the new Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee tabled the report. One recommendation was made—that the bill be passed. This bill amends a few acts to achieve the desired outcomes, and I will summarise a few of those.

The first amendment is to the Land Act 1994 and Land Regulation 2020 to reduce administrative complexity and remove regulatory duplication. These changes will improve the allocation of tenure by removing the requirement that the chief executive assess the most appropriate use of the land. The Land Act has not kept up with the current needs of the state. It currently imposes restrictive limits on how state land can be allocated and used. We need to deal with state land efficiently to deliver critical priority projects as well as provide for community needs. This bill will cut red tape by reducing duplication in existing decision-making around land use. To achieve this, these amendments will change the requirement to consider the most appropriate use and instead use the existing planning framework and other relevant laws that already govern land use.


Secondly, the Land Title Act 1994 will change to reduce administrative burden and risk to the state by reducing the creation of unapproved, unallocated state land. Current provisions in the Land Act strictly limit the circumstances under which suitable unallocated land can be granted freehold to a state agency. This has complicated a lot of large commercial development projects and created the need over the years for special purpose legislation such as the implementation of The Spit Master Plan Act 2020 and the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016 so that the state can deal with those. This bill proposes amendments that will remove these existing limitations, which will have the benefit of streamlining the land allocation process and reducing red tape, which will facilitate faster delivery of these essential projects.

More than 21,000 state land reserves are currently under management by trustees for all sorts of purposes which benefit our communities; for example, parks, public halls and sporting grounds. Under the current regulatory framework these lands have a narrowly prescribed purpose which really limits how trustees can use this land. The amendments in the bill will support these trustees, most of which are government departments, local governments or statutory bodies. They will be able to manage the trust land much better for the interests of the communities.

Thirdly, the bill seeks to make changes to the Place Names Act 1994 to clarify and broaden place-naming considerations, which will reflect contemporary technologies and help clarify the application of this legislation. Placenames are a critical component of our geography and sense of place. We use them to identify key landmarks and features in our environment. We often use names that represent cultural values and impact on a person's sense of identity and belonging. The Place Names Act is primary legislation for naming geographical features and areas in Queensland and there have been no significant changes since it came into force almost 30 years ago. Change is needed to respond to differences that have occurred in community expectations, advances in technologies, and developments in business practice, policy and regulation. This bill refines the issues to be considered when changing or discontinuing the name of a place to include matters such as the socio-economic impacts of giving, changing or discontinuing a name and the transitional arrangements that may be required to successfully implement naming decisions that are complicated. This bill also makes changes to the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 to enable the renaming by regulation of a recreational area declared under the act.

Lastly, the bill will change several resources acts including the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Petroleum Act 1923—these are commonly grouped together and known as the resources acts—to introduce the payment of local government rates and charges as mandatory conditions of petroleum, gas, geothermal and greenhouse gas resource authorities. The resources industry must operate responsibly in the communities in which they are based, and we expect them to meet their obligations. We know that resource projects are beneficial to the regions and local communities in which they operate; however, paying their local government rates and charges is an important way that resource companies can support both the growth of our resources sector as well as the sustainable development of our regional communities.

I will conclude there, but I have to thank all of the members of the various iterations of the Transport and Resources Committee, which has done a few of these bills, as well as the secretariat teams who have done all the hard work. I will give them credit for that. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak to the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as a member of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee as it is now. The objectives of the bill are to improve regulatory efficiency and ensure the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs. The bill proposes to amend the Land Act, the Land Title Act, the Recreational Areas Management Act, the Geothermal Energy Act, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act, and the Petroleum Act. I will not have time to speak to all of those, so I will speak to the two that have had the most debate during the process and, if time allows, some of the others.

The bill makes a number of key amendments to the Place Names Act. The bill transfers responsibility for developing, publishing and making a recommendation about a placename proposal from the minister to the chief executive. The intent of the bill is to reduce the regulatory burden of undertaking inconsequential or duplicative consultation processes: for minor or technical matters; to remove or change a placename which is distressing to a community or part of the community including, for example, a community or a group of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, or if the name is derogatory, racist or sexist; if the proposal is not likely to be of substantial interest to the community or any particular part of the community; or if the proposal has already been subject to adequate consultation under a separate process or further public consultation process is likely to cause substantial distress to the community or part of the community. The bill contains a safeguard provision which enables the minister, before deciding a proposal which was not released for publication, to require that the proposal be released for consultation prior to making a decision. I will mention that again shortly.

The bill states that it does not affect any person's rights and obligations under other legislation or legal documents where a previous name is referenced; for example, title deeds, leases, penalty infringement notices, court documents, search warrants, criminal charges, private and commercial contracts, references to places on the electoral districts map under an electoral redistribution et cetera. The provision will apply both prospectively and retrospectively.

The LGAQ submitted that the proposed amendments appear to provide greater clarity and responsiveness to the legal framework. However, the LGAQ raised the following issues: that the likely cost to the community, particularly local councils, resulting from a change to an approved name of a place should be considered; and local councils should be consulted on all place-naming proposals prior to the minister's consideration.

There can be significant cost impacts on councils and ratepayers associated with implementing name changes for both local government and local businesses. As a result of these issues the LGAQ made the following recommendation: that the Queensland government, through the Department of Resources, continue to convene the Place Names Working Group with representation from the LGAQ and Queensland councils to progress and introduce a robust and clear policy and guidance framework to support the proposed amendments to the Place Names Act.

In June 2023 the official name of Fraser Island was changed to K'gari under the Place Names Act. As a result, the name of the Fraser Island Recreation Area under the RAM Act needs to be changed to align with the official placename. The LGAQ noted that the change will provide greater responsiveness for the renaming of recreation areas, but it again raised concerns that there may be cost implications for council resulting from the renaming of recreation areas by regulation, such as replacing signage as well as local marketing material and updates. Some of these issues took up some time with the committee. It came out in those hearings that the cost of changing the name of Fraser Island to K'gari was quite significant. Given that it is a tourist destination, it was not only local costs; there were wider international costs, so those need to be taken into account. That is not saying these things should not happen. I know that in the area I come from, just down the range there is a mountain and there is some discussion about whether that name will be changed. There are probably fair grounds for that, but that needs to go through a full public consultation process. You need to have the community onside, and that is what the shadow minister was alluding to. This is something that needs to be considered seriously before any changes are made.

On the resources amendment, the payment of local government rates and charges by the holder of a resource authority is currently only a mandatory condition under the Mineral Resources Act. To support local governments and incentivise industry compliance in relation to the payment of local

government rates and charges, the bill amends the resources act to: make the payment of applicable local government rates and charges a mandatory condition of a resource authority; allow the minister to use the resource authorities' security payments to remedy unpaid local government rates and charges; and allow the minister to consider the non-payment of local government rates and charges during the renewal process for the resource authority.

Feedback indicated broad support for the resources act amendments particularly from the local government sector, which reiterated the urgency and importance of these amendments to ensure resource authority holders foster social licence in the regional communities in which they operate. The LGAQ welcomed the proposed amendments to enable more consistent compliance action and regulation across the resource acts. The LGAQ also supported the retrospective application of the amendments because instances of significant non-payment of rates and charges by resource authority holders would not be able to be addressed if the provisions requiring payment of rates and charges were only applied prospectively. To support the payment of rates not yet paid, the LGAQ recommended the Queensland government directly engage with relevant mining companies on behalf of affected councils to resolve local authority rate arrears promptly and ensure fair financial responsibility, at no cost to councils.


The QRC advised there have been excessive increases in local government rates and charges, with payments of local government rates as a percentage of a producers' operating costs in some instances having reached double digits. As a result, the QRC stated that marginal projects may be at risk, particularly those of smaller operators. The QRC also provided data on increases in local government rates ranging from 15 per cent to 1,270 per cent for various companies, noting no change to the project area footprint and no change to the operational capacity, and no change in rating category. The QRC provided specific examples of rate increases, including one council increasing its average petroleum rate by 743 per cent and two councils increasing their average minimum charge for workforce accommodation by 353 per cent and 164 per cent.

To address these issues, the QRC recommended that the Queensland government review the local government rating framework and engage with key stakeholders to develop a fair, sustainable and equitable rating system that allows industry to grow while supporting local governments to deliver regional sustainability outcomes. The QRC also called for further consultation across industry, state government and local government to implement a reform package prior to considering the proposed legislative amendments.

In the hearing, we heard from the chief executive of the Quilpie Shire Council which have one particular project that has a significant arrears. They stated—

Our projections at the moment show that the outstanding rates as at 30 June 2024 will be in excess of \$6.3 million—

That is clearly unacceptable. For a small shire like Quilpie, with a very poor rate base, that is clearly unacceptable and something needs to happen. I note that these laws will give the minister the opportunity to actually consider whether that resources mining lease be continued if they are in arrears. That depends on the minister doing their job. The need for this change is a given—there is no doubt about it—but the minister will need to act on those powers if that happens. I do not have time to talk to all the other amendments. There are many, many amendments. I will leave it to the next speakers.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. The last speaker spoke about all the amendments, and I will go through some of those. In Queensland the Land Act 1994 is the primary legislation for allocating and creating interests in state land and for the management of that land. State land is important to Queensland, playing an instrumental role in supporting economic growth and community activities. Each parcel of land can be categorised under two broad tenure headings—freehold and non-freehold. Freehold land refers to land that is administered under the Land Title Act 1994, with use regulated under the Planning Act 2016. Non-freehold land, which is state land, remains under the control of the state and is administered under the Land Act.

The policy objectives of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023 are to improve regulatory efficiency and ensure the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs. The bill provides a range of streamlining amendments that clarify policy intent and reduce administrative complexity.

Specifically, the bill amends the Land Act and Land Regulation 2020 to reduce administrative complexity and remove regulatory duplication. The bill will reduce regulatory requirements to enable timely allocation of tenure. Additionally, the bill amends the Land Act to proactively support the delivery of strategic government projects, ensure the appropriate tenure for land, clarify policy intent and support contemporary decision-making. It also amends the Land Title Act to reduce administrative burden and risk to the state by reducing the creation of unapproved unallocated state land. The bill amends the Place Names Act 1994 to provide clarification and broaden place-naming considerations to reflect important contemporary issues. The bill will reduce the regulatory burden associated with the naming of a place and will make the decision-making process more inclusive, flexible, objective and transparent. We hear that from the other side all the time—let the sun shine in and let us be more transparent and accountable. That is what the bill does.

The bill amends the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, known as the RAM Act, to enable the renaming by regulation of a recreation area declared under the RAM Act. This amendment will enable recreation areas to be renamed in response to circumstances such as an official change in placename—for example, the recent change in the official name of Fraser Island to K'gari.

The bill amends the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to mandate the payment of applicable local government rates and charges as a condition of a resource authority. We have heard about that a couple of times. The amendments will also allow the Department of Resources to take prescribed noncompliance action against a resource authority holder in the event their rates and charges are unpaid—we heard this with the previous speaker—including using their security to repay unpaid rates and charges and allowing the minister to take non-payment of rates and charges into consideration when processing a renewal application. The bill also amends other legislation to make minor administrative and consequential changes.


The bill achieves its objectives by amending the Land Act and the Land Regulation 2020 to remove the requirement that the chief executive assess the 'most appropriate use' of the land. The contemporary and comprehensive nature of the planning framework established under the Planning Act results in the Land Act assessment being a duplicative and redundant process. This amendment will remove the duplicative decision-making and result in timelier allocation of tenure. We hear time and time again about more cost-effective processes and the removal of red tape. The other side talks about it all the time and here we are making life so much easier.

The bill also amends the acts as follows: enabling the minister to dedicate a reserve for a purpose other than a community purpose, having regard to the community need and public interest; enabling the minister to proactively offer to recommend to the Governor in Council that a trustee of an operational reserve be offered a deed of grant; removing the restriction preventing certain trustees of operational reserves from accessing a pathway to freehold conversion of the land; removing the restriction preventing the freeholding of only a part of an operational reserve; enabling a pathway to freehold conversion for non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust; enabling the Governor in Council to grant non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust as tenure in fee simple; and extending mechanisms for trustees to approve additional uses of trust land to streamline administrative processes with a self-assessable framework being established to support effective decision-making. I will wrap it up there. There is so much I could talk about.

Debate, on motion of Mr Walker, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

BUSHkids

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.00 pm): Tonight I want to raise awareness of the great work of the Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme known as BUSHkids. BUSHkids is a not-for-profit organisation which continues to support the health and wellbeing of children and families across Queensland's remote and rural communities, and they have been doing this for 89 years. In 2023, BUSHkids supported 8,278 Queensland children. This leads me to remind all members that, wherever we are next year, we should turn our attention to ensure their 90 years celebration is appropriately acknowledged. One thing we could do is guarantee adequate base funding to ensure their important work continues and expands.

BUSHkids specialises in providing free preventive and early intervention allied health care. This supports children and families who, through unavailability or due to costs, are unable to access services where they live. We know it is incredibly tough for children who are at risk of poor health, and that can flow through to educational and social problems for children and families, meaning they will struggle to reach their full potential. BUSHkids provides free therapy services to improve speech, behaviour, resilience and everyday activities. Services are currently provided through five regional service centres in Bundaberg, Dalby, Emerald, Mount Isa and Warwick. These centres have terrific staff comprising speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and family health support workers. Other rural communities that are supported from smaller satellite sites include Inglewood, Stanthorpe, Agnes Water, Miriam Vale and Kingaroy, all staffed by early intervention facilitators.

I want to acknowledge the advocacy of BUSHkids CEO Carlton Meyn, Director of Clinical Services Strategy Susan Harrison and members of the board. I will single out Judy Peters OAM, who became a member in 2018 having been involved with the Friends of BUSHkids for a number of years. Friends of BUSHkids Bundaberg has grown since participation in Agrotrend in 2022 and the Bundaberg Show with fruit and vegetable displays.

Thanks also goes to the Friends of BUSHkids member Scott Lamond from our local ABC who has been instrumental in working with the Early Childhood Approach team in connecting with Queensland Cricket and cricket associations, building community capacity across service areas. We must do more to support BUSHkids' work with children living in regional, rural and remote locations across Queensland. These are families and children who are disproportionately disadvantaged.

I want to acknowledge the work of BUSHkids in Cherbourg and Cunnamulla in striving to meet the Closing the Gap targets. They are doing some really good work. These early intervention programs are extremely important. They interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. BUSHkids are uniquely placed to continue the good work in Queensland and a shout-out goes to them, with a reminder that next year sees 90 years of their service to Queensland. We congratulate them for their service.

Comments by Member for Warrego; Aspley Electorate



Hon. BJ MELLISH (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (6.03 pm): Before I speak on some local matters, I would like to address some comments made by the member for Warrego earlier today. The member for Warrego rose earlier and alleged there were over 35 pieces of outstanding correspondence with my office. For the record, my office has reviewed our correspondence system and can advise that there are, in fact, only five issues from the member that require a response. The member has included multiple follow-up requests when coming up with those numbers. I can advise the member that she will be receiving responses as soon as possible. I can further advise the member that she would likely get responses sooner if she was not spamming about identical matters that were already being advanced by hardworking public servants.


Whilst delivering key infrastructure will always remain a priority of mine, supporting our next generation of Queenslanders is just as important. Right now, drop-offs at Aspley State School and Geebung State School are just too hard. The Miles government has listened, and works are in plan to make getting our kids to school easier. I am thrilled that over \$1.2 million has been awarded across both schools, ensuring an even safer learning environment for our youngest Queenslanders. I thank the member for Miller for his hard work in this role in securing the funding through the schools programs. These funds will go towards the upgrade of Aspley State School's pick-up and drop-off zone and provide the recommended safety improvements for Geebung State School, making it easier and safer for kids transitioning to and from school.

Last week it was fantastic to attend Aspley Special School's 2024 seniors' shirt presentation and to announce approximately \$113,000 in funding assistance under the Tennis in State Schools Initiative. This grant will contribute towards construction of a brand new tennis court to be enjoyed by all students and the wider community. I want our schools to be the safest they can be whilst also helping facilitate active and healthy habits. I say a massive thankyou to the school's P&C and the school itself for its continued support of this initiative.

Speaking of schools, I am looking forward to receiving and judging entries for my annual Easter egg colouring-in competition in Aspley. I love running this event as it gives kids from prep to year 4 the chance to display their artistic talent and go in the running for a great Lego prize. It was a pleasure delivering colouring-in templates to schools across the electorate.

To close, I want to give a massive shout-out to Aspley Hornets for their 60th anniversary season. Having been a part of the community now for six decades, their local impact is immeasurable. From fostering exceptional Aussie Rules talent for both boys and girls on the field to serving fantastic food favourites in their premier bistro and bar, Aspley Hornets truly helps make our patch of the north side the best place to live. I will always continue to support this brilliant organisation in my capacity as the local member, as well as being a keen sports fan. I understand that the continued success of the club would not be possible without the coaches, staff, volunteers and families, so I thank all of them for everything they do for our local area. I am very much looking forward to attending their celebration this Sunday evening.

Warrego Highway; Horticulture Industry

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.06 pm): It is a privilege to rise tonight to speak to two vitally important things for my community. The first is the Warrego Highway. I know that infrastructure is important for South-East Queensland to the north and south, but it is equally important to the west. Out to the west, the Warrego Highway is one of the major freight routes that is broken and cut every time it floods. To stop crashes occurring and to stop the flooding, let's see this piece of infrastructure built. I call on the minister to fund it in QTRIP in the next financial year. It will stop the flooding and stop the crashes.

When you go out west along the Warrego Highway and you look to the right and left, you see our beautiful produce. That is something to 'give a fork' about. Our farmers are really struggling in the Lockyer; in fact, farmers right across Queensland are really struggling. Growers' input costs have risen between 30 per cent and 65 per cent over the last three years. Nationally they have increased by 37 per cent. That is so much. Those input costs, whether they be fertiliser, electricity, diesel or all of the other costs they are incurring, are just enormous. When you factor in that their production has reduced by a third, they are spending more to produce less. That again is something to 'give a fork' about.


I pay tribute to the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers and in particular Rachel Chambers, who has done a wonderful job with her committee to run this beautiful and smart campaign. I have sought the advice and support of the Speaker to show members a very innovative way to 'give a fork' that you will see in all of our shops—thank you, Mr Speaker. I urge everyone to tell their kids when they go to the shops to look for the Australian grown and Queensland grown produce, because if they buy Queensland grown, if they buy Australian grown, then our farmers will be secure and our families will be secure.

Every time people avoid buying Queensland grown or Australian grown produce, the threat of fewer kids going to school in our smaller communities increases. It means fewer people will be working in the shops in our smaller communities. It is a slide we do not want to see happen. Please, give a fork! Listen to what the growers are saying and go and buy great Queensland fruit and vegies. Queensland provides fruit for a third of the Australian market—that is incredible—but we are also the second highest state in vegetable production. The Lockyer Valley is the food bowl of South-East Queensland. We provide food to the nation, we provide food to the world, and we want to continue to do that. We need to ensure our national sovereignty, so please 'give a fork' and buy Queensland and Australian grown produce.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Before you resume your seat, member, after consultation with the Clerk, I rule that substitution of words for other words that would otherwise be unparliamentary are out of order, so I ask you to withdraw any unparliamentary language.

Mr McDONALD: Thank you. I appreciate the guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I withdraw.

Logan Hospital


 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.09 pm): We all know that Jimboomba is the most Aussie place on earth and its residents are the most 'Aussiest Aussies' in this entire country, but I want to tell you a story that is something special. Tony came to me when I was down at the storm relief area and said that he had just been bitten by a brown snake in his own yard and he was suffering through the delirium of the poison that had affected him. He did not go to hospital. Instead, he kept drinking beer. Later, he began to have the effects of a serious bacterial infection. He said, 'I knew it was serious when I could not finish my beer.' So, finally, he drove himself to Logan Hospital. He told me this most Aussie of stories because he wanted to thank all the workers. He wanted to thank the doctors and nurses of Logan Hospital who, through their skilled treatment, saved his leg and, frankly, Tony, probably your life,

mate. It was only afterwards that he worked out how serious his condition was. Perhaps his is an extreme case but we put off seeing the doctor for too long. That is one of the reasons there is extreme pressure on our hospitals across our state.

Logan is a huge growth area. I represent thousands of families who are moving into the area and they deserve to receive the care they need. During the period that the LNP were running health, they sacked Logan Hospital nurses and doctors. Indeed, they cut funding for vital neonatal care. I was even angrier to find out when I was first elected that the LNP budget contained nothing to expand the Logan Hospital. Instead, we had to start that investment from scratch. Nothing was done to plan for that growth. Health and planning takes time. That is why when there is a destructive government like the Newman government it hurts families like the ones in Logan.

In contrast, we have supported those in need in Logan. We built the 28-bed modular ward, a new 28-bed medical imaging ward, the 33-bed transit care—one of the first features they raised with me because the transit care at Logan Hospital needed updating, new treatment spaces in the emergency department, 12 new maternity suites with birthing pools, nine new mental health treatment spaces and 10 more online. We backed them by providing the doctors they needed. Now we are progressing to the main stage. The member for Algester knows that there is an investment of over \$1 billion for the hospital expansion to deliver 300 more beds, new operating theatres, new endoscopy suites, new cardiac catheter labs and a new pharmacy. Last year, thanks to initiatives from senior ED clinicians, an access nurse and medical commander will be employed so that people can be seen faster and the hours of medical care will be expanded. Whenever Tony comes in with delirium after not seeking treatment from a snakebite, we know that the great nurses and doctors in the expanded Logan Hospital will be able to do an even better job caring for the people of Logan.

Scenic Rim Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.12 pm): We see the results of poor planning under this government all the way from 2015 until today. The results are a housing crisis, a road maintenance crisis, an Olympic crisis and a water supply crisis, as well as a crime crisis and a health crisis. Chaos and crises define this government, and this week is another example of it.

Canungra has borne the brunt of bad planning from this government, with development in the region seeing huge amounts of traffic going through Canungra each day, with no upgrades to the road network. For locals around Canungra, for businesses in Canungra, for families dropping kids off at school in Canungra and for visitors to Canungra, this is a safety and congestion problem that will not go away. Main Roads and the government have simply buried their heads in the sand and wished the problem away. For years, together with council, I have fought to get Main Roads on the job to deal with these issues because fixing the traffic issues around Canungra must be put back on the agenda, along with making sure that housing and future planning for the region does not make the problem worse. It is clear that the current government will not do it, given their track record, but that is my commitment to the people of the region into the future. Water security for the area needs to be dealt with as well. I welcome the fact that Seqwater is looking at options now after many years of asking them to do that.


I hear about the Mount Lindesay Highway from the member for Logan, and it continues to suffer under this government as well. Last year the government kicked down the road plans for future improvements from Jimboomba to Cedar Vale and further south to Beaudesert. It was a tiny amount of money for planning—a few million dollars only—but the Labor government cut it in last year's budget. That means it will be more years before those projects can be put on the agenda. The government should be putting up money for these plans because, in reality, the only upgrades that have occurred to the Mount Lindesay Highway in recent years are because the federal LNP government put the money on the table, and they made that work a priority.

Not that long ago, there were 20 police or more perhaps located at Beaudesert, possibly nearly 30, giving a good police presence in that town to keep people safe and proactively deal with crime. My lobbying saw a new police station built, but sadly under this government police numbers have fallen greatly and from Beaudesert through to Jimboomba and down to Kooralbyn and Rathdowney, there is now a shortage of police on the ground to deal with crime in a timely manner.

Recently I have had many reports about police not being able to deal with crime, and youth crime in particular, in a timely manner—not the way they should be able to. The way in which this government has overseen a massive drop in police is a disgrace. Everywhere in Queensland is suffering from it, but particularly in the Beaudesert district. They are weak on crime, they are weak on youth crime and police are voting with their feet because of it. It will only improve when Queensland shows Labor the door in 2024.

I congratulate our successful local government candidates Tom Sharp in the Scenic Rim, Teresa Harding in Ipswich and Jon Raven in Logan. I thank all the retiring and defeated councillors for their work and look forward to working with the new elected councillors.


Rockhampton, Netball

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.15 pm): We had community cabinet in Rockhampton last week and there were several great announcements. I will talk about some of these announcements over the coming parliamentary sittings. One that both the member for Keppel and I had lobbied for was for the initial funding for Rockhampton netball. I was thrilled to hear there was a \$5 million commitment from the Miles government to help Rockhampton Regional Council develop detailed plans, costings and gaining relevant approvals for a new home for netball in town.

The Rockhampton Netball Association is one of the largest participant sports associations in Rocky, with approximately 2,800 registered members. When they have their competitions, they have to play from daylight to dark to get through all the games over a weekend. The sport has continued to grow, welcoming a few new teams each year of about 10 additional players. Netball currently operates at Jardine Park, but it is a well-known fact that the facility is ageing and it is insufficient to meet the growing participation numbers. It is proposed that netball will relocate to a new home within the proposed Rockhampton sports precinct, where it is planned to include 16 outdoor hard courts, a new clubhouse and change room facilities, along with a community play space. Our government's commitment will assist with the detailed design, costings and approvals. This commitment once again demonstrates the Miles government's commitment to regional Queensland and, of course, our goal to see more women and girls getting involved in organised sport. A new home for netball in Rockhampton will help make this a reality.

Netball is an integral part of the Rockhampton sporting landscape. We have a proud tradition of producing wonderful athletes and providing the best possible facilities for future generations will keep that tradition going. Jardine Park has been important for growing netball in Rocky, but it is time to look at a more suitable place to truly expand. The proposed new facility will be a fantastic addition for netball in Rockhampton, as well as the wider community. It will take netball to a new level. It will be a wonderful asset for Central Queensland. It may even attract visiting nations as a training venue ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Finch Hatton, Flood Zoning

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.18 pm): Earlier this year, the Mackay Regional Council adopted a Temporary Local Planning Instrument, TLPI, 01/2023 which imposes a flood hazard designation on the town of Finch Hatton in the electorate of Mirani. The instrument took effect on 19 January 2024 and will remain in place for up to two years as the council presumably pushes on with its goal of imposing more permanent protections on the town. These hazard mapping overlays can have devastating implications for property owners, small business and the community. When we were at Clairview, I had an engineer from Cardno tell me that the modelling that they use for some of this has a 48 per cent error rate, so that is not good. Such impacts range from the restricted opportunities for development and growth to increased insurance rates and reduced property values. Whether it is freehold, leasehold, grazing, homestead, perpetual lease or native title, all properties in the vicinity are impacted.

I have spoken with many people in the regions who have expressed serious concerns over mapping overlays being applied to their properties causing them problems. The use of overlays fundamentally alters the development rights attached to a property and hence its value. It gives planning regulators a trump card and means that the goalposts in relation to the land can be legally moved. Moreover, once lawfully adopted by local government, there is no legal mechanism available for the property owners to have the mapping corrected.


Going back to Finch Hatton, most of the town's flooding problems are a direct consequence of poor maintenance and management of its waterways over the last few decades. If they actually put the river truss back in and they take out all that gravel and sand, it could be re-used and repurposed for road base. After the next flood event, instead of bad governance being blamed climate change will be blamed. That is not what it is about.

Today the town's waterways suffer from a severe build-up of silt, rocks and gravel that was once regularly cleared away—and that was the river truss. As a result, heavy rainfall events are now far more damaging for all rivers, creeks and streams in the Mount Dalrymple and Eungella regions than they were in the past. Before the council makes the flooding overlay and planning restrictions permanent,

contractors should be engaged—and we talked to the minister about this—to remove all of the rocks and aggregate. Dredging work in particular would remove the large debris from the bottom of the river, greatly reducing the number and severity of the floods. It is something that should have been done a long time ago. Instead, millions of tonnes of soil and rocks have been allowed to remain in the rivers.

I will conclude by saying that a lot more work needs to be done on these hazard overlay maps, which are becoming a real bone of contention for those living in the regions adjacent to the reef. New legislation is needed that strikes a better balance between the government's risk mitigation planning and property owners' rights. This is a very important issue.

Redland City Council, Election; Young, Ms R

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.21 pm): I am happy to report after last weekend's council elections that we have a new mayor in the Redlands. I would like to congratulate Jos Mitchell on her whopping victory. I remember all those members during the last sitting week saying, 'Laming's coming for you.' He got 25 per cent, less than half the vote of Jos Mitchell. He got absolutely trounced. Why was that? It was because he ran one of the most grubby campaigns I have ever seen in my political lifetime. It was so bad that the ECQ had to put on security officers at the booths and said it was the worst council area in the whole of Queensland. That is what Laming brings to the campaign. I am just glad Redlanders saw through that and elected a responsible and transparent mayor.

The new mayor also had to take Laming to court because of his lies. She had to get an injunction about his Greens lies. First he lied and said she was a teal and then he realised that teals get votes. Then he said the issue was Labor and then he realised Labor gets a lot of votes. Finally, he said she was a Green, and costs were awarded against him in court. It cost him \$20,000 to get that lie out of the campaign. Local LNP identities out there said nothing; they let him get away with it. The member for Oodgeroo, Rebecca Young and Amanda Stoker said nothing as Laming bullied this poor woman during the campaign.

We got rid of one drink-driving LNP mayor, but it looks like we have a new LNP politician who is breaking road rules, and that is Rebecca Young, the LNP state candidate for Redlands. She has admitted on a Facebook post—and I will table this in a moment—to driving while handling her mobile phone regularly. Studies have shown that driving while distracted by a mobile phone is equal to having a blood alcohol level of .07 to .107. It is equivalent to drink driving, and she has admitted to this. The post came up because a school bus driver said—

Imagine my surprise when kids on the school bus I drive noticed a lady playing on her phone at approx 3.40pm today at the corner of Cleveland Redlands Bay Road turning right into Bender Rd at Cleveland with your name plastered all over the car, not a very good example for young adults

She admitted to driving and touching her phone all the time. She also tried to deny this, to which the bus driver replied—

Rebecca Young ... I put my hand out when I became aware and shook my finger back and forth for you, buses are fitted with cameras if you need proof

I table that for the benefit of the House.


Tabled paper: Extract, undated, of comments on a social media account made by Mr John Meikle and Ms Rebecca Young—LNP for Redlands Shire [\[437\]](#).

Especially after we have seen drink driving from the former mayor, the Leader of the Opposition needs to take strong action against this candidate to send a strong message on road safety in Redlands. We need to ensure our roads are safe. We have had a drink-driving mayor crash her car and now we have a candidate who is distracted by her phone, which is equivalent to drink driving. It is not good enough and the LNP need to do better.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Capalaba, I think in your contribution you may have used unparliamentary language. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BROWN: I withdraw.

Weather Events


 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.24 pm): The clean-up after the Christmas Day storms continues in the Theodore electorate. The Insurance Council of Australia claimed that the Christmas Day storms and the rain event that followed have cost the insurance companies upwards of

\$968 million. Whilst we are under no illusion that 89,000 claims represent a mammoth task, I ask the insurance companies to work actively with residents to expedite claims. We can all understand the emotions of all those families struggling to deal with their circumstances, whether they have roof damage causing water inundation or their house needs to be completely rebuilt.

Many residents are frustrated by the difficulties in speaking with case managers and a lack of information communicated to them from their insurer. This makes a stressful situation even more stressful. One example is an individual in Upper Coomera who claimed that their house had substantial roof damage. The assessor came out and said it was a maintenance issue, yet prior to the storm there were other rain events and the roof did not leak and there was no ceiling damage. Currently that section of their house is non-livable because water pours into the ceiling every time it rains. On that same property, a shed about 200 metres away was completely flattened by the storm, purely from wind pressure. I thank the Insurance Council of Australia for taking important steps to host one-on-one personal consultation assistance events in Upper Coomera, Tamborine and Jimboomba, and I hope these consultation events continue into the future.

I would also like to highlight the lack of support the Gold Coast City council ratepayers have received from the Labor state government. The exceptional circumstances local recovery and resilience grants, which are up to a million dollars for each council affected, are a small drop in the ocean when it comes to the massive task ahead. The cost of recovery for ratepayers is mammoth and this measly \$1 million allocated to the Gold Coast City council will do very little to help the overall clean-up. To highlight the issue, there are about 77,000 truck movements that pick up green waste debris and it is estimated they would fill 80 football fields two metres high. Therefore \$1 million is an absolute pittance when it comes to the clean-up operation. It shows that the Labor state government has very little interest in Gold Coasters.

Townsville City Council, Election

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.27 pm): I want to finish this week on a brighter note given Pink is in Townsville and it is my wife's birthday in a couple of days. However, I have to deal with the fallout from the election of the local government and mayor, particularly regarding Troy Thompson. Although he has not yet been declared mayor, he was formerly the One Nation candidate in Thuringowa in 2020 who was disendorsed. He was found to be in contempt for his disgraceful behaviour against me—the harassing, the intimidation and the horrible election campaign. I have gone through three elections but nothing quite like this.

There is an unwritten rule in this place that you do not bring family into it. People can disagree with my party and my politics, but do not bring family into it. Still to this day, my wife is affected by the 2020 election. She feels physically ill being around Mr Thompson. At least the member for Mirani had the decency to personally apologise to me. Mr Thompson never has. I do not know how we are going to have a working relationship. I do get on with other councillors but, my goodness me, leave family out of it. We have been through hell.

I have received direct threats of bashings to my family. My wife and I have had to do extreme things to our house. It has had an effect on my wife's and my anxiety. It is just wrong, and my kids have now been dragged into it. This is the impact individuals have. Leave it at the door. Leave your politics at the door. Our families are the people who support us in this House. He has now accused me that I am the reason he is banned from this place. I have here the Ethics Committee report, which I table.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 206, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 August 2020 relating to the alleged behaviour of a visitor signed into the parliamentary precinct by a member, and the failure of the member to adequately supervise that visitor [\[438\]](#).

It was the Speaker who made that ruling and this man needs to come clean on that. He needs to come clean on his disendorsement. I have an actual letter. He said that he was not disendorsed. Here is a letter from Neil Symes, a state executive member. This letter goes into the detail and states—

... your candidacy for Pauline Hanson's One Nation and the seat of Thuringowa has been revoked, effective immediately.

This happened because of a failure to disclose a number of things, and I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 September 2020, from Queensland State Executive Member and Candidate Co-Ordinator, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, Mr Neil Symes, to Mr Troy Thompson, regarding Mr Thompson's candidacy for Pauline Hanson's One Nation and the seat of Thuringowa [\[439\]](#).

Come clean. If you are going to run for a seat, you need to be honest with people. If you are going to run for mayor, be honest with people and up-front, but leave family out of it. If you do not like me, that is fine. If you do not like my politics or the way I fight for things in Thuringowa, fine. I will fight every day for the people in my electorate, but I love my family and I will protect them fiercely. I will resolve every day to make sure that they are protected from individuals and their displayed behaviour.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, 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, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting