



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 18 April 2024

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	1155
School Group Tours.....	1155
MOTION OF CONDOLENCE	1155
Gilmore, Mr TJG, OAM	1155
PETITION	1159
TABLED PAPER	1159
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1160
Renewable Energy	1160
Protected Areas.....	1160
Space Industry	1160
Mining Industry	1161
Alpha HPA	1162
Youth Services	1162
Wujal Wujal, Cyclone Recovery	1163
Jack's Law	1164
Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management	1164
Maternity Services	1165
Teachers	1165
Rosedale State School, Asbestos.....	1166
Protected Areas, Investment	1167
Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.....	1168
Sport and Recreation, Investment.....	1168
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	1169
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.....	1169
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.....	1170
Cost of Living	1171
Youth Crime.....	1171
Budget	1172
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.....	1173

Table of Contents – Thursday, 18 April 2024

Big Build	1174
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee	1174
Manufacturing.....	1175
Rochedale State School, Asbestos	1176
Healthcare Investment	1176
Rochedale State School, Asbestos	1177
QBuild	1177
Glencore, Mount Isa Coppermine.....	1178
Transport Infrastructure.....	1179
Housing.....	1179
Training and Skills, Investment	1180
Bruce Highway	1180
ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS	1181
Return to Order.....	1181
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated April 2024, titled 'Youth Justice Reform Select Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament-Interim Report: Inquiry into ongoing reforms to the youth justice system and support for victims of crime'	1181
ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL; CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL.....	1181
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	1181
Division: Question put—That the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill be read a second time.	1190
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1190
Division: Question put—That the Clean Economy Jobs Bill be read a second time.	1190
Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).	1190
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate).....	1190
Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill.....	1190
Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.	1190
Clause 12—.....	1190
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Mrs Deb Frecklington's amendments.	1190
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mrs Deb Frecklington's amendments.....	1190
Non-government amendment (Mrs Frecklington) negated.	1191
Clause 12, as read, agreed to.	1191
Clause 13—.....	1191
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments.	1191
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Michael Berkman's amendments.....	1191
Division: Question put—That the member for Maiwar's amendment No. 1 be agreed to.	1193
Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).	1193
Clause 13, as read, agreed to.	1193
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments.....	1193
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments.	1193
Amendments agreed to.	1193
Amendments as circulated—.....	1193
Question put—That clauses 13 to 190 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.....	1199
Motion agreed to.....	1199
Clean Economy Jobs Bill.....	1199
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments.	1199
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments.....	1199
Amendments agreed to.	1199
Amendments as circulated—.....	1199
Question put—That clauses 1 to 22 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.....	1200
Motion agreed to.....	1200
Third Reading (Cognate Debate)	1200
Division: Question put—That the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.	1200
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1200
Division: Question put—That the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.....	1200
Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).	1200
Long Title (Cognate Debate)	1201
Question put—That the long title of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill be agreed to.	1201
Resolved in the affirmative.....	1201
Question put—That the long title of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill be agreed to.....	1201
Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).	1201
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	1201
Energy Assets	1201
Liberal National Party, Performance	1202
Glenden.....	1202

Table of Contents – Thursday, 18 April 2024

Urgent Care Clinics	1203
Warrego Electorate, Flood Mitigation	1203
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photograph depicting a levee in Warrego.....	1204
Miles Labor Government	1204
Burnett Electorate, Flood Mitigation	1205
Media Reporting	1206
Good, Ms A; Buderim Foundation.....	1206
Energex Workforce; Education Infrastructure	1207
Toowoomba North Electorate, Infrastructure.....	1207
ALP Candidate for Sandgate	1208
Youth Justice	1209
Mental Health Services	1210
Traeger Electorate, Services	1210
Sexual and Reproductive Health.....	1211
Coomera Electorate	1211
Renewable Energy	1212
Ambulance Ramping.....	1212
Cost of Living.....	1213
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	1214
Correction to <i>Record of Proceedings</i> , Apology	1214
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....	1214
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	1214
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.....	1214
MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	1215
Message from Governor	1215
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 18 April 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.	1215
Introduction.....	1215
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.	1215
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes.	1215
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.	1215
First Reading	1218
Referral to Clean Energy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee.....	1218
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	1218
RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	1218
Introduction.....	1218
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.....	1218
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes.	1218
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.	1218
First Reading	1221
Referral to Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee	1221
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	1221
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	1221
Second Reading	1221
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, government response.	1225
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.	1244
Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).	1244
Consideration in Detail	1244
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner's amendments.	1244
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner's amendments.	1244
Amendments agreed to.....	1245
Third Reading.....	1246
Long Title.....	1246
ADJOURNMENT	1246
Kingaroy Fire and Rescue Station; Small Schools Cluster Cross Country.....	1246
Woodridge Electorate	1247
Anti-Semitism.....	1247
Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Queensland Family and Child Commission, Event.....	1248
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.....	1249
Autism Awareness Month.....	1249
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Child's drawing depicting a self portrait of Ronan aged 10.	1250
Toondah Harbour Development.....	1250
Townsville Electorate, Renewable Energy	1250
Anzac Day.....	1251
Anzac Day.....	1251
ATTENDANCE	1252

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Robertson State School in the electorate of Toohey, St Bernadine's Catholic School and the Murri School in the electorate of Algester and Maroochydore State High School in the electorate of Maroochydore.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gilmore, Mr TJG, OAM



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

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Thomas John George Gilmore OAM, 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.

Tom Gilmore was born in 1946 in Mareeba, a town he dedicated his life to serving. After being educated at his local state schools, Tom Gilmore set out to be a farmer, but serving the community and politics was in his DNA. As many will know, his father served as a member of this House for the seat of Tablelands from 1957 to 1963 and before that in federal parliament in the seat of Leichhardt. Like father, like son: service to their local community was in their blood.

Tom Gilmore was first elected to office as a councillor on the Mareeba Shire Council in 1982 and elected to this House as the National Party member for Tablelands. In his first speech, he quoted the great Australian cricket commentator Alan McGilvray, who, when selected in a representative team for the first time, was advised by his father to 'ensure that the game of cricket was better for his having played it'. Tom Gilmore told the House they should serve by that ideal and leave this place better for having been here.

Tom Gilmore was elevated to cabinet by premier Mike Ahern in August 1989, but it lasted just a few weeks, until Russell Cooper replaced Ahern. When the National and Liberal parties returned to government in 1996, Tom Gilmore was appointed minister for mines and energy by Rob Borbidge. While he lost his seat in 1998, he never lost the urge or desire to keep serving, returning to the Mareeba Shire Council in 2000 where he spent 20 years, including as mayor. Fittingly, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his decades of service and commitment to his community.

Tom Gilmore passed away last month. I know the House will join me in thanking him for his long service to our democratic processes and institutions and to pass on our condolences and best wishes to his family and friends. Vale, Tom Gilmore.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.34 am): Tom Gilmore, whose service we recognise today, was a true son of Far North Queensland and of the Tablelands region. His entire life was dedicated to the people of that region and he sought to bring industry, public improvements and better community facilities to the towns of the area. He was unstinting in his commitment to the Tablelands and Mareeba and he will be long remembered as one of the hardest working members for this region.

It is worthy of note that Tom Gilmore is one of a small band of members of this House who followed in the footsteps of their fathers as an elected representative. The Gilmore family arrived in Queensland from Ireland, via New Zealand, in 1875. Tom's grandfather, John, took his family to Wolfram Camp in the Mareeba district in 1907 and took out mining leases and established an ore crushing plant. The Gilmores were instrumental in developing the tobacco industry in the Tablelands area and it was into this agricultural-based environment that Tom was born in 1946. Educated at Emerald Creek State School, Mareeba State School and Mareeba State High School, Tom completed his formal education at Gatton Agricultural College. He furthered his own agricultural interests in the Mareeba area, centred on pastoral industries, until the 1974 collapse of the beef market resulted in him selling the family farm and diversifying into real estate, predominantly developing land for urban settlement.

It was during this time that Tom Gilmore's urge to serve his local community began to develop. He served on the Mareeba Shire Council from 1982 until his retirement in 1987. He entered this place in 1986 upon being elected to the newly recreated seat of Tablelands, which was carved out of the existing seats of Barron River and Mulgrave. It was as a member of this House that Mr Gilmore developed a reputation as one of the Tableland's most vocal advocates. The welfare of the people of the region—hard hit by significant changes to the tobacco and dairy industries, in particular, but also to agricultural industries more generally—was uppermost in his mind. In his first address in this House in 1987 Tom spoke with pride of the people of Tablelands. He said—

The population of the electorate of Tablelands is one of extraordinary ethnic and cultural diversity. People have come from the four corners of the earth to settle there, and to strive for a future which was not within their grasp in their homeland. With them they brought their culture, creed and religion, and now after one, two or in some cases three generations, have fused together into a strong and capable Australian community, while retaining the best of their diverse cultural heritage.

Tom Gilmore was appointed minister for community services, ethnic affairs and northern development in the final days of the Ahern government but failed to be appointed to the incoming Cooper ministry. However, after experience on the opposition front bench between 1992 and 1996, Tom Gilmore served as minister for mines and energy during the term of the Borbidge government. Tom Gilmore's state political career was cut short in 1998, but that setback provided an opportunity to renew his association with local government. He served as mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council from 2008 to 2012 and became mayor of the deamalgamated Mareeba Shire Council in 2014, a position he held until his retirement in 2020.

It was in this role I came to know and respect him immensely. He ensured the financial position of the newly established council and was instrumental in upgrading the Mareeba Airport in 2019 to the extent that the Tom Gilmore Mareeba Aviation Industrial Precinct is making a significant contribution to the economic wellbeing of the shire. Last month the mayor, Councillor Angela Toppin, paid tribute to her predecessor when she said—

We will remember him for his lifelong dedication to the expansion of the local economy, his advocacy to improve roads and transport linkages, and the importance he placed on the creation of jobs for our youth.

Tom Gilmore's contribution to his community and the state is immeasurable. He never stopped working to help the people of the Tablelands region, a commitment he brought into this House. His recognition in receiving the Medal in the Order of Australia in 2020 was fitting. We extend our condolences to his wife, Sally, his daughters and his family on their loss. It is appropriate to give the last word to Tom Gilmore himself when he said upon his retirement from Mareeba Shire Council in 2020—

If there's a legacy to be left in local government it would be that I continually pursued an expansion of the economic base of my community.

...

You have to make sure there are options for local businesses to thrive and it's important to have opportunities for our young people because if there's no opportunity there's no future.

Vale, Tom Gilmore.



Ms LUI (Cook—ALP) (9.39 am): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for the late Mr Tom Gilmore. I would like to express my deepest condolences to Tom's wife, Sally, his children and grandchildren. I first met Tom in 2017, running as a first-time candidate for the seat of Cook. Prior to meeting Tom for the first time, I did my background research to help me prepare for the meeting.

While it was all well and good to research his political affiliations and history, none of it really mattered in the end. Despite our political ideologies, Tom has never let politics get in the way of achieving outcomes for our community. I value the strong working relationship I had with Tom. He was committed, passionate and very hardworking. Mostly, he was respectful and fair in his approach to drive change for Mareeba, the Tablelands and Far North Queensland.

Just four short years ago I acknowledged Tom's retirement in parliament following the 2020 local government elections. Given Tom's colourful history in politics, one could only wish the best for him following years of dedication and commitment to his community and the people of Queensland. The last time I saw Tom was at one of my mobile offices in Mareeba when he dropped in to check in to see how I was going. Tom was always very supportive and encouraging of me in my role, and for that I am forever grateful.

Tom was fierce in his advocacy for better road infrastructure and improved transport linkages to support industry growth and future economic development in the region. It was an absolute pleasure to work with Tom to deliver local projects. The collaboration meant that, in my first term and Tom's final term, we secured millions in funding for Mareeba. One of Tom's top priorities was the Burke Developmental Road. He was always very forthcoming about his frustration at not being able to secure government funding for the sealing of sections of the Burke Developmental Road. In my very first budget, we secured \$14 million for the sealing of the Burke Developmental Road and I remember the excitement in his voice when I rang him to give him the good news. Although we did not get to finish the sealing of the Burke Developmental Road, I will continue to fight to see this project through to the end.

The Mareeba Animal Refuge was another one of our pet projects. Tom advocated for a brand new facility over many years, and it was wonderful to secure funding to deliver a brand new animal management facility. We went on to deliver the Mareeba industrial hub and the Mareeba community hub; the investment committed for Mareeba to support service delivery in the community; the Mareeba Hospital upgrade to deliver the new operating theatre to offer endoscopy services, general surgery, dental surgery and birthing services in Mareeba; the Mareeba Hospital staff accommodation; and the brand new ambulance station. Tom was very passionate about the Mareeba Airport upgrades to unlock economic opportunities for the region. It was an absolute pleasure to attend stage 1 and stage 2 of the Mareeba Airport opening with him.

Tom served on Mareeba Shire Council from 1982 to 1987. In 1986 he was elected as the National Party member for Tablelands in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. In 1992 he moved to the front bench as shadow minister for minerals and energy, a portfolio he held until the coalition took government in 1996 and whereupon he became the minister. He was defeated in 1998 by One Nation candidate Shaun Nelson. His defeat, though, in 1998 did not deter Tom away from his strong commitment to fight for better outcomes. By 2000 Tom was back in the game when elected to the Mareeba Shire Council.

From 2008 to 2013, the shire of Mareeba was amalgamated into the Tablelands region and Tom successfully held the position of mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council. Following the deamalgamation of the shire of Mareeba in 2014, Tom was again elected as the mayor of Mareeba Shire Council and held the position until his retirement in 2020. On 8 June 2020, Tom was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the parliament and people of Queensland.

Sadly, Tom passed away at his home in Mareeba on 14 March 2024 aged 77 years. He donated his body to the Human Bequest Program at James Cook University. In the words of Maya Angelou—

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

I will always remember Tom for showing me the good side of politics. Vale, Mr Gilmore.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (9.44 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion of Thomas John George Gilmore, better known to us as Tom Gilmore. Tom Gilmore's father, Thomas Vernon Gilmore, was the member for Tablelands from 1957 to 1963. In February 1987 Tom Gilmore stood in this House to make his maiden speech 30 years after his father. There are not many who have followed their parents in elected life. Tom Gilmore was born at Mareeba in 1946 and prior to entering politics was a farmer. He came from humble beginnings.

In 1968 he married Sally at Mareeba's Church of England. At the outset of their marriage they lived in a house with no floorboards in the kitchen. Sally had to walk on planks to get to the stove. However, their marriage was a partnership and Sally was Tom's advisor and confidant. If there is one thing that was in Tom's character that left a lasting impression, it was how humble he was as a person. On receiving his OAM he is quoted as saying—


You spend your life doing these things and you surround yourself with amazing people who do great stuff. This award belongs to my family, my wife and children and to the extraordinary people I've worked with in recognition of what we have achieved in our community.

Tom served this state as the member for Tablelands and as the minister for mines and energy during the Borbidge-Sheldon coalition government. It was then that I came to know him well. He was also aware that I was good friends with his electorate officer, Colleen Lumbruski. I think when he could not find Colleen he would just pick up the phone to me to discuss issues. Sometimes it felt as though I was his second electorate officer.

Tom also served as a councillor on the Mareeba shire and as mayor of both the Tablelands Regional Council and the Mareeba Shire Council. It was as mayor of Mareeba Shire Council that I was privileged to learn from him and spend time in my shadow ministerial role. At my first meeting with him, he had a very important question for me. His question was: which town is further west, Mareeba or Cunnamulla? It is in fact Mareeba, but I reminded Tom it was just by a whisker. There was a good reason he asked this—because he wanted to put in perspective the challenges his council experiences.


Mareeba shire owes much of its financial position today to then mayor Tom Gilmore and his team at the time of deamalgamation. They had to make some tough decisions early on following deamalgamation. One decision was a significant rate rise which Tom ensured only happened once. He also stressed the importance of going up the hill. He told me it is easy to get to Cairns, but politicians need to get up the hill to Mareeba. Following his retirement from council, it has been mandatory for many of us on this side of the House to ensure that every time we were up the hill we gave Tom a call to report to him that we had in fact gone up the hill.

To Sally, his daughters and grandchildren, who are watching today, you can be very proud of Tom's achievements whilst in this parliament and also local government. I want to acknowledge his contribution and extend my deepest condolences to your family. We all will miss Tom, and I have no doubt that his wisdom and gentlemanly manner will be charming heaven as we speak.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (9.47 am): I want to make a brief contribution to this condolence motion. Tom Gilmore was the mayor of Mareeba, which encompasses part of the Barron River electorate, and the area around Kuranda and Speewah is an area we both had in common. I knew Tom from when I entered parliament in 2015 through to when he retired as mayor. I always found him to be an absolute gentleman in the way he conducted business. He was from a different side of politics to me. Obviously he was very hardcore National Party, but I always remember that he was the same age as my father. Sometimes Tom and I would have very similar conversations as my father is also very hardcore National Party. Members can imagine what some of those were like! It felt like being around the Christmas dinner table.


Tom was passionate about Mareeba. He fought for Mareeba all the time. I forget the number of times that Tom has given me the lesson about the strategic importance of the Mareeba Airport and why the US and allied military forces chose that location for strategic bomber and fighter airstrips. He saw that airport as not being utilised to its fullest in respect of international trade and other things.


Roads were his other thing. The member for Warrego talked about going up the hill. I forget how many times Tom told me about why the Kuranda Range needed to be upgraded. He certainly led that charge all the way, and he encouraged other mayors to do so as well. I remember him saying to me one day, 'Craig, if there's one thing I need to do before I die, I need to get that road to Chillagoe sealed.' I know there has been work done out there, but I think I am going to have to go for a drive out there and see how he went because I am not quite sure we made it. Maybe the Minister for Transport and Main Roads can fill that in. To his family and friends: vale, Tom. We have definitely lost a giant of Far North Queensland politics.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (9.50 am): I rise to make a short contribution in this condolence motion for Mr Tom Gilmore. I had the pleasure of meeting Tom on various occasions in the Far North over the last several years. He was a gentleman and one person with whom you could sense an immediate affinity. I enjoyed having discussions with Tom along the lines of what the member for Barron River said, because he was never short on giving advice, but in a very respectful way.

One of my constituents, a gentleman called Gary Stubbs, worked with Tom as a media advisor when he was a minister in the Borbidge government. Gary was in contact with Tom in the last few days before his passing and he asked me to put some of his thoughts on the record as well, because he made a huge impression not only on me but also on everyone he worked with. Gary recalls that in his introductory meeting Tom said to him words to the effect of, 'Don't tell me what you think I'd like to hear. Tell me what I should know, warts and all. Give it to me straight.' Gary reflects that straight talking was a feature of Tom's political and social life—I think we have heard that from other members this morning—not in an aggressive or bullying way, but because he always was very measured and fair regardless of who he was talking to. Gary recounts that he enjoyed very respectful and friendly relations with members of the opposition here in parliament and was even known to bring down the odd barramundi from the Far North to the House when parliament was sitting.

Tom Gilmore, we mark your passing. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and thank them for the service he was able to give not only to the Far North but to the whole of Queensland.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (9.51 am): I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Tom Gilmore. I had many meetings with Tom as minister for transport and main roads, and I certainly concur with all of the previous speakers. He was very respectful. He was very much a gentleman and a professional; he was also a consistent and strong advocate. He knew how to wear you down. Sometimes you could deliver for him and sometimes you could not, as it is. He certainly left local and state government a better place, if we use the Alan McGilvray standard. I think we can confidently say that he was very much a good man. He loved his community, and it was always a pleasure to meet with him and work with him as the mayor. He served in public life for 36 years across state and local government. That is someone with incredible stamina and incredible love for their community. I just wanted to say a few words of condolence here today and acknowledge his life and career in public life. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, Sally, his family and his friends. Vale, Tom Gilmore.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I would also like to associate myself with the remarks that have been made by all members this morning. Tom Gilmore served in this place with my father, and the fact that we shared that unique arrangement of being someone who followed their parent into public life was never lost on me. As everyone has said, Tom was an extraordinarily true gentleman. The way he conducted himself in this place was the same way he conducted himself outside of this place, whether it was in local government or in a social setting or in an advocacy role.

As has been said, Tom Gilmore was a giant of Far North Queensland politics. He is sorely missed in terms of his way of telling you how things should be done as well as the way he would be a sounding board for a number of different things you could run by him at any time. He was always happy to help. He left this place to go back to local government, and of course he conducted himself in the same way he always conducted himself: as a proactive and constructive person for the Far North. Vale, Tom Gilmore. Honourable members, can you please indicate your agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

PETITION

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

Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Mr Dametto, from 21,977 petitioners requesting the House to reject the proposed amendments to home education contained in the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and to conduct further consultation with the home school community [\[610\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

[611](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (3996-23) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 470 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the usage of protective clothing for motorcyclists and their passengers

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Renewable Energy


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.56 am): Our government has a vision for the future of Queensland—a vision where we make more things here in Queensland. Last week we were in Gladstone to open the new electrolyser factory—the biggest electrolyser factory in the world. The very next day we turned the sod on a new solar farm nearby at Aldoga, one of the biggest in the world and one where all of the power has already been sold to produce hydrogen to deliver to our trading partners in Japan and Singapore.

Yesterday I travelled back to Gladstone to announce, with the Prime Minister, new funding for Alpha HPA that will enable massive upscaling of their enterprise there. Alpha's leadership team say their technology, which is a world first, means they can manufacture high-purity alumina at a commercial level while remaining sustainable and cost-effective. The Alpha HPA site in Gladstone is 100 per cent powered by renewable energy—490 construction jobs totally supported by renewable energy; 200 ongoing jobs totally supported by renewable energy. The Alpha leadership team says their global advantage is substantially based on the ability to leverage off existing infrastructure in Gladstone, and that includes the renewable energy network here in Queensland that is continuing to be rolled out. The high-purity alumina manufactured in Gladstone will go into things like our phone screens, our watch glass and the batteries we are going to need for our cars—all products that the world will need more of into the future.

The future of Queensland is leveraging our incredible renewable energy resources with our transmission infrastructure to create the jobs and products that the world needs. There is a significant pipeline of work over the next decade to deliver sustainable, clean energy to Queensland's households and industry. To deliver it we need tradies for the transition. It is our plan to create new jobs in manufacturing, electrical and hydrogen while supporting existing ones. Our government will train the young workers of today so they may become the industry leaders of tomorrow.


Later today the energy minister and I will release the tradies for the transition road map. It is these workers who will be on the front line of our renewable energy transformation and decarbonised economy. It is critical that we attract and retain the best, provide a pipeline of trainees and apprentices, and ensure good wages and conditions, because Queensland is on the world stage for our leadership on environmental protections and our vision for the future of this state's economy.

Protected Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.59 am): Queensland is a biodiversity hotspot: 50 per cent of the species in this state can only be found here. Our government is committed to protecting them. It is why we are fast approaching 15 million hectares of protected areas. Just yesterday, the environment minister announced that over 350,000 hectares in the Lake Eyre Basin will be protected. That is an area bigger than Yosemite that will now become dedicated national park. This sort of protection would not have been possible if it were not for our government introducing critical vegetation management and land-clearing laws in 2018.

Until 2013, land-clearing rates were declining nationally largely on the back of work right here in Queensland. In fact, Australia overshot the greenhouse reductions promised under the Kyoto Protocol because of these protections. Protecting our natural assets, like national parks and sites of cultural heritage, means we can set ambitious targets for a greener future with opportunities for the next generation of Queenslanders.

Space Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.00 am): Our government has a clear vision for Queensland's future prosperity. Through our series of 10-year road maps and action plans, we are building expertise in industries that will diversify our economy and support skilled, secure, good-paying jobs. Our government promised more jobs in more industries, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

Our aerospace road map and our space industry strategy are delivering results rights across the state. In the coming weeks, Gilmour Space will launch the first Queensland-made, Queensland-owned rocket into low-earth orbit. The 23-metre Eris rocket was developed and manufactured at Gilmour's Gold Coast facility. It might be white on the outside, but it is maroon on the inside. It will be launched from the Bowen Orbital Spaceport in North Queensland in the Abbott Point State Development Area.

This will be a great leap for brothers Adam and James Gilmour in their quest to provide a spacecraft launch pad for global customers. Gilmour has been able to do this because our government supported them.

With opportunities in communications, earth imagery, disaster resilience, water management and defence, the global space industry is worth an estimated \$1 trillion. Our government is ensuring that Queensland has every opportunity to be an important player on that global stage. We have supported Gilmour Space's operations on the Gold Coast through our Business Investment Fund and our Industry Partnership Program. Our government has worked closely with Gilmour to develop the spaceport in Bowen. Gilmour already employs more than 100 highly skilled workers for whom it really is rocket science.

Queenslanders are reaching for the stars and they are reaching for the skies too. Last week, Boeing Australia marked the start of construction for its facility that will assemble the first combat aircraft to be built in Australia for more than half a century. The Boeing Ghost Bat is at the leading edge of a new generation of uncrewed combat aircraft able to extend and multiply the force of traditional jets. The 9,000-square-metre facility at the Wellcamp Aerospace and Defence Precinct will be Boeing's first ever final assembly plant outside the United States. Subject to market orders, final production of the Ghost Bat is expected to generate up to \$1 billion for the Queensland economy over 10 years.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I apologise. Members, can you please cease the noise. Member for Kawana, I did hear something before which I thought may have been a bit unparliamentary and I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.


Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr DICK: I hope the members opposite support this because it will support the communities of Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South and Condamine. We are a government that delivers for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

I say again: subject to market orders, final production of the Ghost Bat is expected to generate up to \$1 billion for the Queensland economy in 10 years. Much of that benefit will go to the Darling Downs. That community deserves it and that community is supported by the Miles Labor government. I hope that the members opposite would acknowledge Boeing's investment into developing a world-first facility that we have never seen in this state before. On the Gold Coast, in Toowoomba and in North Queensland, our government is supporting the creation of new industries that will reshape the economy of Queensland. For highly skilled aerospace and space industry jobs, Queensland is the place to be.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will commence at roughly 10.40 am.

Mining Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.04 am): The Miles government is committed to supporting and growing the industries that are critical to Queensland's future success, like mining equipment, technology and services—METS. The METS sector contributes more than \$7 billion of revenue to Queensland's economy and supports 26,700 local jobs across regional communities. This economic contribution is expected to surge as the world moves towards net zero emissions by 2050 which, in turn, will create increased demand for the state's world-class critical minerals and unlock new investment opportunities for Queensland's METS companies.

At the recent community cabinet, I had the pleasure of joining my assistant minister and member for Mackay and the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals on a visit to the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence. The centre connects the brightest minds of the sector. It was a fantastic experience to tour its underground mining simulator, equipped with mining equipment and machinery, and its own research and innovation testing facility. This government has supported the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence right from the beginning through a total funding investment of nearly \$10 million to deliver a Future Industries Delivery Hub with increased capacity to meet growing demand.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister. Members, I have already asked once this morning. Please keep your conversations to a minimum or take them outside. I would like to hear the ministerial statements.

Ms GRACE: While there, I also announced a further \$2.7 million for the METS Collaborative Project Fund. This funding from the Miles government will support businesses and research bodies to find new ways to advance mining technology. Through this fund, we are inviting researchers, government agencies, resource companies and industry groups to come together to help tackle challenges in the sector. Funding between \$50,000 and \$300,000 is available. Projects that address environmental issues, emissions management, renewable energy and mine safety will be prioritised.

We want to champion initiatives that focus on global industry challenges such as automation, mine rehabilitation, reducing emissions across the resources supply chain and collaborating with resource companies to pilot groundbreaking technologies. The Miles government's METS 10-year road map and action plan is part of the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. Applications are now open through the Department of State Development and Infrastructure and will close on Friday, 31 May.

Our Energy and Jobs Plan aims to grow our renewable energy supply chains in Queensland. The Queensland battery strategy aims to grow Queensland's battery value chain, and the Queensland METS companies will be integral in delivering these plans as we transition to a net zero emissions future that supports jobs, industries and our environment. The Miles government is proudly harnessing Queensland's existing expertise in the resources sector to create new renewable industries and shape the jobs of the future.

Alpha HPA


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.08 am): The Miles Labor government is delivering a renewable future in Queensland by Queenslanders. It is about our publicly owned energy generators meeting our renewable energy targets. It is about unlocking future industries. It is about jobs in Queensland—more jobs in energy, more jobs in manufacturing and more jobs in regional Queensland.

Yesterday, we saw more proof of our commitment to jobs and future industries in this state. I was joined in Aldoga by the Prime Minister and Premier at Alpha HPA's critical minerals project. The Australian government has committed \$400 million to deliver Australia's first high-purity alumina processing facility in Gladstone. Alpha HPA will be manufacturing critical minerals for LED lighting, semiconductors and lithium ion batteries right here in Queensland. The world is moving towards a decarbonised future. There are opportunities here for Queensland, and we are grabbing those opportunities with open arms. We are backing our energy sector, we are backing our manufacturers and we are backing the jobs that flow off the back of these announcements. As part of yesterday's announcement, we are going to see 490 local jobs during construction and more than 200 when they are up and operating this fantastic facility.

We have backed this project from the start—investing more than \$21 million in funding to get stage 2 off the ground and \$30 million to make sapphire glass for LEDs and watches in the Gladstone area. That is the glass used for smartphone screens—thanks to this investment by the Miles Labor government. Our government has created renewable energy zones across the state, with Gladstone and Central Queensland right in the thick of our plan for more jobs in renewables. Through the investment from the Miles government, we can leverage more new projects off the existing renewable energy network in Queensland—like the neighbouring HPA First Project managed by Orica in Gladstone. This is industry working with industry and industry working with government to grow new industries and create even more jobs in Queensland.

The Miles government will continue to invest in jobs and growth in this great state of ours, because if we can make it here in Queensland we absolutely should. This is yet another major announcement for more jobs in Central Queensland. Only last week, as we heard from the Premier today, we launched Australia's first commercial hydrogen electrolyser in Gladstone and also the Acciona solar farm in the region. Queenslanders can always count on the Miles government to deliver more jobs by backing new industries in the regions.

Youth Services

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.11 am): Yesterday was Youth Homelessness Matters Day and I visited Brisbane Youth Service, which we have funded to set up a one-stop shop for young people sleeping rough and we have increased their funding. Later this week, I will be meeting with young people to talk about how we are continuing that investment right across the state through our Homes for

Queenslanders plan. This will help people like Jannine who had nowhere to go after finishing school and ended up couch surfing. With our investment to build the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, her life was transformed. She said—

Besides giving us a place to live, there are people that care about you. Even though it's their job, you can just tell that they care—and that makes a massive difference.

Now, Jannine dreams of becoming a community service worker to help other young people.

We want to help more people like Jannine. That is why as part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan we will build eight new youth foyers, with the first three being in Cairns, Hervey Bay and Moreton Bay. We will help young renters with more cost-of-living support to cover rent increases or when they fall behind. We will back them with reforms to outlaw rent bidding and make sure bond claims are backed up with evidence. We will also help first home buyers by doubling the First Home Owner Grant. We are working to be the first state in the country to introduce the Help to Buy scheme, which is a program that will help low- and middle-income families achieve their dream—if only those opposite and the Greens would stop blocking it in the federal parliament.

To do all of that—to build more homes faster—we will enlist the help of young Queenslanders, giving them free TAFE and apprenticeships and rebuilding QBuild so they can have a good job and build the homes we need. On this side of the house, we back young Queenslanders. We back first home buyers. We back our public builder, QBuild, and TAFE. We back young renters. Those opposite think all of those measures are too much. The Leader of the Opposition pretty much admitted this week that he does not support renters. Young Queenslanders have a very clear choice—an LNP which will leave them in the lurch or a Miles Labor government that will build more homes for Queenslanders.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, I will be the arbiter of what is a ministerial statement and what is appropriate. It is not up to you.

Wujal Wujal, Cyclone Recovery



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.14 am): On 13 December 2023 as category 2 Tropical Cyclone Jasper passed over Wujal Wujal without too much fanfare, no-one could have predicted the extraordinary flooding event that would follow, causing large-scale isolation and destruction across the region. For the people of Wujal Wujal, when flooding took out the sewerage and water systems, electricity, road networks and basic health, education and community safety services, evacuation was the only safe option. Consequently, on 19 December, as most Queenslanders were preparing for Christmas festivities, the entire Wujal Wujal community was evacuated via helicopter.

For more than 120 days, residents have been temporarily relocated in Cairns, Cooktown and surrounding areas while the reconstruction work was underway. To say that this extended disconnection from country has been incredibly difficult for this community is an understatement. Following the substantial impacts to the community, the Miles government acted quickly to undertake targeted work with agencies across government to return Wujal Wujal residents home as quickly as possible. I am pleased to inform the House today that the first residents have returned home to Wujal Wujal this week, with the aim to have all families home before the end of May.

Queensland's Big Build agencies have worked closely with council, elders and residents to develop and implement community-led plans for the return to community. There has been a phenomenal effort across government to make this possible—with representatives from my Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, QBuild, housing, health, water, education, Transport and Main Roads, and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority working together tirelessly to rebuild the Wujal Wujal community back even better than before. I want to acknowledge ministers Scanlon, Fentiman, Butcher, Boyd, Farmer and Mellish for their incredible leadership in their departments. I also thank the member for Cook for her great advocacy and her great passion for the community.


We have also partnered with key agencies—including Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, Cape York Partnership, Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation and the Cooktown District Community Centre—to work with affected families to identify needs and provide ongoing case

management and psychosocial supports. All 91 homes in Wujal Wujal that sustained varying degrees of damage from ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper will be repaired by the end of this week, which is an incredible outcome.

The community store, which is opening later this month, has been rebuilt by QBuild even better than before, with a new coolroom, disability friendly amenities and a brand new fit-out. Community Enterprise Queensland is in the process of fitting out the new store and training local employees to ensure trading can resume as soon as possible. A brand new temporary health facility has been built and fitted out to clinical specifications ready to meet the needs of the community. In partnership with GIVIT and Jabalbina, each household will also have all their flood damaged whitegoods and household and essential items replaced ready for their return.


This has been a significant collaborative effort across government and with our non-government organisations and partners to help get Wujal Wujal back on its feet. I know all in this House and all Queenslanders will join with me in wishing the people of Wujal Wujal all the very best as they begin their return to home.

Jack's Law

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (10.17 am): Once again I would like to pay tribute to Jack Beasley's parents, Brett and Belinda, and the Jack Beasley Foundation. They helped to ensure that Queensland leads the nation with Jack's Law, a law giving police the power to wand people to detect weapons. Now that Jack's Law has been expanded to all safe night precincts, transport hubs and public transport across the state, police advise that they have taken more than 500 weapons off the streets. Since April last year, more than 50,000 people have been scanned, 512 weapons have been seized and 1,394 people have been arrested on 2,521 charges related to weapons, drugs, bail violations and other offences.

Police have conducted extensive ongoing wandering operations across major South-East Queensland public transport networks. This operation saw police use their surge capability to deploy high numbers of police officers across transport hubs. The results were significant. We will never know exactly how many lives have been saved thanks to Jack's Law, but there is no doubt that lives have been saved. This is the legacy of Jack Beasley and his parents, Brett and Belinda, and again I thank them.

Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (10.18 am): I can inform the House that Queensland's Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management, known as the IGEM, will conduct a review of the severe weather events relating to the 2023-24 severe weather season. The review will include the severe storms, flooding, tropical cyclones and tropical lows and bushfires and will also include any further significant weather events that may occur prior to the official conclusion of the severe weather season.

Many Queenslanders were harshly impacted by these events. Bushfires destroyed homes across the south-west. Many homes and businesses were impacted by flooding in the north-west, west, north and far north of the state. Storms caused severe damage in the north and in the south-east. The damage bill is significant and many people are still feeling the effects. Every severe weather season is different and we can always learn from what has happened.

The IGEM will assess many factors, including preparedness, response, assistance provided, and also the timing and effectiveness of the new Australian Warning System messaging. For the purposes of the review, the IGEM will work closely with all relevant local, state and Commonwealth government agencies and entities, including the Bureau of Meteorology and other relevant agencies and entities. The review will identify enhancements to inform and ensure continuous improvement in the Queensland Disaster Management arrangements. Importantly, the IGEM will engage with impacted communities and consider the views of community members.

The terms of reference for the IGEM review will be on the IGEM website by the end of the week, and the IGEM will publish a community engagement schedule in the near future. We expect an interim IGEM report by the end of July and the final report is to be provided by the end of September.

Maternity Services



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.20 am): I have made it clear that one of my top priorities is ensuring all women across Queensland have access to high-quality, reliable maternity services, no matter where they live. It has been reported today that the Mater Private Hospital Redland is proposing to move its birthing service to the Mater Mothers' in Brisbane. The Mater has stated that this proposal has been driven solely by the need to maintain safety.

While Mater is a private facility and this is not a Queensland Health decision, I do appreciate the concern the local community will have about the impact. I am advised that a majority of Redlands women who give birth with the Mater already elect to do so at Mater Mothers' in Brisbane, so birthing has continued to decline at the Redland private hospital.

Last financial year, for every one birth at the Mater Redland private facility, there were 23 births at Redland and Logan public hospitals which means that any increase in demand at our local public hospitals will be extremely marginal.

I understand that despite proposing to cease private birthing services at Redland, Mater remains absolutely committed to the local community. I am advised they intend to utilise their facilities for increased elective surgery or other procedures that will mean more private patients in the Redlands will receive care closer to home.

I am committed to improving maternity services for all Queensland women and recognise the importance of women feeling respected, supported and valued throughout their pregnancy and birthing journey. We were the first government in Australia to count the babies as part of midwife-to-patient ratios to better support our hardworking midwives. Through our \$42 million rural maternity package, we are investing in a range of initiatives to better support care close to home. This includes supporting GPs to upskill to become GP obstetricians. Travelling across the state, I have had the pleasure of meeting with some of our incredible doctors, including Dr Katherine Bird in Townsville and Dr Ivan White in Rockhampton who are both currently undertaking this training that the Queensland government is paying for.

We have also established Australia's first role of Chief Midwife and, just today, the first Maternity Expert Stakeholder Group will meet for the first time.

Teachers



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.23 am): There is a not much greater responsibility you can give to another human being than to hand over your child and ask that person to help equip them to lead a good and happy life. That is what we ask teachers to do every single school day. They are among our most precious workers. Teaching is one of the most noble of professions.

Our Great Teachers, Great Future election commitment was to deliver more than 6,100 FTE new teachers and more than 1,100 FTE new teacher aides over four years. At just over three quarters of the commitment period, we are on track, employing since 2015 an additional 5,900 FTE teachers and almost 1,500 FTE teacher aides. Permanent teacher retention remains steady at around 95 per cent. In 2023, approximately 3,800 teacher vacancies were successfully filled with the current vacancy rate for teachers remaining at around two per cent.


Like every sector in every region, we must work very hard to make sure we address growing demand for teachers across Queensland. Some fantastic initiatives are already in place: our Early Childhood Workforce Strategy, which is applauded by major early childhood stakeholders from across Australia; our \$19.8 million Turn to Teaching Internship Program election commitment; our \$20 million Trade to Teach Internship Program; we also support our school-based staff to provide teacher qualifications by providing them with a supported pathway into teaching; and other attraction and retention initiatives include grants, scholarships and attraction and retention packages for regional, rural and remote teachers.

However, we know we need to continue to do more. That is why I have convened a teacher workforce round table at the end of May with all of our major stakeholders, for which invitations were issued yesterday, to develop a comprehensive teacher workforce strategy for Queensland. The round table will bring together stakeholders from across the sector, including our regional and SEQ universities that provide teacher education programs, representatives from the teachers' unions and principal associations, from the Catholic and independent sectors, from TAFE and other relevant

government departments. We will look at what our short-, medium- and long-term needs are for the teaching workforce and where those needs should be focused, from the ways we attract more of our young people to choose teaching as a future career path to the barriers that may be in place while they are at university and the ways to attract more teachers to some of our harder-to-staff areas, and then how we can best support them once they are in place, how we can encourage staff into the specialised roles we need, particularly in the areas of supporting students with disability, and how we can best support our rural, regional and remote schools. We will look at ways we can work with the Commonwealth to complement their National Teacher Workforce Action Plan.

The Queensland government is focused on delivering fit-for-purpose, contemporary and innovative workforce solutions that support the attraction, recruitment and retention of teachers. The workforce round table will be an important and timely discussion for that purpose which will require us all to think outside the square. I look forward to the conversations with stakeholders and working collaboratively with them in the future because our teachers and students are worth it.

Rochedale State School, Asbestos

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.26 am): Yesterday I provided an update to the House on matters concerning the identification of asbestos containing material at Rochedale State School. At the time, I was still awaiting clarification from the department on some outstanding questions from the opposition. I will answer these now, but wish to provide some broader information regarding asbestos management in schools.

In relation to ACM—that is, asbestos containing material—more broadly, the Queensland government's long-term objective is that all Department of Education managed and controlled assets are free of ACM. Education's infrastructure portfolio includes aged assets with the majority of facilities containing ACM.

During 2022-23, removal of high-priority asbestos took place at 196 schools and 256 buildings within those schools. Education continues to deliver a program to progressively remove ACM from its facilities and applies a risk-based strategy for the management and removal of ACM. As many Queensland schools and facilities were built before 1990, it is not uncommon for that material to be present at these sites.

ACM that is in good condition—that is, intact and stable and left undisturbed—is a relatively low health risk. If identified in a deteriorated state, it is made safe and scheduled for removal in accordance with established practices. It is best practice to schedule ACM removal during school holiday periods when students and staff are not on site. Once an area is made safe, it is safe for students and staff to use. Schools are required to keep and maintain an asbestos register under the Work Health and Safety Regulation. QBuild manages a whole-of-government Built Environment Materials Information Register, BEMIR, which contains a consolidated record of the department's asbestos registers.

I turn to the specific questions of asbestos being found in the ceiling of blocks D and E, in 2014 and 2017—these are the words of the member for Kawana but his words are actually not the case and, as is often with this member, his words do not represent the facts.

Schools are required to keep and maintain that asbestos register under work health and safety regulations, as I said. The register contains information about confirmed, assumed or removed asbestos at department owned facilities, that is, it documents any suspected occurrences of asbestos, whether or not they are confirmed. For instance, the register shows 360 cases that were reported at Rochedale since 1998, but were analysed and assessed as not containing asbestos. These include the two instances that were referred to by the member for Kawana yesterday. No action was taken until this year on those two cases, as they were assessed as not requiring removal. That changed once the dust incident occurred and immediate action was taken. In the same period, a total of 188 asbestos cases were confirmed at the school and 30 of those were required to be removed.

In response to the question about the cleaning of classrooms using a broom, cleaners recommended the standard cleaning regime on 16 April 2024 after the most recent clearance certificate was issued by a licenced occupational hygienist in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 on 9 April 2024. This included the dusting of ceiling fans with a broom. All staff receive annual asbestos awareness information and annual training for cleaners contains additional information regarding asbestos awareness as it relates to cleaning activities. That the LNP should impugn the professionalism of the cleaners at Rochedale State School, as they did yesterday, is unsurprising but nevertheless appalling.

I am very interested that the LNP is showing a sudden concern for asbestos management this week given that it was the LNP that reclassified low-density asbestos board, fibreboard which looks similar to asbestos sheeting or plasterboard, from friable to non-friable in 2013—something that the Labor government reversed in 2021 after a review found that it did not reflect the seriousness of the risks. Our changes mean that only a class A licenced asbestos removalist can remove low-density board. Thankfully, these more stringent safety measures are now in place.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge that we have in the gallery today, Arabella from Cavendish Road State High School. She is doing work experience in the Chatsworth electorate office this week. I also wish to note that one of her schoolmates, Isabel, is doing work experience in the electorate office of Greenslopes. How wonderful it is to have young people interested in our parliamentary democracy.

Protected Areas, Investment



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.32 am): The Miles government's Big Build is delivering new and enhanced infrastructure in our national parks and other protected areas and, at the same time, it is supporting good local jobs in communities across Queensland. Our national parks and other protected areas conserve areas of high environmental value and provide habitat for thousands of species, including those that are threatened and endangered. They also provide inexpensive recreation opportunities for Queenslanders and breathtaking experiences for tourists.

This year our government will invest more than \$187 million of capital expenditure across our considerable national park and forest portfolio. This includes the delivery of new land acquisitions, visitor infrastructure, management facilities and plant and equipment to manage, protect and promote visitation to these areas. Across the state, there are multiple infrastructure projects underway. Work is almost complete on the Tewantin Tinbeerwah day-use area with \$575,000 invested to upgrade facilities including the car park and amenities. The Andrew's Point walking track has been upgraded at Cape Hillsborough National Park. That is a \$465,000 project to address the eroded and steep sections of the trail. Projects have been completed in the Great Sandy National Park, including a \$400,000 upgrade to the bridges at Harry's Hut to further enhance visitor access to the site along the iconic Noosa River camping area. Those works were undertaken in collaboration with the local Gubbi Gubbi traditional owner group.

On Bribie Island, \$890,000 is being invested in amenities at the Poverty Creek Campground, which are due for completion later this year. Work will soon start at Wooroonooran National Park's iconic Josephine Falls, with upgrades to the car park, amenities boardwalk and viewing platforms as part of an investment of more than \$2 million to improve visitor experiences and offer safe access. Planning work has begun on the \$2.6 million redevelopment of the nocturnal house at David Fleay Wildlife Park, including a funding contribution from Friends of Fleay's. Construction is forecast to commence in the coming months.


At Queen Mary Falls in the Main Range National Park, work has commenced on the planning for a \$1.3 million upgrade of the day-use area steps and circuit track. Planning for the redevelopment of the Wallaman Falls camping area is underway in close consultation with the Warrgamay people. Over the coming years, \$2 million will be invested to improve the site for park visitors. The Miles government is also supporting rangers on the ground by fast-tracking staff accommodation at K'gari, Taunton and Blackbraes through the engagement of QBuild to deliver modular housing solutions. That is an investment of over \$4.1 million.

My department is committed to achieving zero net emissions by 2030. As a part of this commitment the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is looking at ways to reduce emissions by implementing more energy efficient appliances, solar power and alternative energy storage systems. Multiple projects are underway to transition from grid supplied electricity to solar systems at the Boonah, Bribie Island, Taunton, Princess Hills, Maleny, Tewantin and Charters Towers ranger bases.

The Miles government's investment in our national parks and forests is expected to directly support around 156 jobs, as well as numerous local businesses. These infrastructure projects are focused on improving access and experiences for park users. This will provide social and economic benefits, particularly in regional and rural Queensland. The Miles Labor government is committed to delivering new and enhanced infrastructure throughout our national parks and protected areas that will allow more Queenslanders and tourists to enjoy those unique and beautiful areas.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim and member for Gregory, find another time to lobby the minister for your various projects. It is not appropriate to do that right now.

Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.36 am): I am delighted to announce that two new members have been appointed to the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council. This further strengthens the council's membership and advocacy for multicultural communities. Mr Prince Long Lo and Ms Cornelia Babbage OAM have extensive experience working in the multicultural sector. Each brings a wealth of knowledge to the role. A Toowoomba resident, Mr Long Lo is a certified practitioner of the Australian Association of Social Workers. He has a background in community development, settlement services, education and the not-for-profit sector. Ms Babbage is based on the Gold Coast and has received a Medal of the Order of Australia for her services to Gold Coast multicultural communities. Her background is in domestic and family violence prevention and in multicultural support services.


The most recent event at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in Wakeley, Sydney, underscored for me the necessity for our council. It is a council that brings together leaders from a range of multicultural backgrounds who are deeply immersed in their communities. It is a council that can help inform discussions and reactions to such events. There are Queenslanders who are deeply distressed by what has happened in Sydney. In these challenging times, it is most important for us to come together and support each other. It is only together that we can overcome all forms of hate and violence to ensure everyone can feel safe.

Our new appointments follow my recent meeting with the council in Brisbane. We were joined by representatives from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Health and the Queensland Human Rights Commission. We spoke about international events that are having an impact right here in Queensland. We tackled the tough topics of hate crimes and serious vilification laws. We spoke about making government services and information more accessible to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Council members come from a range of backgrounds and have extensive experience, networks and links in their communities. They provide advice to me, as the minister, on how our government's services and programs can be more responsive for those from culturally diverse backgrounds. Mr Long Lo told me that, as a young migrant, he knows the challenges of settling into a new country. That is why he is passionate about advocating for the needs of migrants, particularly in regional areas. I also met with Ms Babbage who told me that she was very excited to be joining the council. She has advocated for multicultural communities for the past 25 years and knows the sector intimately.

I have no doubt both Mr Long Lo and Ms Babbage will bring a wealth of knowledge to their roles. It is vital Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds have access to the information, support and services they need to thrive. I am very grateful for the council's support in helping to build a more inclusive, harmonious and unified state.

Sport and Recreation, Investment

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (10.40 am): Our Big Build is delivering vital infrastructure and delivering generations worth of good, secure local jobs, most importantly, for frontline services. As part of our Big Build, the Department of Tourism and Sport is responsible for the delivery of 95 sport infrastructure election commitments totalling over \$144 million to encourage Queenslanders to be more active more often. They are projects like the \$10 million Volleyball Centre of Excellence at Craigslea State High School in the member for Aspley's electorate and the \$54 million Browne Park redevelopment in Rockhampton. They are also smaller projects like the recently completed \$750,000 to renovate netball courts in Logan, and I know members such as the member for Logan understand their importance and also their value to their communities.

We are investing in our communities to enrich the Queensland way of life through sport and, most importantly, getting Queenslanders out and being active through recreation. Another example of this is the \$15 million Active Women and Girls Program. There has been enormous interest in this program with 944 successful applications so far and we know there are many more to come. Local clubs can apply for \$7½ thousand grants and local governments or state level sporting organisations can apply for \$25,000 grants to develop greater pathways for female participation.

This initiative comes on the back of the rollout of the \$45 million Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund last month. The fund is designed to improve inclusivity and accessibility with new and upgraded female facilities. The interest in this program has been outstanding with 171 projects already receiving funding. These projects are making significant differences in communities right across Queensland. A great example of that was when the member for Gladstone, Minister Butcher, came to my office after he had spoken on the phone to two recipients of funds in his electorate. He said that they were literally in tears when they learnt the news that their clubs now finally had the funds to fix their change rooms to make them more inclusive and accessible.

These are the positive outcomes that the Miles government is working towards. Better facilities make for a better experience and encourage more people within our communities to get out, to be active and to have a go.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.42 am.

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.42 am): My question is to the Premier. Did the Labor government vote to dissolve the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee because the Premier did not want to remove detention as a last resort after reinstating it in 2016?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I can be very clear that the actions that the government took last night were in response to the repeated blocking of the majority of the committee's determination to release a report. All the committee wanted to do was release a report and I understand those opposite for weeks consistently blocked the committee's determination to release a report. What I wanted to see—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer.

Mr MILES:—what I still want to see—is that report.

Mr McDonald interjected.

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

Mr MILES: I want to see that report because if there are proposals that should be considered then I want to consider them and I want to implement them. This committee was created with a laudable goal—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Mr MILES: This committee was created with a laudable goal that perhaps there was the slimmest of chances that the LNP would put political interests aside for just a moment and prioritise the safety of Queenslanders but they could not.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Mr MILES: It was laid bare that while on this side of the House keeping the community safe is a priority, on that side of the House all they care about is themselves and their political interests.

I want to see the committee's report released and I look forward to seeing it later this morning. We will consider that report and we will implement recommendations from that report. We will incorporate them into our comprehensive community safety plan because on this side of the House that is what matters to us: keeping the community safe; acting to keep the community safe. We know that all they care about—

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I heard some very disturbing interjections from over there somewhere. I will not repeat what was said, but it was very disturbing language.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Burleigh. As is often the case, I am unable to hear some of that language if it was indeed unparliamentary because of the number of interjections. They are coming from all sides of the House but particularly from my left. In future I will hear those if I do not have to go above other interjections. Premier, you have 47 seconds remaining.

Mr MILES: As I have said, the objectives of the government in creating the select committee were laudable. I acknowledge the role of the member for Noosa. I think she did an incredible job under what I understand were terribly trying circumstances. The treatment she received from the LNP members on that committee was frankly nothing short of disgusting. She tried her best to deliver a committee report informed by the committee's hearings and the people who had appeared before them. However, because those opposite could not put their interests aside, we have had to act to get the report.

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have a further question to the Premier. The Youth Justice Reform Select Committee was supposed to run until October. Every time the committee heard from victims, their harrowing stories were covered by the media. Did the Labor government vote to dissolve the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee because they did not want the voices of crime victims in the media leading up to the election?

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering, Premier—and I will allow the question—I will give notice to the opposition that technically the House dissolved the committee, not the government. It is important to be factual in the question.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Is that funny, member for Ninderry?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The answer to his question is no. The select committee was supposed to be bipartisan. It was designed to find proposals that could be agreed across the political divide, and those opposite could not even agree to allow them to report. They were due to report at the end of March but, thanks to the obfuscation of the LNP, they were blocked from releasing a report.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana.

Mr MILES: They were effectively repeatedly vetoed from telling Queenslanders what they had heard in their hearings—

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

Mr MILES:—from telling Queenslanders what actions they thought should be taken. Those opposite politicised it every single day. They refused to put politics aside for even a moment—to put the interests of Queenslanders first. I wanted—I still want—to see the report of the committee. I know they have worked hard. I know the Labor members have worked hard. I certainly know the member for Noosa worked hard in the face of very difficult treatment by those opposite. All I want is to see their report so that we can consider their report and start implementing recommendations. Why would those opposite not even let us see the report? That is all we wanted: to see the report. Those opposite used their effective veto repeatedly to stop the committee from reporting.

I make this undertaking: when we get the report, which I am looking forward to seeing, we will consider it properly and start implementing recommendations, because that always was the intention of the committee—to table its report on 28 March and then incorporate it into the government's comprehensive plan to address community safety because that is what we on this side of the House are motivated by.

Mr Bleijie: The government didn't get what it wanted. That's the problem.

Mr MILES: No. The only refusal that has occurred is the refusal of the LNP to allow the committee to report. All we wanted was for the committee to be able to report, and those opposite would not even let it do that. They would not put politics aside for just a day to let the committee release its report. We acted to ensure that Queenslanders and the parliament could see its report and I look forward to seeing its report later this morning.

Mr Bailey interjected.

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

Cost of Living

Ms LUI: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier please outline how the Miles Labor government is listening to and delivering for Queenslanders, including in my community of Cook, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Cook for her question. I know that she is, like everyone on this side of the House, listening to Queenslanders and aiming to deliver on the concerns that Queenslanders want addressed. She, like many of us, has heard from Queenslanders that they are struggling with their family budgets, and that is why we on this side of the House have acted to deliver massive electricity rebates—the biggest electricity rebates in the country—of at least \$550 for every household, with some households receiving up to \$1,072, meaning that Queenslanders have the lowest energy bills in the National Electricity Market. This is only possible because we own our electricity assets and we will continue to own those assets.

We have delivered free kindy for families, relieving that pressure but also making sure that the most vulnerable kids get access to early education. We have delivered free TAFE to get more tradies and apprentices and to ensure that young Queenslanders get the best start in life. We have partnered with the Queensland Farmers' Federation and Fruit and Vegetable Growers to deliver greater transparency on supermarket pricing so that we can, for the first time in a long time, have a better sense of what farmers are getting paid at the farm gate and how that then flows through the supply chain to what families are paying for fruit and veggies at the supermarkets.

We have heard from Queenslanders that they are finding it harder to access primary health care, and that is why we are delivering a massive health big build—\$14 billion of investment into three new hospitals, 11 expanded hospitals and our seven very successful satellite hospitals. In the process, we are delivering 3,000 new hospital beds for Queensland—the biggest health build in Queensland's history. I know from residents in Murrumba that I talk to that they are already impressed by the services at the new and expanded Caboolture Hospital. They are looking forward to and excited about the massive expansion coming at Redcliffe Hospital, and of course they are already getting care at the Kallangur Satellite Hospital every day—a new satellite hospital that they greatly appreciate.

We are also delivering the Homes for Queenslanders plan for more homes faster—a million new homes for Queenslanders, including 53,000 social homes, many of which will be right across the cape in the member for Cook's electorate, including the two just delivered or on the way to Kowanyama, which is much needed there. Right across this state this government is listening and delivering.

Youth Crime

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Is youth crime so bad in Queensland that this third-term Labor government would rather muzzle the media than shackle the criminals and listen to victims?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. It is a question we would expect of this member. It is a question we would expect of anyone on that side of the House with this fake concern about youth crime. We saw an unprecedented incident in the House last night where the member for Noosa had to beg the House for some level of bipartisan support to ensure community safety in Queensland. That has followed months of LNP members refusing to engage, abusing the chair in public hearings—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Ms FARMER:—abusing public servants, questioning witnesses, politicising their statements and questions but never once coming up with any proactive suggestions whatsoever—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Ninderry, you are also warned under the standing orders. Member for Everton, you will cease your interjections.

Ms FARMER:—to contribute to the report. The committee visited communities all over Queensland that are concerned about youth crime and that came out in droves to give their evidence in good faith because they thought this was a committee that would work together to address youth crime, and all we had was base politics and the behaviour of the LNP members, particularly the member for Currumbin—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with regard to standing order 118(b). The question was about a proposal from the government to gag the media.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders. I believe at this stage the minister is being relevant and she still has one minute and 21 seconds to reply to the direct heart of the question.

Ms FARMER: The behaviour of the member for Currumbin, if anyone watched any of those public hearings, by intimidating witnesses, including public servants, was absolutely disgraceful. There was no intent whatsoever to address youth crime in this state. As for this—

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to those outrageous comments that the minister has just made—

Mr SPEAKER: No, no, member—

Mrs GERBER:—and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Let me give some guidance to the House: if someone takes personal offence, you can take personal offence; it is not an opportunity to grandstand. Minister, the member has found those comments personally offensive.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. As to this question about apparently gagging the media, as usual those opposite never let the facts get in the way of a good story. Let me tell the House that my regard for the media on the issue of youth crime has only increased because the members of the gallery here are starting to ask the Leader of the Opposition and some of the others, 'What do you actually mean by the 13 words in your supposed youth justice policy?' The Leader of the Opposition's Facebook page says, 'We're going to lower crime as soon as we're elected to government.' People want to know now what exactly those opposite are going to do. When they ask those opposite, they have nothing to say. Those opposite are even stealing our ideas because they have absolutely nothing to say. That is why I have increasing regard for the media. They are asking, Queenslanders are asking and there will come a time that those opposite will have to deliver.

Budget

Mr POWER: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Miles Labor government's upcoming budget approach will support Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any dangerous or risky alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: Together with the member for Logan, I am proud and privileged to represent some of the hardest working Queenslanders in the great city of Logan. Our message to the people of Logan and to the people of Queensland is that our budget strategy is simple—to deliver more cost-of-living relief to them. Queenslanders are hurting from national cost-of-living pressures and they need more relief, they need more rebates and they need lower costs. They need more infrastructure to improve productivity to help them get to work and to get home and to trade the products they make. If that means we need to take on additional debt, then we absolutely will, in line with those forecasts I released yesterday.

I am asked by the member for Logan about risky alternatives. Yesterday we heard from the member for Toowoomba South and the member for Nanango about what the LNP's budget strategy would be in government. The parameters of the LNP's budget are now clear and it comes from their own words: debt must be lower than what we publish, taxes will be lower and the generation of power will be privatised. This can only be delivered one way and that is through cuts. You cannot reduce debt, you cannot reduce taxes, you cannot privatise energy generation without making cuts.

Now the parameters are clear, it is time to hear the detail. I know they do not want to say it. I heard the member for Toowoomba South was unavailable to go on Steve Austin's program this morning: very busy—very, very busy; the LNP strategy group hanging off every word he had to say. Based on what the shadow Treasurer said, the LNP leader must answer some simple questions: how much lower will debt be—\$10 billion, \$20 billion? What taxes will be reduced and by how much? What

about royalties? How much will the coal lobby 'take to the bank'? The next question is, having paid off more debt, reduced taxes and reduced royalties, how will the LNP fund their Maroochydhore black hole—the \$6.6 billion to build that train line which he has promised to build before 2032? You cannot lower debt, lower taxes and spend more on projects unless you cut. The LNP leader needs to tell us what he is going to cut. Is he going to cut nurses, midwives, police, health workers and schools? It is about time the Leader of the Opposition started answering those questions, and he can start today.

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm the Labor government has already decided on a time line for future youth crime announcements and was only using the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee to appear like they were listening to Queensland victims of crime?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Lockyer for his question. As I have outlined, the government expected to be in a position to consider a report from the committee when that report was due on 28 March. When that deadline passed it was clear there were issues within the committee. I understand that members of the committee sought to finalise that report and were consistently blocked by the LNP members, including the member for Lockyer.

What I have said is that I want to see that report because I want to start implementing the recommendations. If there are good proposals there that we should be implementing then there is no time to waste. I want to see the report as soon as possible.

Mr Crisafulli: We don't want to muzzle the media!

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, cease your interjections.

Mr MILES: I cannot comprehend why the LNP would be so determined to stop me from seeing the committee's report. All I want to do is see the committee's report. I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition and address it explicitly: any changes we make will give the media more access not less. We have no intention of reducing transparency. What we have said, and we are interested in doing, is pursuing initiatives that might address the profiting of social media companies on the promotion of violent videos. They are profiting off those videos, encouraging young people to commit crimes and boast about them on their platforms, meanwhile leaving those videos there and teaching other young people how to commit crimes. Our police tell me—

Mr Crisafulli: He wants to gag the press!

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. You have had a good run today.

Mr MILES: And even you are better than outright lies like that.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I could not actually hear what was said. I apologise.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The reaction is not necessary either, Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: If I am taking advice from the table, members, you will be silent. Premier, it has come to my attention that you may well have used unparliamentary language in terms of using the word 'lies' and I will also caution you against directing your comments at the Leader of the Opposition. You are warned under the standing orders and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. What we see here today is the continuation of those opposite—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I had just called the House to order and you took that opportunity of a gap in conversation to immediately jump in. You are warned under standing orders. Members, the level of interjection is too high. I appreciate the subject matter, but I need to hear, as does Hansard.

Mr MILES: We see again today those opposite unable to justify why members of parliament should not be able to see the committee's report, why we should not be able to consider the committee's report and why they continued to use their effective veto to block the committee from telling Queenslanders what they had heard from them. We want to see the report.

Big Build

Mr SMITH: My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister please advise the House how the Miles Labor government's Big Build is being delivered safely and is providing secure jobs, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Bundaberg for the question. I know that his electorate is benefiting from our Big Build, but it will benefit more when we build those things safely. If it is the \$1.2 billion Bundaberg Hospital, we want to build it safely and we want to build it with people who have secure, well-paid jobs. We want Kepnock State High School to receive its upgrades safely and by people who are paid well under best practice principles. If we are upgrading the Isis Highway in the member for Bundaberg's electorate, we want to see that done safely and we want it done by people who have secure, well-paid jobs.

I know that the member wants to be absolutely sure that this continues throughout Queensland. That is exactly what this side of the House does. We can transition our energy workers to renewables. Because we own our assets, we can transition to a decarbonised state under our Energy and Jobs Plan. We can do it because we have those workers in secure and well-paid jobs. We will transition them under our comprehensive plan—the best in Australia at the moment. It will direct those workers into new industries and help to train them in the future industries that we are establishing right here in this state. We will continue to own those assets.

We will continue to be proud of our record in health and safety, whether it is the introduction of industrial manslaughter, which was opposed by those opposite; whether it is our nation's first labour hire licensing scheme to look after those workers; whether it is leading the response to dust lung diseases—we led the nation on silicosis; whether it is establishing the independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor; whether it is regulations for major theme parks and the amusement ride industry that set world-class standards—the world followed Queensland in relation to those regulations; whether it is wage theft and helping those families through our Consultative Committee for Work-Related Fatalities and Serious Incidents. We led the nation and they are all following us.

What do we get from those opposite? There is one guarantee: there are no alternative policies. At the last sitting we improved work health and safety for health and safety reps—the most important people in the workplace to represent workers when it comes to safety—and those opposite voted against it on the basis of some nonsense argument of representation. They came in, time after time, speaker after speaker, saying that they cannot support it for some nonsense, made-up, fake-union type of argument. That is what the people of Queensland can expect from those opposite. On this side of the House we will pay workers well, we will secure their jobs and we will ensure they work safely every single time.

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. Queenslanders are calling for action on the youth crime crisis. Was the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee dissolved because the LNP wanted to keep working to get real action while Labor wanted yet more reviews?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, the member for Caloundra is warned under the standing orders. The member for Thuringowa is also warned under the standing orders.

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. I assure her and all members that, in fact, it was quite the opposite. We were ready to take action and we stand ready to take action, and the LNP would not let us see the report. We wanted to see the report so we could start taking action. The member for Currumbin might think more committee hearings is action, but we think that getting the recommendations and implementing them is action. That is what we do and will consistently do. We listen and we deliver. That is what we have been doing on community safety.

When the police said they wanted a helicopter in Townsville, we gave them one. When the police said they wanted more recruits and better resources, we have given it to them. When they wanted wandering, for example, we on this side of the House delivered it. When they said they wanted the resources to do that high-visibility policing—the practical measure that we know works—we funded it. That is what we have done over the past 3½ months. The evidence already suggests that it is working and that things have turned a corner, so we want to do more of it. We want to back in our police and

back in their action. They tell us that it is working and that, from the statistics, they can see it is effective. If we support them to do more, they can make the community safer. We want to act further. We want to do more, including with the recommendations of the committee.

I understand that there is a report ready to go with lots of good recommendations that we would like to consider, but the LNP kept blocking and would not even allow us to see it. The member asks me about action. I want to take action. We will be taking action and we want it to be informed by the hearings of the committee. If members of the committee heard any of the suggestions coming in via interjections, I assume that is in their report. I assume that that is what they are recommending. The entire purpose was for them to listen to Queenslanders and to report to us what Queenslanders would like to see in our comprehensive community safety plan. That is what we will be able to do now that the House has acted to get that report released to us so that we can take that report, take those recommendations and incorporate them into our community safety plan. Those opposite only wanted to veto that because they want to keep playing politics.

Manufacturing

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister provide an update on how the Miles Labor government is supporting local manufacturers, and is the minister aware of any risks to the sector?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. I certainly acknowledge her support of the manufacturing industry in her area. Businesses such as IntelliDesign in her electorate are using world-leading technologies to make advanced electronic devices that are used in mining, health care, medicine, energy and other sectors. Thanks to the Made in Queensland grants from this Labor government, IntelliDesign is using cutting-edge equipment to strengthen its business and help it enter into brand new markets, as the member is well aware. The best part is the grants mean 10 new jobs in Queensland as part of that announcement. It also means that it is re-shoring the work back into Queensland at Seventeen Mile Rocks. That is right: more jobs in Queensland being re-shored here rather than sending those jobs overseas.

It is fantastic that we have dedicated this whole round of Made in Queensland grants to supporting our manufacturers to onshore their operations here in Queensland, to create more sovereign capability and more jobs in Queensland. We have invested over \$207 million in the Queensland manufacturing sector with over 7,000 local jobs in Queensland. On top of that, we are making trains, buses, boxers and batteries right here in Queensland, which means there is more manufacturing in Queensland and not overseas.

The member asked me a question about risk. All of that is under risk under an LNP government. We know that the LNP does not support manufacturing jobs in Queensland. It sent train manufacturing jobs overseas, and we know that it will do it all again.

Mr Head interjected.

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

Mr BUTCHER: The LNP stand around having photos taken with manufacturers and brand new equipment that has been funded by the Queensland Labor government under our grants programs, but they will cut those grants, and the social opportunities to have their photos taken will go. If members want to know where the member for Nanango is going on her manufacturing round trips, just follow my Facebook page because she often follows where I have been to announce grants in manufacturing centres in Queensland. Will the member for Nanango be honest with the manufacturers whom she visits on her rounds and tell them that, under an LNP government, they would not get any support for manufacturing grants?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the minister to withdraw that absolute rubbish.

Mr SPEAKER: Again, no need for the tail. Minister, the member has found that personally offensive. Will you withdraw?

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have had a good go.

Mr BUTCHER: David Crisafulli and the LNP cannot even bring themselves to mention the word 'manufacturing'.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, correct titles will be used in the House. Minister, you have been here long enough to know that.

Mr BUTCHER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The leader of the LNP cannot even bring himself to mention the word 'manufacturing'. In his budget reply speech there was no mention of the word 'manufacturing'. There was no mention of it in the opposition's little blue book. They will send jobs overseas. We cannot trust an LNP government in October in Queensland because manufacturing will suffer.

Rosedale State School, Asbestos

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. In March, over 100 concerned parents wrote to the member for Mansfield, with copies sent to the Minister for Education and the Minister for Health, expressing concerns regarding asbestos management at Rosedale State School. Does the Premier stand by his Minister for Education's statement yesterday that there is only a small group of parents who are not comfortable?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Moggill for his question. As I said on multiple occasions yesterday, the health, safety and welfare of students and teachers is our No. 1 priority when it comes to schools. Education Queensland has a comprehensive asbestos management program as well as an asbestos removal program. The minister sought to provide the House and members opposite with even further details in her ministerial statement this morning, which I thought was very comprehensive. If the member did not catch that at the time, I urge him to check *Hansard* because it goes to the concerns the member has raised.

Healthcare Investment

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister advise how the Miles Labor government's investment in publicly owned healthcare assets is leading to better patient outcomes, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Redlands. She is a huge advocate for the publicly owned satellite hospital in the heart of her electorate, which means that more locals are getting wonderful health care for free, closer to home. We are absolutely proud of our satellite hospital program. These state-of-the-art facilities are doing exactly what we said they would do, that is, taking pressure off our busy emergency departments.

Since our first satellite hospital opened at Ripley in October last year, well over 50,000 Queenslanders have been treated for free, close to home in our minor injury and illness clinics. Since that time, the Ipswich ED has seen a 26 per cent reduction in the number of Category 4 and 5 patients. It is part of our government's plan to address the challenges on our health system, but this is again all at risk. This week, we heard those opposite very publicly declare that they do not support the public ownership of assets. What does that mean for our satellite hospitals? We know that they have never supported them. Are they going to sell them off? Are they going to privatise them? People will have to pay for health care in their communities.

That is their record. Their record is also selling off nursing homes. Who can remember? Well, the member for Lytton certainly remembers. This week, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba very publicly said they do not support assets remaining in public hands, which means our satellite hospitals and nursing homes. They have form when it comes to our nursing homes. They will sell them off again, just like they sold off the Yaralla Place nursing home in Maryborough affecting 71 healthcare staff, the Eventide Aged Care Facility in north Brisbane affecting 69 staff members and the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit—which the member for Lytton lived through—with 46 staff sacked. Who privatises nursing homes? Who privatises aged care clinics? Who sacks the nurses who work in our nursing homes? The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP! The Leader of the Opposition was a cabinet minister when these decisions were made. They have form on privatisation. They have form on sacking frontline health workers. We know they will do it again. Our fabulous satellite hospitals and nursing homes are all under threat if the Leader of the Opposition wins the election in October. We know they will cut, sack and sell.

Rochedale State School, Asbestos

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Education. A former Rochedale State School teacher has told the LNP that they and other former colleagues remember having dust on tables and cupboards and are concerned that staff and students have been exposed to asbestos for years. Can the minister guarantee concerned parents and staff that they have not been exposed to asbestos at Rochedale State School for years?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for her question. That is pretty rich coming from the party that downgraded asbestos management when they were in government. Nevertheless, we all know that, because so many schools were built before 1990, asbestos is present in many of our schools. That is why the Miles government has a proactive and high-priority program to identify high-risk sites and to assess, remove and remediate as soon as asbestos is identified.

We have a register. Perhaps the member was not listening this morning when I gave what I thought was a quite comprehensive statement, but I am happy to say it again. Since 1998, 360 cases were reported at Rochedale State School. When I say 'reported', that means anything from seeing dust and believing it might be asbestos but then it being assessed as not, to actually having it assessed, identifying asbestos and then removing and remediating. Of those 360, all were assessed as not containing asbestos, but at the school 188 asbestos cases were confirmed in that period and 30 were required to be removed.

In this instance, most recently in March, as we know, dust was identified in the particular classroom. The classroom was sectioned off. That was on a Friday. Further tests were carried out in that room and in other rooms on the Monday and in some cases samples were identified as containing asbestos. Parents were notified on the Monday and for other classrooms on the Tuesday. Since that time the school principal and deputy principal, in particular, have gone to enormous lengths to speak to the teachers and make sure they are comfortable and to speak to all of the families and make sure they are comfortable, and the majority of children are back in that classroom. When incidents of suspected asbestos are identified we take immediate action. We have a question from a party that put children and teachers at risk—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba!

Ms FARMER:—because of their reduced priority for asbestos—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, as I heard it the minister was being responsive to the question. You are warned under the standing orders.

QBuild

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister update the House on how Queensland's public builder, QBuild, is helping to deliver our state's Big Build, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Macalister for the question. I know that she, like everyone on this side of the House, is committed to making sure we have important public services that are in public hands. That includes public services like QBuild here in Queensland which build and maintain so many public assets like schools, hospitals and housing. When I talk to my colleagues in other states they are jealous of the fact that we have our own public builder here in Queensland. It is this government that is rebuilding QBuild and training the tradies of the future, because we know that is something that is incredibly important, particularly to regional Queensland. It is something we have to do because of the actions taken by the member for Everton when he effectively sacked everyone in QBuild—1,600 jobs gone on his watch—and the Leader of the Opposition appointed him to the very same role. Why? So he can do it all again.

While QBuild is doing the hard yards on delivering housing, they are also doing really important work after natural disasters. We just heard about the fantastic work they have done in Wujal Wujal. Meanwhile, we know that the LNP is sharpening their knives to cut again, because that is exactly what

they did last time. Time and time again they talk down the incredible work of QBuild. As early as this morning we heard the member for Burnett basically double down on his comments about prefabricated homes. He said that the modular homes that are being built by our hardworking QBuild workers and great Queensland companies like Hutchies are a lower standard of accommodation. I would like him to tell that to the families who are living in those homes right now. I am sure the member for Burnett remembers that it was the Bundaberg depot that was downsized when he was there. In fact, under the LNP—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms SCANLON: He still seems fine with it. Under the LNP, 81 QBuild officers lost their jobs in Wide Bay. I was in Mackay the other day and met a man working at QBuild who lost his job under the Newman government. He now works at QBuild because we have rebuilt it. I tell those opposite that no matter where I go there is someone from QBuild who has a story, and they have not forgotten the actions of the LNP. We know they have an ideological problem with public ownership, whether it is QBuild or public housing. Notice how they never talk about public housing? It is because they do not believe in it. We know they do not believe in energy assets remaining in public hands either. Whether it is housing, energy or satellite hospitals—the list goes on—all of that is at risk if the LNP is elected in October.

Glencore, Mount Isa Coppermine

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals. Prime Minister Albanese has said there is a need to intervene on the basis of national interest and national sovereignty. At the same time Glencore has closed the Mount Isa copper mine, preferring to sack 1,200 Queenslanders and move efforts offshore. Will the minister take the Prime Minister's advice so Glencore cannot sit on Queensland's copper while others are seeking to acquire the mine and continue copper production?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for what is a very important question, particularly for his community and the mining and resource industry right around Queensland. This is a significant point in time for Mount Isa. I want to give the House an idea what we have done about it as a government. Immediately after Glencore announced their intention to shut the Mount Isa copper mine and Lady Loretta zinc operations, I travelled with the Treasurer.

I know this is causing significant uncertainty for the community but this government is standing firmly behind it, just like it did with Glenden. For many decades, Mount Isa has been known as a resources town and it exists in the heart of the North West Minerals Province, which we know is rich in the critical minerals that our economy will continue to rely on well into the future. This is a significant announcement that affects not only the Mount Isa community but also all of Queensland.

As the owner of the mine, Glencore has stated that they expect 1,200 miners will lose their jobs at the end of this process. I expect Glencore will continue to meet their obligations to their workers and to the community. Every one of those jobs represents a family earning an income. There are generations of workers there. As the member already knows, my great-grandfather was one of the original workers at Mount Isa Mines and, in fact, the Davidson Shaft is named after him. This has significance, and we will do everything we possibly can to make sure those workers continue to live in Mount Isa.

We are continuing to look at alternatives. In fact, the Treasurer announced a \$50 million package. There is \$30 million attributed to looking at getting other mines up and running. We are very close to working with another mine, and I know that Minister Grace has highlighted Eva Copper Mine Project, which is anticipated to last for 15 years and generate around 1,200 jobs. We will continue to work with anyone and everyone around copper. We know there is a huge demand for copper in this state, around Australia and, in fact, internationally. If there are other companies that wish to purchase that mine, we will work extensively to help them to make that transition. We also need to ensure that Glencore continues to comply with its mine lease. We will do everything we can to support those workers, to keep them in Mount Isa, to keep our regional towns operating, to keep Mount Isa operating and to make sure that our regional towns are looked after. On this side of the House, we—

(Time expired)

Transport Infrastructure

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the Miles Labor government's commitment to supporting the workers delivering the transport Big Build, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. The Miles government backs tradies. We back the frontline workers in transport and main roads who are delivering our transport Big Build. We are delivering our eighth straight record QTRIP, supporting \$32 billion worth of investment in Queensland. It is supporting 25,000 jobs across the life of the program with jobs for tradies across the entire state. Business is helping to deliver those projects and, working closely with our tradies, we have hardworking and dedicated public servants in transport and main roads and RoadTek. Those dedicated public servants work behind the scenes to ensure that our Big Build is being delivered. We know they bore the brunt of the axe when the LNP was last in power. Queenslanders suffered savage cuts and sackings under the Newman-Crisafulli government and the LNP are planning to harshly cut critical infrastructure again.

We know those opposite cut Cross River Rail when they were in power. They cut \$1.6 billion from Queensland's transport and main roads budget. They cut \$60 million from road safety funding. They sacked more than 2,500 TMR workers—20 per cent of the workforce—including 700 RoadTek road builders. They are sharpening the axe again.

A few weeks ago, I went to the Queensland bus industry conference on the Gold Coast where both the member for Chatsworth and I were listed as speakers. I thought he may use the opportunity to reassure TMR staff, bus drivers and our tradies that their jobs were safe under the LNP. That was a great opportunity for a network catch-up, to talk with people in industry and hear their views. But what did he do instead? The member said, 'The era of largesse must end.'

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr MELLISH: He is putting those transport workers on notice. You can hear the axe being sharpened. If you are a public servant and you rely on a Public Service job, you need to be worried. If you are a tradie who relies on our transport Big Build, you need to be worried.

The LNP has a plan for Queensland and it is a plan we have seen before. When the Leader of the Opposition parrots the word 'productivity', as he did at his disastrous press conference last Friday, we know what that is code for. 'Productivity' means 'cuts'. 'Pruning' means 'cuts'. 'Largesse' means 'cuts'. The LNP means cuts for transport projects. The LNP means cuts for transport jobs. We will deliver transport projects and transport jobs across this state. Those opposite just want to cut.

Housing

Dr MacMAHON: My question is to the Premier. Currently, property investors can increase rents by unlimited amounts and evict a tenant simply because their lease is up. Given the scale of the housing crisis, why are property investor politicians, like the Premier and the opposition leader, allowed to make decisions on policies that benefit them personally?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for her question. As we have consistently outlined to the House, our Homes for Queenslanders plan is all about delivering more houses here in Queensland. We are building one million new homes through that plan. At the end of the day, that is the best way to relieve pressure on housing affordability. It will deliver additional supply at each level of the market to make sure that we are delivering affordable supply as well as attached and detached dwellings—the full range of different types of houses.

I am hesitant to respond to the personal attack in the member's question, although I would note that it is pretty selective, given the property empires of the federal Greens political party MPs—the same Greens political party MPs who consistently team up with the LNP to block action on housing in Australia. In lock step with the LNP, the Greens political party has consistently acted to stop measures that the Australian government wants to take, and that the Queensland government supports, that would deliver more housing in Queensland.

Our comprehensive Homes for Queenslanders plan does deliver a lot for renters. We had already acted to limit rent increases to once a year, but it also includes things like the ban on rent bidding that I know many renters have struggled with and that we were determined to address. It includes bond loans and bond transfers that, again, is designed to make it easier for renters to get into and stay in secure property.

We also have measures to support homelessness services. There is a 20 per cent increase in funding to homelessness services so that they can do the really important work at the crisis end. We also have a range of measures to deliver additional supply and to support industry to get building. We have already acted to encourage secondary dwellings, which is one way that we can get additional accommodation into the market really quickly. While we on this side of the House are focused on practical measures that can make it easier for people to get into houses and affordable houses, the Greens political party continues to team up with the LNP to block action on housing.

Training and Skills, Investment

Mr BAILEY: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and the Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister outline to the House how the Miles Labor government is investing in the critical training infrastructure Queenslanders need for the good jobs of the future, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr McCALLUM: I would like to thank the member for Miller for his question and acknowledge his passionate advocacy for both good jobs and the training that Queenslanders need to get into those good jobs. I can advise the House that we have over 200,000 students who are getting the skills right now for the good jobs that are coming in the future as part of our infrastructure Big Build. That is happening at over 60 TAFE campuses right across Queensland. That is happening in state-of-the-art new facilities that we have delivered in partnership with industry, like our renewable energy centre of excellence with our partner Electrogroupp.

I want to acknowledge the presence today in the gallery of those tradies. They are the tradies of the transition who will be taking up the good jobs in the future. They are partnering with industry, like at our Hydrogen Centre of Excellence at Beenleigh and our soon to be completed renewable centre of excellence in hydrogen at the Bohle TAFE. Whether it is sparkies, chippies, boilies, fridgies, engineers, accountants or project managers, we are skilling up Queenslanders for these good jobs and we are doing it in state-of-the-art facilities thanks to our \$100 million Equipping TAFE for our Future program. We have upgraded over 15 campuses right across the state—whether it is Cairns, Rockhampton, Townsville, the Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Yarrabilba or just up the road from the member for Miller's electorate at South Bank, just to name a few. That is where we are upgrading our TAFE facilities because Labor invests in state-of-the-art training infrastructure to get people into the jobs of the future. Thanks to our \$100 million TAFE Big Build, we have already delivered that state-of-the-art training infrastructure.

However, that is all at risk under a future LNP government because they cut TAFE. We know that because they did it last time. Let me read a headline from the *Courier-Mail* in 2016: 'TAFE faces \$100m budget shortfall with funding up in air'. That is their record; that is the legacy of the LNP. Labor's legacy is delivering \$100 million worth of state-of-the-art infrastructure. What was the LNP legacy? They closed down the Chelmer TAFE. They closed down the Yeronga TAFE in the member for Miller's electorate. They sold TAFEs. They closed TAFEs. They—

(Time expired)

Bruce Highway

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I will be undertaking my annual Bruce Highway drive in July. When did the minister last drive—

Ms Boyd interjected.

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

Mr MINNIKIN: I will be undertaking my annual Bruce Highway drive in July. When did the minister last drive the full length of the Bruce Highway to see road conditions for himself?

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

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. I have probably been on the Bruce Highway more than I have had hot lunches since coming into this job as Minister for Transport. In week 1, we were up there visiting the fantastic six-laning on the Bruce Highway just north of Brisbane.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members to my right and members to my left, I cannot hear the minister. I would like to hear the answer. How about you, member for Chatsworth?

Mr MELLISH: We have been to the Rockhampton Ring Road twice—firstly, at the southern end to announce the full funding of the whole project and, secondly, to visit the northern end. We have been to the Mackay Ring Road and checked out the length of that. We have seen the Walkerston Bypass that is adjoining that, which is a fantastic project.

Ms Camm interjected.


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

Mr MELLISH: I have been to Cairns, the southern access corridor, and there are amazing projects there. I am happy to advise the House that I will be on the Bruce Highway again tomorrow. It is my 10th wedding anniversary and my beautiful wife and I will be driving up the Bruce Highway. We have got the weekend away. We have not been able to find a babysitter so we are taking the kids but we will still manage to have a good time. I look forward to visiting the Bruce Highway as often as I can across the next time period.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Return to Order

 **The CLERK:** I inform the House that, in accordance with an order for production of a document from the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee made by this House yesterday, I now table as a return to the order the version of the latest report put to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee for adoption which failed to pass. The document will now be emailed to members and uploaded to the tabled papers database.

Tabled paper: Document, dated April 2024, titled 'Youth Justice Reform Select Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Interim Report: Inquiry into ongoing reforms to the youth justice system and support for victims of crime' [\[612\]](#).


ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL

CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 17 April (see p. 1147), on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.44 am): I rise to speak in support of the cognate bills. I only want to speak about one aspect. I urge residents of Logan to read the comprehensive speeches made by the minister and the member for Bundamba. I have been listening really carefully to the speeches of the LNP members on this bill. They say they support the goals—that has been stated up-front by the member for Bonney—and they say they are even going to vote for these changes, but when you look deeply into their speeches they are telling a different story. Every time they speak, they speak out against any sort of renewable energy. They hate solar in their speeches, they hate wind energy in their speeches, and they especially hate publicly owned renewables. They have also taken a special liking to speaking out against hydro dams and especially pumped hydro dams. They are totally against them, and this is curious. They are going to get to the goals but they are totally against the means we have put forward to get to those goals.

Here is what Queenslanders need to consider. How are they going to do it? We understand that the Liberals and Nationals, especially those in Queensland, support Peter Dutton and his plan for nuclear reactors but they will not answer the following questions for Queenslanders. Who will own these nuclear power plants they are planning? Where will they be built? They will not tell us the design and they will not tell us how much they will cost.

If they do not tell us these things honestly, we need to look at what other power stations are being built. In the UK, a country we all know fairly well—and the member for Toowoomba North certainly does—they are currently building Hinkley Point C. That country was the very first in the world to establish a nuclear industry—something we are yet to do. Hinkley Point C was a result of a process that started in 2008, with site selection happening in 2010. They started construction, but there have been delays, complexities and redesigns, and this is in a country with the longest civil nuclear program in the world. The plant will not be operational for a full 23 years. Even if the LNP got their way and could do it, we would not be seeing anything until after 2050. Our energy system will be totally transformed by 2050.

If they will not tell us that, we need to look at Hinkley Point C and see the cost. Just one reactor—and remember the Duttonator is planning heaps all across Queensland and across the nation—has now got a budget of over \$89 billion, but they will not tell us the cost. Much of that expenditure was not done in 2024 dollars; it is sunk expenditure which would mean this is an even more expensive project. That was before the inflation that came post COVID in steel and concrete.

The other thing is that they will not tell us who is going to own their myriad nuclear power plants they are putting across Queensland. Hinkley Point C is a French-Chinese consortium. They need to tell us whether French-Chinese consortiums are going to build a whole number of nuclear power plants all across Queensland and Australia, but they are not telling us.

Another important question they need to answer for the people of Logan is where the reactors will be located. When we were debating this previously, I asked where they would be located. I asked the LNP members to put their hands up if they were going to have one in their electorate—and I ask them that now: put your hand up if you are going to put one in your electorate—and none of them put up their hands.

Mr Stevens interjected.


Mr POWER: I note the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach where he just said they are going to put them in Logan. Again, another member at that time said they were going to put them in Logan. I am deeply worried about this because they would site one next to the Logan River and we all know that nuclear power plants owned by Chinese-French consortiums take enormous amounts of water. This means they do not have a plan for transitioning to electricity, except to attack renewables in every single format. However, they do have a plan to locate nuclear reactors in dangerous places, and indeed even actively suggesting that they put them in Logan. I feel—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr POWER: They have not yet ruled it out. They have no plan to support renewables. They have no plan to support solar, wind or pumped hydro; they only have a plan for nuclear so their intent is quite clear. I noted very carefully that the Leader of the Opposition said he would not support nuclear power unless there was bipartisan support. We all know what 'bipartisan' means for the member for Broadwater. It means bipartisan between the Liberal and the National parties, and then he will do it.

I stand here as the member for Logan to passionately support renewable energy and the plan that we have put forward to the people. I commend this transformation of our electricity, but I absolutely condemn the LNP's privatisation plan and nuclear plan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I would like to remind the House of the members who are currently on a warning. They are the members for Lockyer, Currumbin, Miller, Ninderry, Buderim, Waterford, Broadwater, Murrumba, Kawana, Caloundra, Thuringowa, Callide, Mudgeeraba, Everton and Whitsunday. We did not get to page 2—that is good.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.50 am): I thank you personally, Mr Deputy Speaker, for stepping into the chair, when I should be there doing my job, to enable me to speak. On behalf of the people of Southern Downs I rise to speak on this cognate debate. I want to talk, in particular, about something that happened recently in the town of Allora, in the north-eastern part of my electorate.

A prospective wind farm operator had been going around the rural areas to the east and the north-east of Allora, knocking on doors and spruiking to owners the possibility of having a wind turbine on their property. Obviously it is early days, but that really sent shock waves through the community in

Allora. I pay tribute to the community for turning out in their hundreds, on the Thursday night just before the local government elections, to seek answers and to air their views on this. The first I heard about it was when people in Allora told me about it. The very clear message from the community was that they do not want a wind farm on their doorstep.

When I see amendments introduced after the committee considered the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, which rootles around in matters like renewable energy zones and giving special treatment to Powerlink, my suspicion is that the government never intended to have these amendments considered by the committee. They did not want them to be seen publicly, along with amendments concerning the ring fencing of the transmission network.

I have been talking to my honourable friend the member for Burleigh. Members in this House will know that often he has a lot to say on this matter because he understands these sorts of things better than most of us, I think. He pointed out that the Australian Energy Regulator allows the transmission companies—Energex, Powerlink, Ergon and so forth—to have a regulated asset base and to recover costs through a regulated process. This amendment strikes me as being a very controversial one. I wonder what the Australian Energy Regulator might have said had they had the opportunity to respond by making a submission to the committee or perhaps appearing. As I say, I suspect that the fact that that did not happen was by design on the part of the government and not because they suddenly realised that they need these amendments.

I am concerned that this will now enable the government to reach in and interfere with the way costs are recovered by the government owned transmission line operators such as Powerlink. Are they going to pick favourites and disadvantage some users or generators of electricity and prop up others? I wonder whether the Millmerran Power Station, in my electorate of Southern Downs, which employs about 200 people with excellent, well-paying and secure jobs that keep the town of Millmerran alive, might be disadvantaged. Will it suddenly find that it is paying more for the transmission of power or will it be less competitive because of the extra costs of transmitting power compared to some favoured renewable project? If the government want to be seen as acting in good faith and having the best interests of Queensland at heart, they really should not be introducing amendments like this that have not been scrutinised by the committee, the community and stakeholders.

One of the things that interests me, particularly in my electorate of Southern Downs, is the cost of electricity to business. We are all paying a lot more for our power. Anybody who has seen and paid a power bill in recent times knows that our power bills have soared. That has a lot to do with the government's energy policies. There is a subsidy that the government is throwing at all of us—and every dollar counts—however, it is not a sustainable and economically wise solution to rely on action after the fact rather than addressing the root causes of the power increases.

When I think about the people of Allora, this particular amendment may affect them in two ways: it is not just the potential for further increases in the power prices that they pay as householders, industrial users, farmers and so forth; my suspicion is that, in spite of all of the talk of the government, they intend to see renewable energy projects put wherever they want and to hell with the local communities that would have to live with the impacts of those. I think the MacIntyre Wind Farm in my electorate is a very good example. If you speak to the Southern Downs Regional Council or the Goondiwindi Regional Council, which have the MacIntyre Wind Farm across their areas, they will tell you that Acciona has not been a very good corporate citizen. I suggest that one of the reasons for that is Acciona knows that in Queensland they have the unquestioning backing of the government against the interests of local communities.


I make my opinions based on outcomes. I look at how little Acciona has contributed financially to the communities that have been impacted by the wind farm, how it has ridden roughshod over the interests of councils and left communities reeling from some of the impacts, such as Warwick where you cannot rent a house because of the wind farm. Local people who have rented houses for years and have never been homeless have been displaced by those who are working on the wind farm project. I make no criticism of those people. However, I do know that, in my electorate of Southern Downs, the impacts of that wind farm have been quite significant and it has not been a popular thing with my people.

All of this is all very well and talk, as I read in the explanatory notes, about giving due regard to communities and so forth looks great when it is here in greens or whites and ends up on the statute books, but it is not happening on the ground. I say to the people of my electorate, particularly those in Allora, that I will not flinch from fighting for the community to make sure that state instruments, such as renewable energy zones and so forth, are not used to impose upon them renewable energy projects

that are going to eliminate their way of life. The scenery, the amenity, the traffic—those are things that country people care deeply about. I am sure that I would get agreement from the other country members who sit around—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend, the member for Gympie; yes, these are important things. I suspect that, in the quest to secure an avalanche of votes, it is more about the appearance of renewable energy than the execution. I think that everything the government has done there has indicated that. I will not be supporting the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023. I think it suggests a continuing disregard for the interests, the views and the lifestyles of people in country areas like the ones I represent. I condemn the bill before the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.59 am): I am proud to rise to support the bills before the House. From my perspective, the most important achievement of this legislative package is that it secures majority public ownership of our energy system, particularly energy generation. Queenslanders have a very firm and very clear view on this. They want their energy system, whether it is powered by coal or renewables, to be owned by the people and to be subject to democratic control. For that reason, our Labor government rejects the amendments moved by the LNP that would remove the requirement for the majority public ownership of energy generation.

Frankly, I was astounded to hear the member for Nanango describe our majority public ownership target as an ‘arbitrary number’ but it does reveal the LNP’s approach in its entirety. These amendments, written and authorised by the Leader of the Opposition, reveal the LNP’s approach in black and white. On the one hand, the LNP supports the 75 per cent target for reduction in emissions. That necessarily requires the closure of coal-fired power stations and their replacement with low-emission alternatives. Yet, at the same time, the LNP are trying to remove any requirement for the replacement assets to be publicly owned. I want every trade union leader, I want every trade union, I want every trade unionist, I want every worker who works in the power industry, I want every apprentice who aspires to a job in the power industry, I want every Queenslanders to know: this is LNP privatisation, pure and simple. It is what the LNP want to do and it is what they will do if they win the election.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: It is black and white, member for Nanango; you have tabled it in the House. It is exactly what the LNP will do if they win in October. Under the LNP, publicly owned coal-fired power stations will close and they will be replaced by privately owned power generation and not just any power generation—they will be replaced by LNP nuclear power. Who will own it? Which foreign country will own our power generation? Will our state’s power generation be controlled by the Cayman Islands when it is privatised by the LNP? What international hedge fund based in a foreign capital will have majority ownership of the Coolom nuclear power plant? Under the LNP one thing is absolutely certain: Queenslanders will be ripped off, foreign owned nuclear generators will play the market, they will drive up prices and all of the profits will go overseas.

On behalf of every member of the government on this side of the House, on behalf of every member of the Australian Labor Party, on behalf of every member of every affiliated trade union, I say this: Queensland Labor rejects the LNP’s plan for privatised power. We reject the LNP’s plan for nuclear power.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: You know you have the member for Nanango when she starts interjecting like that. You know you have caught her. That is what she wants to do.

Let me say again: the Queensland Labor government and Queensland Labor rejects the LNP’s plan for privatised power. We reject the LNP’s plan for nuclear power and our government rejects the amendments that would achieve those goals.

I do not want to be entirely uncharitable today. I am not going to be completely negative about the LNP. Credit should go where credit is due. With regard to the clean economy bill, I note that the member for Bonney announced that the LNP would not be opposing the bill. That is great news, it is welcome news because of what it means. It means that the LNP now supports our vegetation management laws. Our vegetation management laws are absolutely critical to achieving our 75 per cent target. You cannot achieve a 75 per cent reduction in emissions without Labor’s vegetation management laws. Frankly, this is a welcome change because in 2018, the Leader of the Opposition opposed the vegetation management bill and the associated actions to reduce land clearing. In 2021 the Leader of the Opposition—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Members, the levels of interjections are becoming far too loud. It is becoming hard to hear the speaker on their feet. I ask that the interjections cease.

Mr DICK: In 2021 the opposition leader called vegetation management laws ‘a cultural war’. Clearly yesterday’s announcement from the LNP is an attempt to move on from that, so I welcome the support of the member for Nanango and the member for Callide and the many other members who represent agricultural areas for finally recognising that Labor’s vegetation management laws are the right thing to do. Of course, we would like to hear a bit more from the LNP.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: I am not taking interjections, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you have continually interjected, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: We do want to hear more about their plans, because in July 2022 the LNP announced that it would bring the net zero emissions target forward to the state election. Over 1½ years later—less than 200 days before the election—we are still waiting for the LNP’s plan to meet net zero emissions. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP are a blank space—a complete vacuum when it comes to emissions reduction. Thankfully, Peter Dutton has come charging through and the answer for the LNP, of course, is nuclear power. That is how they will achieve their target. We know that renewable energy—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! The level of interjection is extreme. I am having difficulty hearing the contribution of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I will continue to warn people. I remind people that many in this chamber are already on a warning and I will not hesitate to ask people to leave the chamber.

Mr DICK: We know that renewable energy is not only better for the environment but also better for customers. The recent draft CSIRO AEMO GenCost report shows that firmed wind and solar energy is the cheapest form of energy now and into the future. It is two to seven times cheaper than the nuclear power that is proposed by the LNP. Because Queenslanders own the state’s energy generation assets, we can control how we undertake that energy transition.

Now we know from the member for Nanango that the LNP want to undo all of that, but it gets worse. While the Leader of the Opposition makes promises that he will not sell our state owned energy assets, he has repeatedly said that the LNP would pursue structural reform of those assets—like the structural reform they did last time when they sacked 4,400 health workers. Public ownership means secure jobs and supply chain opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. The passage of this bill means that never again will our publicly owned energy assets be readied for sale without these laws being repealed and without a debate in this parliament.

We have democratic control of energy generation supply and distribution in this state. Never again will we see what happened to the Tarong and Swanbank E power stations when the LNP closed them and readied them for sale because power prices were too low. What an absolute disgrace. What a performance we saw from the LNP for all of those friends and citizens of Queensland in the gallery today who have come to see this debate. What a performance! They cannot even be bothered to be in the chamber for this most important debate. It is one of the most significant debates we will see in this generation, and they cannot even be bothered to turn up. Our government’s vision for Queensland’s future is one that is powered by a high-performing low-carbon economy and these bills will achieve that purpose. These bills protect jobs. They protect our assets from sale. They secure majority public ownership of energy generation as we move to renewables and they protect the environment and our state’s future. There is a very real price to be paid if we and the world do nothing. I commend the bills to the House.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (12.09 pm): I will start by reading from the explanatory notes. It states—
This pathway will see the State achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030, 70% renewable energy by 2032, and 80% by 2035.

...

The Bill aims to enshrine key commitments from the Plan in law; create the infrastructure frameworks needed to build the Queensland SuperGrid; and establish the governance and advisory functions for a smooth, coordinated transformation that ensures workers and communities are supported.

I believe that is a load of crock and it has nothing to do with supporting communities.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KNUTH: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Thank you.

Mr KNUTH: It has nothing to do with supporting those communities because the government cannot support communities through privatisation by stealth. We saw what happened with the Collinsville power station. It was closed down and the generation was exchanged for solar panels. Foreign workers came in to set up those solar panels and now there are no profits going back to the state. When the coal-fired generator was in operation, profits were going back to the state that would go into our hospitals, schools and our roads. Now we are seeing wind farms going up everywhere funded through the Renewable Energy Target scheme by the taxpayers of Queensland. All these wind farms that are being set up are destroying our natural habitat all in the name of saving the planet. Those profits then do not go back to hospitals and schools; they go overseas.

We have seen this type of thing before. It is very similar to the debate we were having when the Beattie government made the wonderful decision—and the LNP cheered them on—to privatise the retail arm of our energy sector. There was a massive big push for it, just like trying to save this planet. It was said that if we privatised the retail arm of the energy sector electricity prices would decrease through competition. There was no decrease through competition, and within 10 years electricity prices had tripled all in the name of privatisation. I agree with the minister that the Newman government made a very bad error. They held 78 seats in the parliament which was reduced to 42 after they put up their hand with glee to privatise our energy-generating assets. Once privatised, those assets would have returned nothing to the local communities, power prices would have increased and, likewise, profits would have gone overseas. We have seen the Labor government wiped out in the name of privatisation, particularly with Queensland Rail, and we have seen the LNP wiped out over privatisation of our energy assets. One thing we have learnt is that governments should keep away from our assets.

We hear the arguments for and against what this bill is going to achieve with regard to renewable energy, but reading from the NEM Data app shows how we are heading into oblivion with this bill. Using that app, people can see exactly what supplies our energy grid, broken down into coal, gas, wind, solar, hydro and others. It says that generally over a 24-hour period coal and gas provide anywhere between 60 to 85 per cent of our energy to the grid with the balance made up of renewables. Based on this data, the government fails to explain how renewables will go from 10 per cent to 70 per cent in just eight years and 80 per cent of supply in under 30 years. It took four years to build the cassowary bridge near Tully, so I cannot see how it is possible that this target will be fully achieved.

There is something that is very important to consider in regard to the energy jobs target. We are seeing countries like China getting a free pass. In 2022 China released 11.4 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, making it the world's largest emitter. Here we have Australia which contributes one per cent of emissions on the global scale. I believe the government through this bill—if this is really down pat, and I cannot see it—will destroy the state economy, destroy regional communities and destroy regional jobs. If the government is closing down energy-generating assets and going into renewables, we are not going to see the benefits going back to the community, just like what happened with the solar at Collinsville.


We have seen what is happening with the Chalumbin Wind Farm, and thankfully the federal minister has stepped in to say, 'Go back. We believe this is beyond the scope that can cater for that region.' We are seeing all these wind farms and solar farms being established that are destroying our natural habitat while at the same time they are getting a free pass in relation to the vegetation management laws. Farmers have to go through a massive process just to clear their land so they can grow some fruit and vegetables. When it comes to wind farms, they get a free pass; they get a free tick. There is no accountability whatsoever.

I go back to Collinsville as an example and a proposal to restart it. It is believed that power station would have a capacity of 180 megawatts if it were to be restarted. That 180 megawatts would have covered almost all these renewable energy projects from Collinsville to the Atherton Tablelands and it would have provided more reliable and efficient power than all these projects. Just keeping that one project operating and alive would have saved tens of thousands of acres and hectares and the destruction of natural habitat.

Two factors come into this. Collinsville power station had a capacity of 180 megawatts. It produced jobs in the regions. There were hundreds of homes. It supported businesses and supported the coalmining families in providing those jobs. There was also the Tully-Millstream hydro-electric scheme. That was approved and would have provided 600 megawatts of clean, green energy. I wish

to point out that a lot of protesters back then stopped that project going ahead. However, when the announcement of Chalumbin was made, which was going to destroy almost 3,000 acres of sclerophyll forests and threaten our native species, those protesters were nowhere to be seen. They were there to stop the hydro-electric scheme that would have powered 10,000 homes. We would not even have had to worry about any renewable energy projects because that hydro-electric scheme would have achieved enough power with the continuation of the Collinsville power station.

I am very concerned about these figures in the bill. I am very concerned and I remember this privatisation by stealth process. In the same way we are now seeing these wind farms and solar farms, a lot of them having been set up by foreign companies, paid for by the taxpayer of this state and country. We are also seeing that the profits are returned to the state government or whomever it may be—profits that would have looked after our children, our schools and our roads. I cannot support this bill.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (12.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill and the Clean Economy Jobs Bill. These two bills mark an important moment in Queensland's history and I am very proud that we are debating them, because ahead of us lies two very different futures: a clean economy future where we act to invest in renewable energy and pumped hydro storage, where manufacturing in Queensland is powered by renewable energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a future where we set up Queensland's economy for the next century with tens of thousands of high-paying jobs across our regions; or a future where our state is powered by nuclear energy, which we know would be more expensive, would take longer and leave us without the clean energy jobs reliant on cheap, stored renewables. The LNP nuclear option would see manufacturing go offshore to countries that keep investing in cheap, clean renewable energy and we would lose \$430 billion in economic opportunity. We would all be left poorer for it.

These bills set the legislative pathway for Queenslanders to make our future with stored renewables and not with nuclear power. However, legislation alone will not guarantee the actions that will be needed to deliver on a clean economy future. Only Labor will fight for Queensland's future. Only Labor will deliver the investment in the pumped hydro energy storage, the SuperGrid and the renewable energy that will be needed. Only Labor will back public ownership of our power assets so that we can deliver on this plan and protect our energy security with a commitment to keeping the SuperGrid and our large-scale pumped hydros 100 per cent owned by the people of Queensland as well as more than half—54 per cent—of our generation.

Another clear difference between Labor and the LNP is that Labor believes energy assets should stay in public hands. The LNP has always wanted to privatise them and now it proposes to do so by stealth. Its nuclear power plants would be paid for by taxpayers but owned by private corporations profiting from those higher power prices. Only a Labor government will invest in the proven, established technologies and in a plan backed by science and economic modelling. We will not back unsafe nuclear energy at more than five times the cost and we will not place our Great Artesian Basin and the Great Barrier Reef at risk by starting uranium mining.

Only a Labor government will deliver the most significant investment in economic infrastructure since the railways of the 19th century. The railways made Queensland's future during the second industrial revolution. Our investment in renewable energy will make Queensland's future for the clean energy industrial revolution. We are only able to do this because we are committed to keeping progressive coal royalties. Queenslanders can take that to the bank.

Independent modelling released today by Deloitte Access Economics forecasts that our 75 per cent emissions reduction target by 2035 will deliver \$430 billion in additional value for the Queensland economy supporting an additional 415,000 jobs, with 85 per cent of those in the regions. Our regions have the most to lose from failing to act and the most to gain from our world-leading economic plan. They also have the most to lose from the LNP's nuclear plan. By fighting for Queensland's clean economy future, we will make Queensland the destination of choice around the world for investment and clean economy jobs.

We are delivering the investment in a critical minerals industry for Queensland—a critical minerals industry that unlocks more mining jobs and more manufacturing jobs. We will make batteries, process minerals and manufacture metals right here in Queensland. We are already starting to see that investment, with Multicom starting Queensland's first vanadium mine and Vecco processing vanadium electrolyte in Townsville—the start of an entirely new vanadium mining industry in Queensland.

Yesterday I was with Alpha HPA in Gladstone which is making high-purity alumina for semiconductors and LEDs. Our investment in CopperString will both make electricity prices more affordable in the North West Minerals Province and power that province with renewable energy. The SuperGrid unlocks a new hydrogen industry in Queensland, building on the expertise of our established


LNG industry. The hydrogen industry will allow for Queensland's sunshine and wind energy to be used to power trains and trucks, and hydrogen turbines at our clean energy hubs will support our power system during extreme weather events from climate change.

Hydrogen allows for the transport of renewable energy to power our nation and our trading partners. Just last week I attended the opening of the world's largest hydrogen electrolyser factory in Gladstone with Fortescue Future Industries—a project proudly backed by our government—marking the start of a world-leading renewable technologies manufacturing industry in Queensland and a renewables manufacturing industry that also supports blue-collar jobs in our existing manufacturing industry, with steel made in Australia and fabricated at AllCon Steel in Queensland going into the Aldoga Solar Farm in Gladstone.

Queensland is now leading the nation in the delivery of new renewable energy projects, including the largest solar farm in Australia and one of the largest wind farms nearing completion. With any significant change, it is important to ensure the benefits flow to regional communities. That can only be achieved through proper engagement and consultation. That is why we have the \$200 million down payment on the Regional Economic Futures Fund to support regional communities with transition. Through the Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap, we are delivering on local energy partnerships to ensure that regional communities are heard and we are legislating the Job Security Guarantee to ensure that energy workers are guaranteed access to ongoing employment opportunities in regional communities—a guarantee only possible if we keep owning our power generation assets into the future. That builds on the historic Energy Workers' Charter co-signed by government, unions and the government owned corporations. I acknowledge the energy workers in the gallery today and the ETU. We kept our assets in public hands in large part thanks to your support, and thanks to your support we are locking in your jobs for the future.

We understand the importance of supporting our existing sectors with the legislation of sector plans. The sector plans will support the decarbonisation of our existing mining industry to make it more globally competitive, to support our agricultural sector to find new ways to lower emissions and be even more competitive through improving water efficiency and cheaper renewable energy, and to unlock a new natural capital industry in Queensland by working with our First Nations peoples and farmers as the stewards of the land to deliver more economic benefits for our regions.

I want to recognise here that our progress to date on emissions reduction and the achievement of these targets is dependent on maintaining our strong vegetation management laws—laws that the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition personally voted against and are on the record as opposing. We are committed to fighting for a better future for Queenslanders by delivering these bills here today. Our economic plan is backed by economic modelling. It shows that we are fighting for a future with more union good-paying jobs, a better standard of living for households and improved affordability for businesses. We are fighting for a future where we make things here in Queensland, where we have quality jobs in our regions for our children and where we protect our natural environment for our kids so they can grow up to have the jobs of the future—one powered by stored renewable energy, not by nuclear reactors.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (12.28 pm), in reply: It is an honour to be involved in this historic process. The work that is being done by those particularly in the gallery for years—for decades—is about to be enshrined in Queensland's statutes. Your values—Queenslanders' values—are about to become law. Queenslanders value public ownership of their energy companies and they value the heroes that work for them. This government applauds your work.

The debate on this bill has made clear the division in the Liberal National Party. The member for Bonney, the shadow spokesperson, claims the LNP supports emissions reduction yet the member for Nanango objects to how to get there. Whilst those in the gallery have been here today, they have heard members of the LNP declare that they will vote 'no' to public ownership of Queensland's energy assets. Those opposite have no alternative plan to the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. It was launched 568 days ago and they have no alternative plan. Together, the two shadow spokespeople for the Liberal National Party deliver only uncertainty for workers, uncertainty for industry, uncertainty for communities and uncertainty for our planet.

It is no longer clear who is in charge of the Liberal National Party. It is clearly not the member for Broadwater, nor his deputy. Neither of them have bothered to speak to the bills before this House, nor have they bothered to listen to the debate in this House. How can any Queenslanders believe the LNP

is serious about emissions reduction and the clean energy transition when they cannot agree amongst themselves? It appears there is only one thing that they can agree on and that is privatisation. That is the thing they are universal on.

The amendments moved by the Liberal National Party to vacate renewable energy as the energy system transition is the clearest statement they have made since Strong Choices that they intend to privatise Queensland's energy system. They are proposing to take public ownership away from Queenslanders and take certainty away from investors. They are seeking to scrap a plan that has been internationally acclaimed as the most comprehensive, effective and well-funded energy transition plan anywhere in the world. The Liberal National Party is littered with deniers and detractors. Its members, Canavan and Littleproud, who today declared he will not endorse an emissions reduction plan, and their leader Dutton, who is completely obsessed with nuclear, this week made clear their deep-seated opposition to energy storage. Either they want no action or they want nuclear. Those are the two highest cost choices to the consumer and have the highest cost to the planet. Without deep storage like pumped hydro you cannot deliver a transition to clean energy—not if you want that energy to be reliable or affordable. If you do not have an energy plan you cannot meet your targets.

The opposition and the crossbench have moved amendments around consultation, but their proposals come well after amendments that we have already moved, actions that we have delivered, programs that we have implemented and funding that we have committed. They come after our commitments to announce Coexistence Queensland, our establishment of a mandatory code of conduct, obligations on the minister with mandatory consultation periods when we are establishing renewable energy zones and the publication of our Renewable Energy Zone Roadmap.

The Miles government is clear in its determination to ensure regional Queenslanders, landholders and their communities are partners in the transition. This bill is all about the lowest cost to consumers and the lowest, most affordable power to households and businesses. It is about an orderly transition, it is about enshrining public ownership and it is about support for regional communities. The opposition's last-minute amendments are simply a desperate grasp to show relevance. Some of them, in fact, are completely contrary to the purposes of the act proposed. They ignore the fact that the act specifically states that every decision taken in relation to steps anywhere else in it must be in accordance with its main purposes. I remind members of the House—in particular, I remind those opposite—that the purpose of these laws is to increase the amount of electricity generated from renewable energy sources to ensure that it is safe, secure, reliable and cost effective and to support workers and communities in areas affected by renewable energy projects.

We know that public ownership has been hard fought and hard won in this state and today the LNP proposes to scrap that. This morning I heard stakeholders from the renewable energy sector, some of them in the gallery today, say that they are devastated by the LNP's response to the bill and their amendments. They tell us that they had certainty about the transition and today the LNP have attempted to rip that away from developers, investors and communities. We will not let the LNP rip away from Queenslanders the assets that they own. I know that Queenslanders will not cop that. It is a fact that Queenslanders have the lowest energy bills of any state in Australia. It is a fact that only Labor will deliver a renewable energy transition that is more affordable for Queenslanders. It is only Labor that will ensure emissions reduction and it is only Labor that will deliver a Job Security Guarantee.

I would like to take this moment to acknowledge those in the gallery today. They include Queensland's energy workers who work tirelessly day and night through cyclones, storms, tornadoes, floods and heatwaves, out in the field, in the office and in the power stations. Their commitment to Queenslanders is extraordinary and we thank each and every one of them. We can also see in the gallery leaders and representatives of the environmental organisations, Queensland's trade union movement and industry stakeholders who have campaigned so passionately for these reforms for a long time. We thank previous climate, environment and energy ministers for their contributions, their leadership and their dedication. We thank the staff of their agencies. I would like to acknowledge as well my office and its advisers and the members of the Labor Party and the Labor movement who have fought hard for and won public ownership and climate action.

We have 10 short years to transform our energy system. We have a short time to avoid dangerous climate change and grasp the opportunity of the energy transition. That is why we are taking strong action. Without Queensland leading the way, Australia cannot meet its targets. We know Queenslanders want action and they are already doing their bit. We see them recycling and installing rooftop solar, but they cannot do it alone. Governments need to do the heavy lifting and that is what Labor is doing for Queenslanders. When we have reached net zero what will Queenslanders see? They will look around them and they will see prosperous communities, they will see affordable energy and

they will see a thriving Great Barrier Reef. They will open the history books and see the work of those in the gallery today: people with commitment and imagination, people with courage to act, people who care about Queenslanders. We will not let the Liberal National Party rip that future away from the next generation of Queenslanders. We will not let the LNP auction off your jobs to the lowest bidder. We will not let them cut, sack and sell. In commending the bills and the government's amendments to the House, I would like to reassure everybody in the gallery today and every Queenslanders that, under Labor, Queensland's assets are not for sale and they never will be.

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No yelling from the gallery, please.

Division: Question put—That the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill be read a second time.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 36:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That the Clean Economy Jobs Bill be read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (12.46 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 12 (Review of renewable energy targets)

Page 13, line 12, '5'—

omit, insert—

2

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

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Mrs Deb Frecklington's amendments [\[613\]](#).

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mrs Deb Frecklington's amendments [\[614\]](#).

Mr de BRENNI: The government will not be supporting the LNP's amendment, which seeks to impose upon the state a requirement to review renewable energy targets every two years, not every five years. I have just spoken in this House about the importance of certainty: certainty to workers, certainty to communities and certainty to investors. We are of the view that five years strikes the right balance between certainty and the need to review. More frequent reviews risk uncertainty. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council said that it is supportive of legislating the renewable energy targets, providing a level of certainty to industry. That is exactly what we are delivering. Stakeholders have told us that a five yearly review strikes the right balance. More frequent reviews only create uncertainty. On that basis, the government will not be supporting the amendment.

Non-government amendment (Mrs Frecklington) negatived.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—



Mr BERKMAN (12.48 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 13 (Public ownership strategy)

Page 14, line 5—

omit, insert—

13 Strategies for public ownership

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

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[615\]](#).

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[616\]](#).

I would argue that this is a very sensible, a very popular and a very reasonable proposed amendment. These amendments to clause 13 would see the floor for our public ownership of renewable energy moved from 54 per cent to 75 per cent. We have heard much in this debate about the importance of public ownership and the value that Queenslanders place on public ownership of our electricity generation assets. It is clear that it is not only popular but also fundamental for us to make the transition to 100 per cent renewables and to net zero emissions in this country in an orderly and transitioned way. The higher the proportion of public ownership in Queensland's electricity system, particularly in relation to electricity generation, the better able we are to meet the needs of workers and communities dependent on the system as it exists at the moment.

Over the years we have heard various figures thrown around the years about what the current percentage of public ownership is of our generation assets. In estimates, year on year, I have put the question to ministers. At various points I received an answer that it was about 65 or 66 per cent public ownership. There are various ways to measure that, whether it is generation itself or the nameplate value of the generation assets. However, now we are left with a proposal that would see only 54 per cent of guaranteed public ownership in this state. For years now, the Greens have said that we need to aim higher than that. We need to be aiming to return to 100 per cent public ownership of our key generation assets. Through 100 per cent public ownership, we not only have control of the nature of that generation and where the revenue from that generation goes but also we potentially save enormous amounts of money for Queenslanders—and that is before we even start talking about the cost of Labor's privatisation of electricity retail in 2006. By owning those assets, we can smooth any of the bumps in the transition far more. We can make life easier for those communities and those workers who are going to feel those bumps.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the workers and communities in Queensland who have over the years ensured electricity supply and guaranteed that we enjoy the quality of life that we do. We make no apologies for arguing for 100 per cent renewable energy. We make no apologies for arguing for a short-term target of 75 per cent public ownership of our energy sector, our generation sector. We need to be aiming for 100 per cent publicly owned on renewables in Queensland.

Mr de BRENNI: We appreciate the intent of the amendments but, as I said earlier, we consider that the percentages outlined in the bill strike the right balance. They are reflective of the ownership of generation, distribution and transmission as it is today. Fifty-four per cent of generation will give Queenslanders control of their energy system. It will enable the government to ensure transition occurs in a way that is in the best interests of consumers whilst, importantly, still allowing investment to ensure a source of capital is there to enable the transition. We are confident that the balance delivered in the bill delivers the lowest cost to consumers and delivers workforce security but retains control of an orderly transition. Additionally, there is no analysis conducted on the cost of the proposed amendments, and, in our view, much of it goes to commercial arrangements, particularly in relation to the member's interests in retail, which are outside of the purpose of the bill. As such, we will not be supporting that amendment.

Dr MacMAHON: I rise to give my support to the member for Maiwar's amendment. I also wish to speak about how important it is that we have our electricity system in public hands. Labor likes to say that we have publicly owned electricity while forgetting the fact that, particularly in the south-east corner, we have private for-profit entities that run our electricity retail, price gouging Queenslanders. To say

this is the most cost-effective approach forgets the fact that for-profit entities are mainly interested in making money as opposed to delivering electricity to Queenslanders in a cost effective and clean way. I would urge everyone in the House to support the member for Maiwar's amendments.

I would have had a lot more to say on this bill had debate not been rather rudely cut off. There were a number of members who did not get the opportunity to speak to this bill. I urge everyone to support the member for Maiwar's amendments to make sure that our electricity system is genuinely in public hands and is run for public benefit.

Mr McCALLUM: Following on from the minister's contribution, which outlines exactly why the government will not be supporting this amendment, part of the bill is that: 100 per cent of our poles and wires will remain in public ownership; and 100 per cent of the deep water storage that is proposed under the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and 100 per cent of our high-voltage transmission network will remain in public hands. It is only still in public hands because Queenslanders voted for that and because the Labor government took action to protect it. In passing this law, this parliament will be hardwiring in the wishes of Queenslanders and voting for strong decisions made by a Labor government.

When it comes to the protection of the assets that are the subject of this amendment, as has been mentioned during the debate, community members right across Queensland and community leaders, some of whom are in the gallery today, campaigned as part of an antiprivatisation campaign to keep these assets in public hands. Frankly, I was part of that and I did not see anybody from the Greens political party. This amendment is just a grandstanding exercise.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to speak to this amendment because I am pretty sure I am not going to get to speak to my amendment, which is up next. I think it is important to let the Greens members in this chamber know that, under the proposed legislation, as it now stands, this government could sell 46 per cent of the current 100 per cent state owned generators. The current generators that are owned 100 per cent—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is what this legislation is setting us up to do. That is exactly why I will seek to move the amendment that is coming up. I know the minister wants to truncate this debate because he does not want to get to my amendment which shows that it is those on this side who are looking after state owned assets. This Premier did his apprenticeship under Anna Bligh when the Labor government sold off assets. This government is setting up under this bill to sell off our current state owned generators, and that is deeply concerning to the LNP. It is privatisation by stealth. We know that this government has no clue what deep storage is going to cost. We have had different amounts from the Treasurer and the Premier. I ask the energy minister again: how much will this cost?

Mr Miles interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! Deputy Premier!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, you just ruled that the Premier was interjecting. He is currently on a warning from question time today.

Mr SPEAKER: It is up to my determination as to whether that is going to increase our time allotted on this. I would like to put the question, member. Premier, there is a concern about that. They were not warned.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: He was warned earlier this morning, yes. I have cautioned both of them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I say to the Greens that, in terms of this Labor government, they need to make sure they know with whom they are jumping into bed, because we now know the intent of this legislation. I say to the energy minister—because he knows this—that, as written in the legislation, 46 per cent of the current government owned generators could be flogged off by the government because the legislation only requires 54 per cent. I think they have just worked this out, which is why they need to come clean with Queenslanders. That is why it is only the LNP that have committed to keeping the current energy generators in Queenslanders' hands. We know the Premier did his apprenticeship under Anna Bligh when several of the then ministers sold off assets. I say again: who sold off the assets? It was Labor that sold off the assets!


Mr MILES: We know from this debate that the LNP want to sell off our energy assets. Under Labor they are not for sale.

Division: Question put—That the member for Maiwar's amendment No. 1 be agreed to.


Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

Clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the business program motion agreed to by the House, the time allocated for this stage of the bill has expired. I will now put all remaining questions. The House will consider the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill first.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note the minister's amendments Nos 18, 19 and 20 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (1.06 pm): I table the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [\[617\]](#).

Tabled paper: Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [\[618\]](#).

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 22, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 42 (Information about REZ transmission network)

Page 39, line 23, 'A'—

omit, insert—

(1) A

2 Clause 42 (Information about REZ transmission network)

Page 40, lines 14 to 19, from 'granted,' to 'network'—

omit, insert—

granted;

3 Clause 42 (Information about REZ transmission network)

Page 41, after line 8—

insert—

(2) The process mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(iv)—

(a) must have regard to the following—

(i) the social licence criteria prescribed under the *Electricity Act 1994*, section 180(2)(f);

(ii) the capability and performance of entities to develop projects for the REZ transmission network and connect the projects to the transmission network;

(iii) the feasibility of projects to be developed and connected to the REZ transmission network within an appropriate timeframe; and

(b) may include stated criteria that must be satisfied for connection and access to the REZ transmission network.

Example of criteria—

an entity may connect to and access the REZ transmission network only if the social licence criteria mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) are satisfied

4 Clause 45 (Draft management plan)

Page 42, line 14, 'section 42(b)(iv)'—

omit, insert—

section 42(1)(b)(iv)

- 5 Clause 53 (Definitions for division)**
Page 48, line 32, 'section 42(b)(iv)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(iv)
- 6 Clause 53 (Definitions for division)**
Page 49, line 10, 'section 42(b)(iv)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(iv)
- 7 Clause 54 (Restriction on connection and access to REZ transmission network)**
Page 50, line 3, 'section 42(b)(v)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(v)
- 8 Clause 54 (Restriction on connection and access to REZ transmission network)**
Page 50, line 9, 'section 42(b)(i)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(i)
- 9 Clause 54 (Restriction on connection and access to REZ transmission network)**
Page 50, line 25, 'section 42(c)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(c)
- 10 Clause 59 (Existing applications to connect—REZ transmission network)**
Page 54, line 8, 'section 42(b)(v)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(v)
- 11 Clause 59 (Existing applications to connect—REZ transmission network)**
Page 54, line 12, 'section 42(b)(v)'—
omit, insert—
section 42(1)(b)(v)
- 12 Clause 83 (Authorisation for competition legislation)**
Page 76, line 21, after 'REZ'—
insert—
, including conduct relating to the preparation of, or consultation on, a draft of the management plan
- 13 Clause 83 (Authorisation for competition legislation)**
Page 77, line 2, 'Rules.'—
omit, insert—
Rules;
(d) conduct, of an entity, prescribed by regulation that is necessary or incidental to facilitate—
(i) a part of Queensland to be declared to be a REZ, even if the part is not ultimately declared to be a REZ (a **proposed REZ**); or
(ii) the development of a transmission network to be the REZ transmission network for a REZ or a proposed REZ; or
(iii) the operation of the REZ transmission network or REZ controlled assets for a REZ or a proposed REZ; or
(iv) arrangements for connection and access to the REZ transmission network or REZ controlled assets for a REZ or a proposed REZ, including the transition of arrangements under the national electricity laws to arrangements under this part.
- 14 After part 11, heading**
Page 117, after line 19—
insert—
Division 1 Application of transmission ring-fencing rule to Powerlink
170A Application of transmission ring-fencing rule
(1) The transmission ring-fencing rule and other provisions of the national electricity laws apply to Powerlink subject to a regulation made under this section.
Note—
See also sections 33 and 84.

- (2) A regulation—
- (a) may provide for the application of the transmission ring-fencing rule to Powerlink; and
 - (b) for that purpose, may—
 - (i) provide that the transmission ring-fencing rule does not apply to Powerlink in relation to a matter or applies in relation to a matter with stated modifications; and
 - (ii) state how other provisions of the National Electricity Rules apply in relation to a matter having regard to the transmission ring-fencing rule not applying or applying with stated modifications to Powerlink in relation to the matter.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2)(b)(i), a regulation may provide that—
- (a) a stated requirement of the transmission ring-fencing rule does not apply to Powerlink; and
 - (b) another requirement applies in place of the requirement mentioned in paragraph (a).
- Example—*
- The regulation may provide that 1 or more requirements, or all of the requirements, of a former version of the 'Transmission ring-fencing guidelines' made under the National Electricity Rules apply to Powerlink in place of 1 or more requirements, or all of the requirements, of the current version of the guidelines.
- (4) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under this section only if the Minister is satisfied the regulation is necessary to achieve the main purposes of this Act stated in section 3(a) or (b) by enabling Powerlink to comply with this Act.
- (5) In this section—
- transmission ring-fencing rule*** means—
- (a) the National Electricity Rules, rule 6A.21; and
 - (b) the 'Transmission ring-fencing guidelines' made under that rule.

170B Validation of particular acts and omissions of Powerlink

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) during the period starting on 1 March 2024 and ending on the day a regulation is made under section 170A, an act done, or omission made, by Powerlink contravenes the transmission ring-fencing rule within the meaning of that section; and
 - (b) the act or omission would, if it had occurred after the day a regulation is made under section 170A, have been valid and lawful under the national electricity laws.
- (2) For the national electricity laws, the act or omission is declared to be, and to have always been, valid and lawful.

170C Review of operation of regulation made under section 170A

- (1) The Minister must, within 3 years after a regulation is first made under section 170A, review the operation of the regulation.
- (2) In conducting the review, the Minister must—
- (a) consult with Powerlink and the AER; and
 - (b) consider whether the regulation continues to be necessary to achieve the main purposes of this Act stated in section 3(a) or (b) by enabling Powerlink to comply with this Act.
- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that this section does not prevent the Minister from reviewing the operation of the regulation at any time.

170D Expiry

This division expires on 31 December 2035.

Division 2 Other provisions

15 Clause 171 (Definition for part)

Page 117, line 20, 'part'—

omit, insert—

division

16 Clause 171 (Definition for part)

Page 117, line 21, 'part'—

omit, insert—

division

17 After clause 179

Page 122, after line 21—

*insert—***179A Limited protection from liability for Powerlink**

- (1) Powerlink is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence, that is necessary or incidental to facilitate—
 - (a) a part of Queensland to be declared to be a REZ, even if the part is not ultimately declared to be a REZ (a **proposed REZ**); or
 - (b) the development of a transmission network to be the REZ transmission network for a proposed REZ (the **proposed REZ transmission network**); or
 - (c) the operation of—
 - (i) the proposed REZ transmission network for a proposed REZ; or
 - (ii) transmission assets that are to be REZ controlled assets for a proposed REZ (the **proposed REZ controlled assets**); or
 - (d) arrangements for connection and access to the proposed REZ transmission network or proposed REZ controlled assets for a proposed REZ, including the transition of arrangements under the national electricity laws to arrangements under part 6.
- (2) If subsection (1) prevents a civil liability attaching to Powerlink, the liability attaches instead to the State.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies to acts done, or omissions made, by Powerlink in relation to a proposed REZ—
 - (a) only in its capacity as a Transmission Network Service Provider under the National Electricity Rules; and
 - (b) only during the period—
 - (i) starting when this Act was assented to; and
 - (ii) ending when the first of the following happens—
 - (A) the proposed REZ is declared to be a REZ;
 - (B) the end of 2 years after the day this Act was assented to.
- (4) Subsection (1) applies to acts done, or omissions made, by Powerlink during the period mentioned in subsection (3)(b) as if the relevant provisions had commenced on the day this Act was assented to.
- (5) In this section—

relevant provisions means—

 - (a) this section; and
 - (b) the other provisions of this Act relevant to the operation of this section.

18 After clause 184

Page 125, after line 21—

*insert—***184A Amendment of s 180 (Consideration of application for generation authority)**

- (1) Section 180(2)—

insert—

 - (f) the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation are satisfied for the generating plant to be connected to a transmission grid or supply network under the authority.
- (2) Section 180—

insert—

 - (4A) A regulation may prescribe the matters the regulator must consider in deciding whether the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation are satisfied for generating plant, including, for example, whether the code of conduct under section 180A has been complied with.
- (3) Section 180—

insert—

 - (8) In this section—

social licence criteria, for generating plant, means criteria about the conduct or proposed conduct of persons involved in the development, building or operation of the generating plant relating to—

 - (a) community and stakeholder engagement for the development, building or operation of the generating plant; or

- (b) mitigating or addressing the impact of the development, building or operation of the generating plant on a community affected by the development, building or operation of the generating plant; or
 - (c) the delivery of benefits of the development, building or operation of the generating plant to a community affected by the development, building or operation of the generating plant.
- (4) Section 180(4A) to (8)—
renumber as section 180(5) to (9).
- 184B Insertion of new s 180A**
After section 180—
insert—
 - 180A Code of conduct for social licence criteria**
 - (1) The Minister may make a code of conduct for persons involved in the development, building or operation of a generating plant for the purposes of the social licence criteria prescribed under section 180(2)(f).
 - (2) A code of conduct, or an amendment of a code of conduct, does not have effect unless it is approved by regulation.
 - (3) The Minister must table a copy of a code of conduct, or an amendment of a code of conduct, with the regulation approving the code of conduct or amendment.
 - (4) A code of conduct, or an amendment of a code of conduct, takes effect—
 - (a) on the day the regulation approving the code of conduct or amendment commences; or
 - (b) if the code or amendment states a later day—the later day.
 - (5) The Minister must—
 - (a) publish a code of conduct in effect under this section on the department's website; and
 - (b) make the code of conduct available to the public in any other ways the Minister considers appropriate.
 - (6) If a code of conduct is inconsistent with a regulation, the regulation prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.
 - (7) The Minister must review a code of conduct at least once every 5 years.
- 184C Amendment of s 184B (Consideration of application for transfer)**
 - (1) Section 184B(2)—
insert—
 - (d) the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation under section 180(2)(f) are satisfied for the generating plant to which the authority relates.
 - (2) Section 184B—
insert—
 - (4) In deciding whether the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation under section 180(2)(f) are satisfied for the generating plant to which the authority relates, the regulator must consider the matters prescribed under section 180(5).
- 184D Amendment of s 210 (Consideration of application for special approval)**
Section 210(2), 'Sections 180(2) to (7)'—
omit, insert—
Sections 180(2) to (9)
- 184E Amendment of s 212B (Consideration of application for transfer)**
 - (1) Section 212B(2), from 'satisfied'—
omit, insert—
satisfied—
 - (a) the proposed transferee is a suitable person to hold the special approval; and
 - (b) if relevant to the activities carried out under the special approval, the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation under section 180(2)(f) are satisfied for the generating plant to which the approval relates.
 - (2) Section 212B—
insert—
 - (4) In deciding whether the social licence criteria prescribed by regulation under section 180(2)(f) are satisfied for the generating plant to which the special approval relates, the regulator must consider the matters prescribed under section 180(5).

184F Insertion of new ch 14, pt 19

Chapter 14—

*insert—***Part 19 Transitional provision for Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2023****361 Social licence criteria do not apply for existing applications**

- (1) This section applies to an application for any of the following made but not decided under this Act before the commencement—
 - (a) the issue of a generation authority;
 - (b) the transfer of a generation authority;
 - (c) a special approval;
 - (d) the transfer of a special approval.
- (2) The application must be decided under this Act as in force immediately before the commencement as if the *Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2023* had not been enacted.

19 After clause 186

Page 126, after line 6—

*insert—***186A Insertion of new s 12A**

After section 12—

*insert—***12A Modification regulation-making power**

- (1) A regulation (a **modification regulation**) may modify the operation of any of the following—
 - (a) the National Electricity (Queensland) Law;
 - (b) the National Electricity (Queensland) Regulations;
 - (c) the National Electricity Rules to the extent they apply for the purposes of the National Electricity (Queensland) Law.
- (2) However, a modification regulation may be made only—
 - (a) to prevent or minimise an adverse financial effect the operation of the National Electricity (Queensland) Law would, without amendment, have on a particular class of retail customers in Queensland; or

Examples of classes of retail customers—

retail customers who are Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islander peoples, retail customers who are financially disadvantaged, retail customers who live in rural or remote areas
 - (b) to prevent or minimise an adverse financial effect the operation of the National Electricity (Queensland) Regulations, or the National Electricity Rules mentioned in subsection (1)(c), would, without amendment, have on—
 - (i) retail customers in Queensland; or
 - (ii) a particular class of retail customers in Queensland; or
 - (c) to give effect to the operation of the National Electricity (Queensland) Regulations, or the National Electricity Rules mentioned in subsection (1)(c), in a way that increases customer protection for retail customers in Queensland.

Example of increased customer protection—

a requirement for a network service provider to consider additional matters under the National Electricity (Queensland) Regulations or the National Electricity Rules in relation to quality, safety, reliability and security of supply of electricity for retail customers

20 After clause 187

Page 126, after line 11—

*insert—***187A Amendment of s 12 (Modification regulation-making power)**

- (1) Section 12(2)(a), from ‘, arising’ to ‘this section’—
omit.
- (2) Section 12—
insert—
 - (2A) Without limiting subsection (2)(a) or (b), it is declared that a change is necessary or convenient for giving effect to the operation of the Law mentioned in subsection (1)(a), or the Regulations or the Rules mentioned in subsection (1)(b) or (c), in Queensland if—

- (a) for a change to the Law—the change is likely to prevent or minimise an adverse financial effect the operation of the Law in Queensland would, without modification, have had on a particular class of customers in Queensland; or

Examples of classes of customers—

customers who are Aboriginal peoples or Torres Strait Islander peoples, customers who are financially disadvantaged, customers who live in rural or remote areas

- (b) for a change to the Regulations or the Rules—

- (i) the change is likely to prevent or minimise an adverse financial effect the operation of the Regulations or the Rules in Queensland would, without modification, have had on—

(A) customers in Queensland; or

(B) a particular class of customers in Queensland; or

- (ii) the change is likely to give effect to the operation of the Regulations or Rules in a way that increases customer protection for customers in Queensland.

Example of increased customer protection—

a requirement for a retailer to obtain explicit informed consent of a customer for the entry by the customer into a customer retail contract

- (3) Section 12(3), 'Without'—

omit, insert—

Also, without

- (4) Section 12(6)—

omit.

21 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 130, line 22, after 'part 11,'—

insert—

division 2,

22 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 132, line 11, ', for part 6,'—

omit.

Question put—That clauses 13 to 190 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clean Economy Jobs Bill



Mr de BRENNI (1.07 pm): I table the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [619].

Tabled paper: Clean Economy Jobs Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [620].



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

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 4, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 After clause 8

Page 8, after line 11—

insert—

8A Review of 2030 emissions reduction target

- (1) The Minister must, by 31 December 2025—

(a) review the 2030 emissions reduction target; and

(b) table a report about the outcome of the review in the Legislative Assembly.

- (2) The object of the review is for the Minister to decide whether the 2030 emissions reduction target remains appropriate, having regard to—
- (a) any progress towards achieving the target; and
 - (b) any measures taken by the Commonwealth government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - (c) any measures taken by the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - (d) any other matter the Minister considers relevant.
- (3) In this section—
2030 emissions reduction target means the emissions reduction target stated in section 5(1)(a).

2 Clause 12 (Making emissions reduction plans)

Page 10, lines 1 to 3—

omit, insert—

- (2) The stated Minister must ensure—
- (a) the public is consulted about the information the Minister proposes to include in the emissions reduction plan; and
 - (b) the emissions reduction plan is published on the Queensland government website by the day for publication of the plan stated in the program.

3 Clause 15 (Expert advice)

Page 11, after line 14—

insert—

- (3) The panel may consult any entity it considers appropriate to assist the panel in providing the written advice.

4 Clause 21 (Consultation with Premier and Treasurer)

Page 13, line 11, before '11'—

insert—

8A,

Question put—That clauses 1 to 22 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Division: Question put—That the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 37:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the long title of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill be agreed to.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

NOES, 37:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: McMillan, Molhoek.

Resolved in the affirmative.


Question put—That the long title of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill be agreed to.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Sitting suspended from 1.18 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Energy Assets


 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.00 pm): I join with the member for South Brisbane, who made a comment just before the end of the last debate about being rudely cut off, because I was prevented from speaking twice on the bill that has just passed through the House. I wanted to contribute a rebuttal once more to the asset sales argument of this government. For 15 years, we have heard the repetitive and monotonous claims about asset sales. There is only one party that has ever sold assets in Queensland, and I will run through them very quickly.

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business, Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell's and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and transportation business. In 2008, we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport. That is the truth. Those on the opposite side can come in here and talk about asset sales but the truth is that those opposite have a 15-year history of selling assets. In 2008, there was an all-out sale of Queensland assets. They introduced the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland, Queensland Motorways, the Port of Brisbane, Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses, Queensland Rail's commercial rail services such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight, and the Ports Corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point Coal Terminal. That is the Labor Party. Those are the assets they have sold.

Those opposite cannot be trusted and we are reminded once more of why they cannot be trusted. Yesterday, the Treasurer leaked debt figures. Yesterday, through leaks to the media we learnt that in Queensland debt across the board will hit \$188 billion, up from \$109 billion today. Debt will always be lower under a Liberal National Party government. Why? Debt can be lower if you stop the blowouts. We have seen a plethora of ministers over there blowing it out. You can grow the economy in the right way by not breaking taxation promises, by encouraging investment and by getting behind productivity measures that deliver the best bang for buck and the best economic dividend for Queenslanders. If you respect taxpayers' money and treat it like your own, you will have a cabinet budget review committee process that delivers real projects on time and on budget. Instead, we have record debt, record taxes and record numbers of Queenslanders living in tents.

I refer to the Speaker's statement on 16 April regarding correspondence from the Leader of the House. That was the first time the matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to the Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred to the fact that 18 of 19 ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question. I also pulled down my post from X.

Liberal National Party, Performance


 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.04 pm): What we just heard from the member for Toowoomba South is that the LNP's only plan is to cut. Absolutely that is their plan. What we have seen in the past 24 hours in this chamber shows how hard they will work for Queenslanders. I do not know if anybody in this room has had a chance to read the recommendations in the interim report but—my goodness me—blocking recommendations that are contained within that report, which we could be acting on now, is nothing short of shameful. To claim that there is a youth justice crisis but not want to act on these solid recommendations is nothing short of shameful. Everybody in our communities expects us to work hard for our communities. To refuse to agree to table the report by the deadline is nothing short of shameful. I am sure Queenslanders will be pleased to see underway the 60 recommendations contained in the report and we will work on delivering those to Queenslanders. It is disingenuous to come into this place and behave in the way that those opposite do. It is absolutely disingenuous.

This morning, we have debated two monumental pieces of legislation for Queenslanders that will deliver a renewables future and will make sure we can transition into jobs in the renewable space. Again, what we heard from them today is nothing short of shameful. Queenslanders should be absolutely disappointed in the contributions to that debate by the opposition. As I said yesterday, the elephant in the room is nuclear energy. If anybody is uncertain they need only look at the candidate for Oodgeroo to know her position and aspirations on nuclear. The LNP have had their true colours on show for the last 24 hours.

I want to touch on the visit that Minister Lance McCallum and I had to our TAFE. Again, there is a contrast between the Labor government and the LNP. The LNP closed TAFEs. The door was just about shut on the Alexandra Hills TAFE where we are training the electricians of the future who will work to deliver on our renewables future. Nobody should be confused in the next six months. The leopards do not change their spots. Half of the opposition sat in the Newman government and a significant proportion of them sat around the cabinet table that made those horrendous decisions. People should not think that anything is going to change real fast under an LNP government because their track record is on the board. Skilling Queenslanders for Work was another program we visited. Again, it is a program that was cut by the LNP. When it comes to supporting Queenslanders and making sure we have jobs, they fall short every time.

(Time expired)

Glenden

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.07 pm): Who could forget 23 August last year when the police minister, speaking on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, introduced an amendment to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 regarding the community of Glenden. It was an amendment introduced without any scrutiny by a parliamentary committee and without any consultation with QCoal, the company at the centre of this amendment. It defies belief that, in a desperate attempt to appear relevant, the government gave members of this House just 19 minutes to consider an amendment that would, according to those opposite, save Glenden. The question is: has that amendment saved Glenden?

Last week, I spent time in Glenden and spoke with residents and business owners. Eight months after that amendment passed through parliament, I can categorically say that nothing has changed in that community. That community continues to wither on the vine and look for assistance. It is highly likely that nothing will change following QCoal's advice that a substantial number of their workers would rather resign than move to Glenden forcibly.


When the *Courier-Mail* ran a story relating to Glenden on March 30, the comments section of their website came to life with contributors comparing the actions of this government with what we see in North Korea or China. As one contributor commented, 'This is a breach of human rights.' Workers from Byerwen Mine have contacted me directly, saying that they will quit their job before they uproot their family. That is a fact that this government failed to consider. One worker who owns a home near

Airlie Beach hit the nail on the head when he said that this government was telling him that they would decide where his children went to school and that this government was telling him that his wife would need to resign from her job in a medical practice.

This amendment is in almost complete opposition to this government's Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 that, according to the government, would ensure residents of communities within a 125-kilometre radius of a large resource project benefitted from the operation of that project. If that act were applied in the case of Glenden, mines as far north as Collinsville and as far south as Saraji would need to contribute to Glenden's future—but no. This amendment set a precedent that, when this government wants a good headline, no-one is safe. By engaging in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and workers, there is no doubt that we can find a solution and ensure Glenden's future. After all, we all have a responsibility to ensure that that is exactly what happens.

(Time expired)

Urgent Care Clinics

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.10 pm): As a mum, I know how important it is to be able to get to a doctor when you or your child is sick, and I also know how hard it is to get an appointment. That is why I am so pleased that the Miles government has partnered with the federal government to open the new bulk-billed Medicare urgent care clinic in North Rocky. This clinic is open seven days a week with extended hours for all those times you need urgent care for non-life-threatening emergencies from a nurse or doctor without visiting the hospital. Already, this urgent care clinic has treated thousands of local patients.


The federal Labor government promised that 50 urgent care clinics would be established by the end of 2023, and I am pleased that the federal government has delivered on that commitment. There are now 58 of them—not 50—and these clinics have serviced more than 250,000 Australians in just the last several months, including more than 10,000 patients every single week. That is well over half a million patients a year. They are delivering urgent care for non-life-threatening emergencies. They are delivering care where people need it, when they need it. Most importantly, they are taking that pressure off our hospital emergency departments which right across the country are under very serious pressure.

In those several months where 250,000 patients have been looked after, around a third of them are under the age of 15. They are kids who are sick who need to be seen urgently or who have fallen off their skateboard and broken their arm. They need urgent care but they do not necessarily need to go to a fully equipped hospital emergency department and wait, sometimes very long hours, to get the care they need.

The response we are receiving from patients is incredibly positive. Yes, there is more work to be done and, yes, I would love to see more doctors employed at the urgent care clinic, but the quality of care they are receiving from the doctors and nurses at the Rockhampton clinic is very high. Importantly, it is fully bulk-billed so all they need to do is bring their Medicare card. They do not need to pay a gap fee or worry about the possibility of paying a gap fee at all. This has been a missing part of the Australian healthcare system that has been identified by lots of experts, lots of providers and, frankly, lots of patients as well.

I am incredibly pleased that the federal government is keen to scale up more clinics across the country and to evaluate how these existing clinics are working. I am so proud that the Miles Labor government is delivering a record \$809 million budget for our CQ Hospital and Health Service. We are hiring more doctors and nurses, building a \$20 million new cardiac hybrid theatre and delivering a PET scanner and a new \$90 million mental health unit at Rockhampton Hospital. My No. 1 priority is and always will be providing quality health care closer to home for all Central Queenslanders. Those opposite cut 197 jobs from the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. Based on that track record, the LNP cannot be trusted with our health system.

Warrego Electorate, Flood Mitigation

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.13 pm): The last summer has certainly provided its flood challenges for many communities in my electorate. However, communities like Charleville, Augathella, Cunnamulla, Roma and St George have continued on with their day-to-day lives due to the levee banks that are protecting homes and businesses from floodwater. The flood diversion channel to the east of Roma has been engaged three times this year. This channel and the levee bank system protects over

400 homes from floodwater going over floorboards. This is flood mitigation built by the LNP when in government, working in partnership with the Maranoa Regional Council. Roma received 70 millimetres of rain overnight in a very wet catchment. However, the flood system did its job. Although there was a little bit of local water around, there was no water over floorboards, which was really pleasing to see.

The frequent floods that caused disruptions, cut people off and threatened homes are now fortunately a memory for this community. Roma is in a much better position now than it was prior to the levee bank being built. This water continues onto St George, which also has a levee bank protecting that town. This is flood mitigation that was, again, built by the LNP when in government, in partnership with the Balonne Shire Council. The Bollon flood levee was also a product of the LNP when in government, and this levee has again proved itself and protected that town. As the waters move their way through the river system, the levee keeps the St George businesses and homes safe from floodwater. In some parts of the town the levee just looks like an ordinary block wall; however, it works.


There is a similar story in Charleville. Charleville has a Bradley's Gully diversion system and a levee bank that protects the town from the Warrego River when it floods. I will table a photograph of the closing of the levee in Charleville.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a levee in Warrego [\[621\]](#).

This levee was closed not so long ago and was tested recently, and it protected the town and the businesses from flooding. This water now moves downstream past Wyandra and Cunnamulla, whose communities again are protected by levee banks. The Wyandra levee bank was built by the LNP when in government, in partnership with the Paroo Shire Council.

Levee banks work. They reduce the risk of flooding and they also protect communities from the economic disruption caused by floods. I find it hard to point to a levee bank that the Labor government has actually built in Queensland over the last 10 years. They promised one in Bundaberg, and that has blown out in cost from \$80 million to \$175 million. The reality is that levee bank announcements do not stop water from going over the floorboards; you actually have to build those levee banks. That is the difference between the LNP and the Labor government. Queenslanders certainly deserve better and they should show Labor the door in '24.

Miles Labor Government

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.16 pm): This term I have kept my promise to the people of Bundaberg to always be doorknocking, because when you doorknock you can get the pulse of the community and know what they are talking about. What they are talking about to me is cost-of-living relief. They want to make sure that our government is holding the big supermarkets responsible for the pressures they are putting on families and farmers, and that is exactly what we are doing.

They are talking about electricity rebates because they know that good governments invest in community. One of the ways you invest in community is through making sure the power bills are low when they have to pay them. That is why we have put forward those record-breaking electricity rebates and that is why I will be fighting to see those in the next budget—and increased as well—because that is what helps our community.

That is why we are putting in free kindy so that our young people can get the best start to life and we can help families right across regional Queensland. It is outstanding to hear that parents, grandparents and great-grandparents are so happy that their young ones are getting a head start with free kindy. It is why we are doing free TAFE.


When I was doorknocking throughout Millbank the other week, I met young Emmett, an 18-year-old enjoying free TAFE. He even stopped to say how great it was, so well done, young fellow. The problem for young Emmett is that, if the LNP get their way, free TAFE will be gone. He will be washed aside because that is what they do in the regions. We saw it under the Newman government. We know their record. We know that they are lining up and salivating to cut, to sack and to sell the programs that we put in to protect people in regional Queensland.

We know what their plans are because they have been revealed. They were revealed by an embarrassed member for Burnett who continues to give up the LNP's secrets. He said that he wants to break the back of unrealistic entitlements of Queensland Health workers, the same Queensland Health workers who they sacked—345 workers across the Wide Bay. The member for Maryborough knows that very well. That is their plan. That is what they want to do.

What about housing? What is their plan for housing? We have built more social housing in the last year than they delivered in Bundaberg in 2½ years in government. Now, the member for Burnett is criticising our plan to put modular housing into the mix. That is what the LNP are all about. They are about the cut, they are about the sack, they are about the sell.

What about the hospitals? We have heard the Leader of the Opposition say what his plan is for hospitals. He is going to fund the front line by taking from the back of house. They are his words. He said on Brisbane radio that they are going to take from the back of house to fund the front line. If you are an admin worker, a kitchen staff worker, a laundry worker or a maintenance worker, your job is under threat come October because of the LNP. We know that is their record. Every single Queensland worker in this state should be lining up in October to make sure that we keep our Bundaberg community strong. Let us all make sure that we never, ever let the LNP back into government in Queensland.

Burnett Electorate, Flood Mitigation

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.19 pm): Timing is ironic, isn't it? I want to follow on from the member for Warrego's discussions about flood mitigation. Historically, the Burnett River catchment experiences a major flood every 19 years. With the 2013 flood still in the back of our minds, which resulted in the largest evacuation event in Australia's history involving some 5,000 persons, I think it is relevant that we talk about the state and federal governments' proposed levee on the south bank of the Burnett River. It is forecast that it will protect primary businesses, the employment base of east Bundaberg, and about 600 properties, but it does not afford flood protection for everyone else, particularly those in north Bundaberg.

To date, the state government has spent \$43 million since the 2013 GHD report, the Jacobs report of 2016 and now the CDM Smith report of 2019, which the government has had for nearly five years and has been rereleased earlier this year. It gives me the opportunity to talk about an examination of the 770-page document and some of the concerns we want to put on the record. I believe we still have to look at what flood mitigation might look like. River naturalisation is a preferred option that, of course, would save hundreds of millions of dollars.

In a comparison of the 2013 GHD report and the revised CDM Smith report, there are issues. A climate change assessment was part of the GHD proposal and that has been removed. No climate change risk management factor has been allowed for the height of the wall. By contrast, a 200-year flood recommendation by GHD, plus another 600 millimetres extra height to prevent the level from overtopping, has also been taken out of the new proposal. Engineers and scientists agree that a one per cent future predictor of flood heights should be used in calculating the levee height, leaving the community with a one-metre difference.

For over a decade, the state government has promised boots on the ground and now defines the new project as an action plan to determine how best to reduce flood risk and improve the safety of the community. There is no expressed intention by the state government to address life and property risks in other areas except by evacuation routes and evacuation orders. Clearly, accepting the proposal for the flood levee height based on only a 100-year flood criteria leaves our community exposed.

A cause of concern is the flood levee's proposed location. The report says that levees should be located in areas of low velocity. Of course, anyone who was around in those times will know that at that part of the river it was a high-velocity flood. I have asked questions about the criteria, we have been thwarted in every way from getting the flood modelling and questions on notice have never been answered. I want to talk about the ongoing maintenance costs to the people and ratepayers of Bundaberg, which have not been discussed in this report. The costings talk about a \$100 million or \$84 million build. The question is: what is the \$174 million going to be used for? When we talk about what this means for the people of Bundaberg, as I said before, we have to be cognisant of the river naturalisation option.

If the people of Bundaberg do have concerns, a river consultation process is starting on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the School of Arts in Bourbong Street. I encourage everyone to go along, put their thoughts before the government and let's get this right.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I would like to acknowledge the student leaders from Harristown State High School who are present in the gallery. It is a school I have always had a degree of fondness for. It represents the pinnacle of my Rugby League career, being tackled by former Australian player, Steve Price, a former student of that school. It was the pinnacle of my Rugby League career and possibly the end of my Rugby League career.

Media Reporting



Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP) (2.22 pm): Over the past 24 hours, insinuations have been made that I, in my capacity as deputy chair of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, and other government members have advocated for the media to be gagged from reporting on matters relating to crime. That is not true. When my sister was murdered in July 24 years ago, it was with the support of local journalists and editors that we were able to highlight the impact of domestic violence. When my father was murdered in October later that year, 24 years ago, it was with the support of the media that I was able to develop the One Punch Can Kill campaign, a campaign that I know has gone on to save lives. I have worked productively with media syndicates throughout this country for 24 years.

Responsible media reporting is essential in the investigation and prosecution of crime. Investigative journalism, like the revelations recently in *Shandee's Story*, are essential to revealing injustice or policy gaps, and I and our government embrace that. Our government recently introduced legislation to enable victims of sexual violence to speak freely to the media. Now that the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee interim report has been tabled, we can all see the recommendations, including the recommendation that we made for greater transparency and opening up the courts to victims of crime and the media. That was in response to issues that victims raised with us. Government members listened and suggested the recommendation. Why would the recommendation not be made public?

Victims of serious and violent crimes have also told us that there are times when media reporting has caused secondary trauma. In my sister's case, the local TV network had captured footage of my sister's body being wheeled out of the hotel and into the back of an ambulance. The footage clearly showed her bloodied arm, as it had slipped out from under the sheet that covered her on the trolley. The network ran that footage for over a week as part of their advertising package to demonstrate how responsive they were at reporting on the issues that matter to locals. Our family and my sister's teenage friends were exposed to those images repeatedly until finally the network agreed to remove the footage. For many victims of serious and violent crime, this is also their story. While I have a deep respect and appreciation for the media and while I acknowledge the many caring professionals, there are times when networks get it wrong.

Twenty-four years on from living through two horrific family homicides, I have the rare privilege to serve in this House and to elevate the voices of victims of crime. While I do and when there is an opportunity to advance the rights of victims, even if it means calling on the media to be more sensitive in their reporting, then I will make that ask. I am disappointed that the LNP would clutch at these straws and mislead the House and the public in such a way.

Good, Ms A; Buderim Foundation



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (2.25 pm): The sickening horror and absolute tragedy that occurred at Bondi Junction last weekend is sitting in the pit of every Australian's stomach. Families were torn apart in the cruellest of circumstances. Our entire nation is mourning and struggling to accept that such senseless violence can exist. It could have happened anywhere to anyone, and that is what is hitting home for many Queenslanders.

Close to my home, thoughts are of Ashlee Good, the most courageous of mums who used her dying moments to save her nine-month-old baby daughter, Harriet. Before moving to Sydney, Ash worked as an osteopath next door to my electorate office in Buderim. Her former colleagues have reached out to me, hoping the Sunshine Coast community will get behind a fundraising effort to support her husband and baby girl. They tell me that Ash was involved in the Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club as an active patrol member, saving lives in her spare time while improving people's lives in her day job as an osteopath. I encourage everyone to visit the GoFundMe page set up under Ash's name.


Ash's friends have described her as having a beautiful and warm spirit with an energy and drive that inspired all. Baby Harriet is now forced to grow up without her mum. Nothing will fix that. She will, however, have the support of a nation, including those of us on the Sunshine Coast who are united in her devastation and will remember her mum as the brave and selfless hero that she was.

Turning to another Buderim local champion, in 2004 the Buderim community came together to launch the amazing community foundation that we now know as the Buderim Foundation. It is a philanthropic not-for-profit organisation that builds a stronger Buderim by harnessing the power of giving. The concept is simple: money comes in through donations and bequests, those funds are then invested and the earnings are distributed to support community organisations that support the Buderim community. Donations and bequests are never spent, and over the years the fund has continued to

grow. It was launched by the then Queensland governor, Dame Quentin Bryce. Since it was launched in 2004, the Buderim Foundation has provided \$1.791 million to our community. This year alone, the foundation provided \$65,800 to SunnyKids and \$43, 500 to support families on the Sunshine Coast with back-to-school expenses.

Last Friday night, we gathered at sunset to celebrate the 20th birthday of the Buderim Foundation. With a birthday cake made by a local small business, Simplee Sweet, and a few drinks, we celebrated a legacy that has made our community more vibrant; a legacy that has supported hundreds of community groups over the past 20 years. I look forward to it continuing for another 20 years. On behalf of our community, I want to place on record our community's thanks to the entire Buderim Foundation—all of the volunteers, ambassadors, donors and those who make our community a better place.

Energex Workforce; Education Infrastructure


 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.28 pm): I thank the member for Buderim for relaying that information about Ashlee and Harriet. I know the thoughts of everyone in this House are with them and their family. I note, reflecting the speech of the member for Cooper, that there is so much video footage of those traumatic events. The media certainly have to show some responsibility for inciting others and also show sensitivity given that families have gone through such trauma—families such as that of Ashlee and Harriet.

Just outside, we were reminded so much of the hardworking Queenslanders who keep our power network safe and secure while still pumping electricity through to all of our houses, which is so easy to take for granted. Let me say that the Logan community does not take Energex workers for granted one bit because on Christmas Eve, when our power network was absolutely smashed with high transmission and low transmission lines taken down, we saw them give up their Christmas holidays. I want to particularly thank Chris and Justin. Honestly, it was a bit like a Cedar Grove-Jimboomba reunion for all of those heroes in orange who have done so much for the Jimboomba community. It would be remiss of me if I did not thank them for their hard work. It would also be remiss of me not to say—when we have just seen a vote for privatisation by the LNP—that we are with you. We will back them and we want to keep their jobs secure. We absolutely want to keep the backbone of our networks in public hands.

I wanted to recognise that we have just had the Harristown State High School kids in gallery. They would be tremendously excited—as I am as a former schoolteacher; and I notice that there is a former principal in the House, the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals—because they know what having a great high school is really about.

I want to tell the Logan community, in one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland—between Park Ridge and Logan Reserve—information about a new high school that will be coming soon. I also want to give an update on the new Park Ridge-Logan Reserve primary school that is under construction. It is going ahead fast. Walls are going up. We will be able to open that on time in January next year. It is exciting news for that community, but we also need to remember that under the LNP there was not one new classroom that was built in this growing area of Logan—not one new school or classroom. We have built four new schools that are delivering for families. I am so proud of the families who make a big investment to build their first house in Logan. We are building the education for their kids.

Toowoomba North Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to address an issue of pressing importance to my electorate of Toowoomba North and the neighbouring regions. We are currently facing escalating challenges that are exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis for everybody in the region and everybody who lives west of the Bremer bridge. The challenges stem directly from longstanding infrastructure deficiencies, specifically, the Bremer bridge, the Glenore Grove crossroads and the Toowoomba Range.

What does this really mean? This is a vital infrastructure artery and everything that comes into our lives comes down that road—whether it be fuel or fresh produce. Everything that we buy and pretty much everything we sell is going up and down that road all of the time so when it is inefficient it not only affects the livelihoods of the people in Toowoomba but also affects the livelihoods of the people in Ipswich West and the Lockyer. This is a critical piece of infrastructure. There are increased fuel costs,

increased food costs and increased general deliveries. Everything that travels on the road is being affected because this Labor government has failed to plan. What concerns me is that in a press release on 11 April 2024, the minister stated—

This funding will ensure TMR is able to continue progressing additional structural investigations, assessments and monitoring to inform the design of rehabilitation works as a priority.

This is an admission that the minister still has no idea of the extent of repairs required. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. The truckies I am listening to have some questions for the minister. How long has the government been aware of the structural problems affecting the Bremer bridge? How frequently has the bridge undergone routine inspections and maintenance checks since 2015? What is the total cost to date of implementing the temporary measures such as contraflow lanes, traffic lights and additional signage on the Bremer bridge? What is the projected duration for the completion of the current repair works on the bridge? Are these repairs intended as a permanent solution or merely as a temporary solution? If they are temporary, what are the government's detailed plans about cost replacements for a new bridge? Lastly, are there plans to upgrade and improve flood resilience on the Warrego Highway from the Bremer bridge to Toowoomba to prevent future disruptions?

These questions are important to the transport and logistics industry not only in my area but also in the adjoining electorates in particular and to everybody who lives west of the Bremer bridge. Our infrastructure needs to be efficient, productive and futureproofed. Our communities should not have to pay for the failures of inadequate foresight and delayed responses by this Labor government that is spending taxpayers' money and still has no plan for how to fix this road.

ALP Candidate for Sandgate



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (2.34 pm): Members will recall that I advised the House in October last year that I would not be contesting the 2024 general election. At that time, I expressed a desire to see a young woman with a new and diverse perspective succeed me as the Labor candidate for Sandgate. Today, I can report to the House that I am pleased that, with the overwhelming support of the party locally and statewide, this has come to fruition, with the ALP's endorsement of Bisma Asif. Alongside her husband, Mitchell, Bisma is a Sandgate local who is passionate about and committed to our north side community, and she is out there sharing that passion and commitment with the Sandgate electorate right now.

As she told local journalist Brooke Jacobson when interviewed for the April edition of the *Sandgate Guide*, Bisma understands that 'good government can make an impact on people's lives'. That is why she has put her hand up to represent our part of the north side and she is telling local residents directly that she believes in building a fairer future where everyone has the chance to work hard and to get ahead.

Bisma is committing to locals that her top priority is to fight to deliver more secure, well-paying jobs to help families pay the bills and to provide for a better future. Bisma knows the value of hard work. As a teenager she worked three jobs in order to help support her family and pay the rent. Again, as she told the popular *Sandgate Guide*, her family came to Australia from Pakistan when she was eight years old and she speaks four languages. While Bisma knows that working families rely on Labor governments to deliver the quality hospitals, local schools and infrastructure that our communities need, she has also experienced firsthand the damage that the LNP can do.

When the LNP government was sacking workers at Queensland Rail, where Bisma's father worked, her family felt the insecurity. That is the risk that she is now discussing with the working families across the Sandgate electorate. They are raising risks with her—risks that they know from their local community; risks such as the threats that the Eventide and the Brighton Health Campus faced under the previous Newman government.

Bisma is talking to locals about the cost of living and about free TAFE and free kindy. Not only will Bisma be a great representative for the north side but she will bring capability and talent to that task and will contribute to this House should she gain the support of electors in October. Having seen Bisma's enthusiasm and hard work over a number of years, I am proud that such a talented local is committed to serving our amazing community. I know the community is responding strongly to her capability and her passion. That is why Bisma Asif is just the representative we need. She is a compassionate, committed communicator.

Youth Justice



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (2.37 pm): This state government does not care about a bipartisanship approach and shutting down the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee proves it. It is not bipartisanship if committee members have to vote with the government or else they are sacked. The LNP members of this committee were still working collaboratively when this government decided to shut the committee down. We voted to keep it going. We wanted a genuine inquiry because that is what Queenslanders deserve.

We only got through a third of the committee report. When you look at what was released in the report you can see the progress that was being made. Look at recommendation 1: the LNP recommended that the state government rewrite the Youth Justice Act. Labor wanted another review of the Youth Justice Act. We landed on the suggestion that the youth justice committee recommend that the state government, in fact, reform the Youth Justice Act. Progress was being made. Instead, Labor decided to recommend further reviews. We recommended that detention as a last resort be removed, that we rewrite the sentencing principles in the charter of youth justice, that we make victims' rights paramount—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am sorry but we do not have any time on the clock.

Mrs GERBER:—and that we reverse the onus in section 282A to take the burden off victims. Instead, Labor recommended that there be further reviews of these sections. I am confident that if the government had allowed the committee to continue to work we would have come to a bipartisan approach on these recommendations also. However this government decided to shut the committee down—

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I point out that the member for Logan is calling the member for Currumbin a liar.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, if there was unparliamentary language used, I ask that you withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw the unparliamentary language.

Mrs GERBER: The LNP members of this committee were constructively putting through recommendations, and recommendation 1 proves what we could have achieved. However, this state government does not care about bipartisanship. If they did, they would have allowed the committee to continue to do their work.

This report is damning for the government. It talks about gagging the media, and the LNP members were warning the state government against that. We were working towards recommendations to warn the state government against their proposal to regulate traditional media, but what do we see? This state government has dissolved the committee. They have dissolved the committee because they wanted to use it for their own political agenda.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member continues to say 'this government has dissolved'. It was the House that dissolved the committee.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member, I do believe that the Speaker did make—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, if I can just have some silence. Member for Currumbin, it was stated this morning by the Speaker that the House determined that, just to correct you.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. The House determined it would dissolve the committee and the government used their numbers to force that vote; to stack that vote. When we are talking about this committee, I feel most disappointed for the victims of crime, the organisations and the people who came before the committee and made submissions to the committee in the hope that real action might be taken and the hope that it might actually be bipartisan. Instead, this government has let them down. They have shut the committee down before their work was done. This government should be ashamed of themselves. It was not a bipartisan committee. This government never should have tried to gag the media.

Mental Health Services



Ms NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (2.42 pm): I start by expressing my sincere condolences to the families, carers and loved ones who have suffered tragic losses in recent events across the nation. Those events reinforce that the need for robust mental health services has never been more pressing. I am proud of the action that the Miles government is taking on mental health. We are delivering through our \$1.6 billion Better Care Together plan—delivering more beds, more staff and more services, including the largest ever investment in youth mental health services with a \$330 million commitment made possible through the mental health levy.

Our action on mental health stands in stark contrast to that of those opposite, whose silence on mental health is deafening. It is not enough to simply criticise from the sidelines and oppose without offering alternatives. The people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve to hear what the plans are of those opposite, but I recognise that for that to happen the LNP would first need a plan and it is clear they have none. It is abundantly clear that the Leader of the Opposition lacks the vision, the compassion and the political will to deal with this important issue. Let's not forget their track record when they were in power. This year marks 10 years since the LNP devastatingly closed the Barrett adolescent centre, then Queensland's only residential facility for adolescents with chronic and severe mental illness.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the acting manager of opposition business—I assume he is in that position; if he is not, he is interjecting out of his own seat—has used unparliamentary language in his interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, if you have used unparliamentary language I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: To aid the House I will withdraw.

Ms NIGHTINGALE: They closed the only facility that supported young people with complex and severe mental health needs.

Government members: Shame!

Ms NIGHTINGALE: It was a shame and I was right there. They ignored expert recommendations. They ignored the pleas of families, clinicians and the young patients themselves. Instead, they cut. We remember the tragic consequences of their disregard for youth mental health then and we remember it now.

I urge the member for Broadwater, who wishes to be premier, to let the people of Queensland know whether they plan to support the mental health levy and if they plan to cut, like they have done so devastatingly before. The people of Queensland deserve better from them. If the Leader of the Opposition cannot deliver so much as an idea then he cannot deliver for the people of Queensland.

Traeger Electorate, Services



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (2.45 pm): Where in the world, I ask members of the House, would they expect to have access to only two potatoes per household or expect to receive their mail two months after it was sent? Would it be Africa or Russia perhaps? How about Burketown in North Queensland? That is some of the adversity that we are facing due to the inability of the government to provide proper road access via the gulf roads. The roads through to Burketown only opened this week and last year there were also months of closure, and that leads to multiple failures in many areas.

To expand on the Australia Post example, if people order parts for a car or a helicopter or if the council orders IT parts, those items will be sent from Townsville to Cloncurry. If the road is closed, they will just say, 'That's a bit tricky.' Even though we can get other goods and food up there, they will send those items back to a depot in Townsville to sit for two months until the roads allow access. How are people supposed to run a business or a household like that? People are literally moving away from these communities now, saying, 'We can't put up with this.'


Honourable members can understand the frustration we in the KAP feel in representing these areas. We come down here and hear all the talk about the Olympics, which is likely to end up a \$20 billion scenario, or the \$7 billion Cross River Rail project and we are putting up with that sort of thing in Queensland. It cannot be accepted. These sorts of problems can be resolved with bridge access

over the Nicholson and Barkly rivers and Running Creek. Some of those are not big ticket items to fix. Up until recently, taxpayers have been paying to fly groceries into this place and it is an ever-increasing bill. It is very expensive. We are doing that because there is no long-term plan to build those bridges and the proper infrastructure.

We talk about health. A boy from Normanton rang and asked, 'Can we quickly get a plane in? I am going to miss the surgery in Townsville that I have been waiting for because the roads are cut off.' They could not get a plane out but he was lucky to get a lift in a food truck and another car to cross the rivers. Those are everyday things that we face—that was the Gilbert River crossing, which needs a bridge—because things have been neglected over the past 20 or 30 years. We have to catch up somehow.

Doomadgee recently had the benefit—and I say that sarcastically—of 10 days without mobile phone coverage because Telstra said they could not find a helicopter to bring someone in. New standards have just been applied to helicopters in the region that could further limit access to helicopters. Burketown is now suffering a phone service outage. It is really important that people understand that such adversity needs to be matched with investment to stop that sort of thing from happening.


Sexual and Reproductive Health

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.48 pm): Every woman and girl in Queensland deserves the right to safe and timely sexual and reproductive health care close to home and this Labor government is committed to providing equitable access to termination of pregnancy services for Queensland women, no matter where they live. This is why we removed termination of pregnancy from the Criminal Code in Queensland and earlier this year we passed legislation to break down the barriers faced by women to access safe and timely termination of pregnancy services. However, the LNP is a threat to a woman's right to choose. We know that almost all of those opposite voted to keep abortion in the Criminal Code and last month voted against expanding access to abortion services. Many of those opposite have not hesitated to make their outdated, paternalistic and moralising views well known. The member for Everton said that our laws could be interpreted 'as nothing short of legal killing' and results in lifelong guilt and bitterness in women.

On 5 March 2024 I responded to a question without noticed asked by the member for Macalister about women's reproductive rights and in my answer I referred to statements made by the member for Kawana during the Termination of Pregnancy Bill debate. I note for the benefit of the House that the member for Kawana was giving a personal account of his thoughts about abortion and referred to his personal position as weak. He was not attributing his personal position to others in that statement, so I would like to withdraw my earlier comments. However, the member for Kawana did go on to say that pregnant teenagers could take an easy way out under this bill and terminate their pregnancy.

These statements made by the LNP remain an important reminder that there are still people in this very parliament who are determined to take a stand against a woman's right to make decisions about her own sexual and reproductive health. We are seeing this play out in the United States right now, with access to safe terminations of pregnancy stripped away under the guise of health and safety. We may look at these cases and think that this can never happen here and that what is happening in the US—the stripping away of hard fought rights for women—could never happen here, but here is the truth: the rhetoric and the policies that we see from the LNP in this chamber are the very same as those of the right-wing US politicians. They will always be a threat to women's reproductive rights. The only way to ensure that women and girls in this state keep those hard fought for rights is to re-elect the Miles Labor government.

Coomera Electorate


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.51 pm): I rise to raise awareness of the infrastructure needs for the northern Gold Coast. We have several petitions calling for that infrastructure to be built in the Coomera electorate, and I will outline some of that infrastructure now. The first is the traffic congestion at Coomera exit 54 and the surrounding roads. We need additional east-west connectivity across the M1 to resolve those issues around exit 54. Things are only going to get worse with a new hospital coming online—indeed, more than one new hospital coming online—and the Coomera Connector finishing and spilling on to Foxwell Road. We desperately need those additional east-west roads.

There was a \$13 million bandaid solution provided for exit 45 instead of the \$130 million full upgrade of exit 45. Again, we see a situation where the bandaid solution fixed the safety issue off the M1, and I am thankful for that. However, it created an absolute nightmare for people. I hear from people all of the time about this issue. In fact, I experienced it myself. It took me 25 minutes to get across the M1 at exit 45 from the garage on one side to the roundabout on the other—it is about 150 metres—and others have told me that it has taken them up to an hour just to get across exit 45. The new minister has the business case for exit 38 on his desk. The former minister had the business case for exit 38 on his desk from 2019 and there has not been one dollar in any budget since then.

We need additional bus services between Beenleigh Railway Station and Ormeau Railway Station. These were promised two years ago but still not yet delivered. For some reason or other everywhere else—other than the fastest growing region in Queensland—seems to be getting additional bus services but not the fastest growing region. We have been fighting for a Jacobs Well bus service for a decade and there are still no daily bus services out to the thriving community of Jacobs Well and the canelands community. In terms of the construction of the Coomera Connector's next stages, as I mentioned before, everything is going to spill on to Foxwell Road at the current staged completion. There is nothing planned and no money for construction north of Shipper Drive. We need the next three sections of the Coomera Connector to be resolved and built.

With regard to TAFE centres of excellence for health and nursing, earlier I mentioned the new hospitals coming onboard. Where will we get the staff? We need a TAFE centre of excellence. Where should it be? Right there where the TAFE college is adjacent to the new hospital precinct so that we can have the nursing staff working across the road at the new hospital, and the list goes on. We need additional services for the northern Gold Coast.


Renewable Energy

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.54 pm): I rise to speak about the Miles Labor government's clean green sustainable energy record and meeting Queenslanders' expectations for a sustainable future. Why? Because I believe in a clean green Queensland for our future generations as it helps keep electricity costs down for all Queenslanders. The clean green energy being provided now and into the future with renewables like pumped hydro, solar and wind generation will keep downward pressure on family energy costs and help to deal with the cost-of-living pressures. Furthermore, Queensland is the only mainland state that maintains public ownership of its energy assets.

Those opposite, the LNP, continually attack renewables and our policy to keep our energy assets in public ownership and owned by every Queenslanders. The people of Queensland can see through the LNP's smoke and mirrors. They know that the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, was previously involved in the cutting, sacking and selling of Queensland assets. We know that the LNP has a plan to build nuclear power plants here in Queensland. The Liberal Party's federal opposition leader, Peter Dutton, has said on many occasions that the Liberal Party's policy is to build nuclear power plants. Peter Dutton, the member for Dickson here in Brisbane—the most senior LNP member in Queensland—is pushing on with this plan and the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, does not have the intestinal fortitude to stand up to him and say, 'No', or does he support the nuclear energy policy for Queensland? Either way, if the LNP gets into power in this state, nuclear power plants will be built here in the Sunshine State.

The next question is this: if in the unfortunate event that the LNP and those opposite get control of this state, where are they planning to build these nuclear power plants, especially in North Queensland? Mr Dutton will not want a nuclear power plant in his seat of Dickson. There are genuinely concerned members in my community who have lived in Townsville all their lives and they know the history of Ben Lomond uranium mine on Hervey Range near Townsville. There is also plenty of water nearby for a nuclear power plant. This is a very serious matter and I call on the opposition leader, David Crisafulli, to come clean, stand up to Peter Dutton and say no and put it in writing that he will not allow nuclear power plants in this state—built anywhere in Queensland—and table that document as a matter of public record here in this House.

Ambulance Ramping

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to address some of the comments made by the Minister for Health in this House earlier this week. On Tuesday the minister gave one of her stranger performances in this House when she spent her Dorothy Dixier attacking the opposition over ambulance

lost hours. It was bizarre and, to be frank, highly insensitive given that her attack was made on the very same day that the Ipswich Hospital released its findings into the tragic death of Wayne Irving. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Wayne's family, whom I have met, in particular his wife, Barbara, and daughter Lauren. Their search for answers and their bravery in speaking out is to be commended, especially in the face of such devastating grief.


The opposition leader said it perfectly earlier in the week when he said that, of the 162,000 hours ambulances were ramped last year, three of those hours were Wayne Irving. Given this, for anyone to suggest that the time ambulances lose ramped cannot be used as a yardstick or as a genuine measure is quite deplorable. The minister effectively said that the total ambulance lost time cannot be used as a yardstick to measure the performance of the Queensland Ambulance Service—and it is not the paramedics' fault this happens, and it is not that of the doctors or the nurses or the allied health professionals. These are system failures and those responsible are the ones who run the system. It is on them. Lost time counts. It should matter and it does to us, and I will quote the minister directly—

Queensland Health and the Ambulance Service collect and publish hundreds of points of data about how our system is performing, but QAS total lost time is not one of them because it does not accurately reflect the treatment Queenslanders can expect in our emergency departments.

That may well be the minister's view, but it is not a view shared by everyone. It is not just the LNP that does not share that view. I will run through a few people who use total ambulance lost time as a key performance metric. The state's independent Auditor-General uses that metric in his annual health report. The former QAS commissioner used that metric in an all-staff email in May 2021 when highlighting the pressures on the system. The minister's predecessor, now the Attorney-General, used that metric when she received a weekly briefing from the QAS on its performance. And here is the best one: the then opposition leader in South Australia and now Premier, Peter Malinauskis, used it to campaign in the election that many say was won on the back of ambulance ramping. If it is good enough for him, it is good enough for the minister. The minister says she wants to be more transparent. She has profoundly failed in doing that, although I will say this: Queenslanders are now seeing right through her.

Finally, in relation to the ruling made on Tuesday referring to contributions and social media posts on ministerial statements made in the House on 19 March 2024, I would like to advise that I have amended social media pages to reflect that 18 of the 19 Miles government ministers did not make a ministerial statement.

Cost of Living

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.00 pm): I can see the member for Condamine cannot wait for my contribution. It is always great to have him in the House. When Labor was elected in 2015 there were a couple of big challenges. Unemployment was high, there was no meaningful action on climate change, public services had been gutted and demoralised and community services had been gagged and defunded. Labor rose to those challenges: getting more Queenslanders into jobs, rebuilding our health, education and public services and helping our community services to get back on their feet, even if at times they did not agree with us.

Just today, the passage of the Clean Economy Jobs Bill and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill shows that Labor is continuing to take real action in relation to climate change. While people in my community are going to be absolutely thrilled that we are taking this action and will have a sector-by-sector plan to decarbonise our economy—we certainly have more to do in relation to climate change—there are also other issues.

Cost of living is the No. 1 issue that people have been raising with me for the last 18 months. Our Miles Labor government has the largest cost-of-living relief package in Australia. The Miles Labor government has been rolling out a range of cost-of-living measures. Some measures, such as the electricity rebate scheme and the energy efficient appliance scheme, have been either universally applied or universally available. One of the key features of these measures is that they deliver cost-of-living relief without putting inflation up.

All of our cost-of-living measures, in addition to avoiding inflationary pressures, achieve other policy outcomes. The Battery Booster program assists people with the cost of living and also helps to tackle climate change. The Free Kindy program we offer is aimed at assisting all families with the cost of living, and also helps 8,000 extra kids into kindy, which is great for those kids and it is great for our

society. Our free spectacle program is aimed at cost-of-living relief for older Queenslanders, but we also know it will reduce falls and that will reduce the burden on our healthcare system, which will be good for those people.

We know our free TAFE programs are going to get young Queenslanders into the workforce. We can see, through the Clean Economy Jobs Bill that passed through this House today, that we are going to need a lot more people trained up and skilled right across the board and TAFE will play an important role in that. There are so many more cost-of-living measures I could talk about, but due to time I will not get there. I certainly know that the people in my community are always looking for more relief at this time and I will be talking to the Premier and the Deputy Premier about that.

Even though cost of living is the No. 1 issue in our communities, I seldom hear the LNP talk about it. Perhaps that is because they are the No.1 risk when it comes to providing relief on cost of living. The member for Chatsworth spilled the beans on the planned cuts. He got the pruning shears out and told us that there are going to be gentle cuts coming our way. The Leader of the Opposition is slavishly panting around the coal lobby and we know they will get rid of the progressive coal royalties. Only Labor is taking real action on the cost of living and will continue to take action on the cost of living. Only Labor will put Queenslanders first.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*, Apology



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.04 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement to clarify the record in relation to a statement I made yesterday during debate on the motion moved by the member for Noosa. I stated that the Commonwealth parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters report *Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters* contained a recommendation regarding postal voting in an annexure provided by the member for Curtin. It has subsequently come to my attention that, while this was true for the interim report, the committee adopted the recommendation in its final report. I apologise to the House for this oversight and I thank the member for Noosa for drawing this to my attention.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.04 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 State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Amendment Bill by 31 May 2024; and the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee report on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 7 June 2024.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 30 April 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.05 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): The message from Her Excellency recommends the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act to amend the Electricity Act 1994, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Gasfields Commission Act 2013, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, the Water Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 18 April 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 18 April 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[622\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.06 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electricity Act 1994, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Gasfields Commission Act 2013, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Minerals Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, the Water Act 2000, and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[623\]](#).

Tabled paper: Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[624\]](#).

Tabled paper: Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[625\]](#).

For more than a century, Queensland's resources industry has underpinned the state's economic prosperity and development. In June 2022, I laid out a comprehensive plan for the expansion of the sector, the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. It outlines areas of focus that will support the resources sector to navigate key global trends. Today, I present a bill which takes steps towards realising actions under this important plan for Queensland.

The undertakings of this bill are threefold. Firstly, it aims to strengthen the state's coexistence institutions to support the resources industry and the renewable energy industry to build positive and mutually beneficial relationships with regional communities, landholders and the agricultural industry. Secondly, it will introduce a risk-based framework to assess and manage impacts of coal seam gas induced subsidence on high-value agricultural land. Finally, it will make amendments for regulatory efficiency to ensure the framework that enables the Queensland resources industry remains contemporary and fit for purpose.

The GasFields Commission Queensland has been instrumental in promoting coexistence between landholders, regional communities and the development of the onshore gas industry. The GasFields Commission currently has 14 legislative functions that focus on engagement, education and

regulatory review and advice, all of which are related to the onshore gas industry. As the resources and energy industries transform, it becomes crucial to leverage the knowledge and experience of the GasFields Commission to support these industries and their host communities.

Expanding the function of the GasFields Commission is necessary to address emerging coexistence challenges and opportunities in these rapidly growing sectors. To that end, the GasFields Commission will be rebranded to Coexistence Queensland. Decarbonisation is a global priority. Renewable energy and critical minerals will be vital to the success of this global action.

Coexistence Queensland will play an important role in supporting this economic shift by keeping stakeholders—and most importantly landholders—informed of the opportunities and challenges relating to coexistence with the renewable energy sector. As part of its expanded operations, Coexistence Queensland will establish multiple community leaders' councils. These forums will provide a platform for high-level dialogue around coexistence and bring stakeholders together to discuss current and emerging coexistence issues and opportunities across the renewable energy and resources sectors.

The Miles Labor government's aim is to proactively address and futureproof issues that may arise in the broader resources and renewable energy sectors. To support the expanded remit into the renewable energy industry, the Miles government has committed additional funding over the next two financial years as part of the Department of Energy and Climate's Local Energy Partnerships initiative.

The bill also strengthens the role of the Land Access Ombudsman, or LAO. It aims to broaden the remit of the LAO to expand its dispute investigation and resolution functions. In doing this, we anticipate this will reduce some pressure on the Land Court of Queensland. The LAO's functions are limited to investigation and resolution of land access disputes about existing conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements. While a number of inquiries have been received by the LAO over the years, very few matters are within its jurisdiction. This has forced the LAO to refer the majority of these matters to other entities to resolve.

Our ambition with this bill is to foster a more efficient, more comprehensive platform for mediating a broader spectrum of land access agreements. The expanded responsibilities of the LAO will need increased funding which will be sensibly sourced through an industry levy. There will be oversight of the administration of this levy by myself as the relevant minister and an advisory council that will include representatives from the resources and agricultural sectors. This levy will be apportioned across relevant tenures, allowing annual calculations determined by the LAO. We believe the far-reaching social licence and coexistence outcomes made possible by this bill will ensure fairer practices and create a return that outweighs any additional costs to industry.

The bill also expands the functions of the independent Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment, known as OGIA. Its role will now encompass the comprehensive assessment of impacts of subsidence induced by coal seam gas production on agricultural land. The GasFields Commission's review of coal seam gas induced subsidence highlighted some gaps in existing regulatory frameworks. Consistent with the government's response to the GasFields Commission review, OGIA's role will now encompass the comprehensive assessment of the impacts of subsidence induced by coal seam gas production on agricultural land.

The bill will empower OGIA to conduct periodic scientific assessments, modelling and monitoring to identify farms that have been impacted by coal seam gas induced subsidence or may be impacted in the future. To finance this expanded role, we will extend the existing industry levy collected for the underground water management framework. I would like to emphasise the importance of the industry levy in this context. It is not only essential to ensure industry's social licence is maintained but also critical in ensuring OGIA can conduct cumulative impact assessments from the coal seam gas industry right across the state.

Let me draw attention to an important reform in this bill: the introduction of a new risk-based management framework for coal seam gas induced subsidence. This framework is designed to establish a clear regulatory pathway to assess and manage impacts—and potential impacts—from coal seam gas induced subsidence occurring on Queensland's prime agricultural land. Following OGIA determining areas of subsidence, or areas at risk of subsidence within a declared subsidence management area, petroleum companies will have obligations to undertake further evaluation of subsidence impacts on agricultural land within the area in which they operate.

The level and nature of obligation will depend on the level of risk of impact from subsidence on the agricultural land. Land categorised as being at high risk of impacts from subsidence by OGIA in its report, and later evaluated to be more than a minor impact on agricultural land, will require relevant

resource tenure holders to prepare a draft subsidence management plan. This draft subsidence management plan will be the starting point for negotiations with landholders to address impacts, or potential impacts from subsidence, positioning landholders and tenure holders at an equal and fair starting point. The development of a subsidence management plan will be firmly based on scientific evidence of each farm field by technical experts and outline the proposed remedial actions to be undertaken by the tenure holder and agreed to by the landholder.

The effective functioning of this framework will depend heavily on technical experts such as agronomist experts. These experts will play a key role in the framework by preparing farm field assessments and management plans and ensure they are based on sound technical advice and approved scientific methods.

The bill encompasses provisions that enable landholders to receive compensation for any costs, damages or losses because of impacts on their agricultural land from coal seam gas induced subsidence. This will be facilitated through legally binding subsidence compensation agreements with the resource tenure holder. Landholders and resource tenure holders will be provided access to alternative dispute resolution services to resolve any disputes in relation to subsidence management plans and subsidence compensation agreements. If required, the Land Court will be able to provide the final verdict.

Just as we promised in the government's response to the GasFields Commission's review of coal seam gas induced subsidence in May 2023, this framework will address cases where impacts to farms are found to be critical. The new framework will create a pathway for the minister to determine whether subsidence will have an unreasonable or intolerable impact on agricultural land use, farming practices or economic considerations at the farm scale. Based on such determinations, the minister will be able to give a direction to tenure holders to take steps to avoid, mitigate or manage these impacts and any possible future impacts. This framework demonstrates the Queensland government's commitment to sustainable coexistence between agricultural land use and the coal seam gas industry.

The bill also delivers on key focus area 6 of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan which commits to ensuring Queensland's regulatory framework for the resources sector remains contemporary and fit for purpose. Through amendments to several acts, the bill seeks to create a regulatory framework that can be easily understood by industry and the community alike.

A key amendment to the Fossicking Act sets out new requirements for fossickers to receive written permission from mining lease applicants before fossicking on land to which a mining lease application applies. For this reason, the bill aims to harmonise interests between commercial mining activities, landowners and fossickers to ensure fossicking can continue unimpeded as a recreational activity bringing benefits to local tourism in regional towns across Queensland.

Proposed amendments to major acts such as the Geothermal Energy Act, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act, the Mineral Resources Act, the petroleum and gas act and the Petroleum Act intend to eliminate ambiguities in regulations. Clarification on reporting requirements, for example, will establish clear expectations on when to submit reports or release information to the public.

Another key amendment aims to improve the land release framework for exploration permits under the Mineral Resources Act. It will empower the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals to decide how and when suitable land for exploration should re-enter the market. The bill also proposes rent management and collection procedures within the mineral and energy resources act. This will allow the minister to defer or set alternative rent in exceptional circumstances. Flexibility in these provisions will enable the state to respond swiftly in challenging times for the industry such as natural disasters and times of economic hardship.

The bill also adjusts requirements for aerial surveys. Under the new framework aerial surveys conducted at or over 1,000 feet will no longer be considered an advanced activity, and resource authority holders will be exempt from entry notices and periodic entry reports, as this activity has no impact on the underlying landholder. Finally, the bill aims to enhance industry compliance rules around reporting requirements supporting industry transparency and accountability.

The bill will also make changes to Queensland's financial provisioning scheme under the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act. The purpose of the scheme is to manage the risk of the state incurring costs where resource authorities do not fulfil their rehabilitation obligations. While a recent review into the scheme confirmed it is operating in line with expectations, several potential refinements to the scheme were identified. This bill actions the recommendations of that review and will deliver on opportunities to refine its operation and reduce risk to the state.

The bill will reduce the compliance and administrative burden by increasing the prescribed rehabilitation cost for risk assessments from the current level of \$100,000 to \$10 million. To better reflect company risk profiles, the bill will also introduce an additional risk category and set appropriate percentage contributions. It will increase the fund threshold for better credit rated entities to \$600 million to increase the availability of financing. The bill will also make changes to the scheme to increase flexibility and clarify assessment pathways for environmental authorities. Finally, the bill ensures petroleum and gas sites are eligible for remediation grants.

The bill is compatible with the human rights protected under the Human Rights Act. I note concerns have been raised in the community around the coal seam gas induced subsidence framework engaging the right to freedom from forced work under section 18 of the Human Rights Act. The nature of this right provides that a person must not be made to perform forced or compulsory labour. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the bill does not impinge on landholders' human rights. The bill may require owners or occupiers of private land to work in the sense of preparing for and negotiating plans and agreements. There is no threat of a penalty under the bill if a landholder does not perform this work. In fact, penalties will be imposed on the resource tenure holder if they do not remunerate a landholder for their labour and time when these are part of the resource tenure holder's compensation liability. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.22 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 Clean Energy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.22 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report to the House on the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 31 May 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.23 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[626\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[627\]](#).

Tabled paper: Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[628\]](#).

Tragically, death and serious injury in Queensland's resources sector continue to cause the most significant negative impact for workers and their families, their workmates and our communities. The recent death of Luke O'Brien at the Saraji mine in January this year is yet another heartbreaking reminder that we must continuously strive to ensure that the safety and health of our workers in the resources sector remains paramount.

Improving the sector's safety and health performance to reduce the occurrence of fatalities and serious accidents is the utmost priority of the Miles government. We know that the most important thing to come out of a workplace at the end of each shift is the workers. The proposed amendments to the resources safety acts address recommendations from the Brady review of mining fatalities, the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry into the Grosvenor coal mine explosion and feedback from our industry-wide safety resets. The proposed amendments cover sections of recommendations 6, 12, 13, 19, 25, 29, 32 and 34 from the Coal Mining Board of Inquiry, amounting to 10 recommendations in total. Extensive consultation has occurred through a consultation and decision regulatory impact statement and on draft legislation with key industry and union stakeholders. The package of legislative reforms aims to improve the sector's safety and health performance to reduce the occurrence of fatalities and serious accidents.

The bill facilitates growth in high-reliability organisations'—known as HROs—behaviours within the resources sector. HROs are vigilant to warnings of danger and operate on the basis that, if warnings are identified and addressed, danger can be avoided. This includes in highly hazardous environments by employing central principles such as being preoccupied with failure, deferring to expertise and practising resilience. Key HRO related proposals include the implementation of critical controls and strengthening the competency of those in key safety-critical positions.

Critical controls focus on the presence and effectiveness of controls that are vital to preventing or mitigating the most significant risks of serious injury or death. They ensure there is clear governance and responsibility for implementation and validating effectiveness. They will be incorporated into the safety and health management systems of all coalmines, metalliferous mines and quarries. This will allow the regulator to conduct audits and inspections on critical controls, as they will be part of the safety and health management systems. The regulator will work with industry to improve the implementation of critical controls across industry.

For both underground and surface coalmines, the introduction of certificates of competency are proposed for the roles of mechanical engineering manager and electrical engineering manager. A new certificate of competency will also be introduced for surface mine managers. Certificates of competencies for these safety-critical roles will ensure these persons have sufficient experience and expertise as determined by the independent board of examiners.

To realise the value of RSHQ's new digital system, industry incident reports to the regulator will be required via an approved form, which will simplify and optimise reporting for facilitating information sharing. Existing oral reporting requirements will continue for serious incidents. These amendments support the recommendations in the Brady review, which identified the importance of the regulator facilitating the collection, analysis, identification and dissemination of information from industry to inform learnings and future direction for safety and health approaches in the industry.

The proposed information-sharing amendments aim to simplify and clarify the existing legislative provisions regarding publishing safety information by the regulator. The purpose of these amendments is to clarify that the publication power is not limited to information concerning enforcement action but extends to statistical and factual information about serious accidents and high-potential incidents to facilitate the sharing of information. The existing legislation allows for the publication of the name of the operator and the mine to which this information relates.

These amendments support the Brady review recommendation that relates to an information-sharing culture being a safety culture. Information must not be publicly released unless it is in the public interest such as providing context for safety information that is shared for learning purposes. The bill aims to modernise regulatory enforcement powers by providing for enforceable undertakings as an option to address contraventions that do not cause death. The bill will also modernise and streamline the existing operation of directives, enabling them to be more specifically tailored to risks.

Other modernising provisions proposed include remote operating centres, where offsite facilities are monitoring operations, providing information to the mine and remotely operating equipment. The bill extends existing safety and health obligations to include remote operating centres so that any risks from interactions with these centres are adequately managed and workers are appropriately inducted and trained so that they are aware of hazards at the mine and are competent to complete their tasks.

The bill provides a definition of 'contractor' that includes all types of employment arrangements, including contractors and labour hire agencies. The site senior executive will have an obligation to report the occurrence of injury, high potential incidents or proposed changes at the mine that may affect the safety and health of these contractors and to the labour hire agency that supplied the workers.

Amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 will require that site senior executives and acting site senior executives be located at or near the mine site.

The bill implements several other policy changes relating to modernising regulatory enforcement, making the legislation contemporary and consistent, as well as other operational and minor amendments. These include providing consistent time frames for the commencement of prosecutions across the resources safety acts. The amendments provide a time period to commence a prosecution of within two years of the offence coming to the notice of the workplace health and safety prosecutor.

The bill also implements a recommendation from the Coroners Court of Queensland's inquest into the death of Gareth Leo Dodunski to amend the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to include provisions like those in the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 that compel relevant persons to give information or answer questions as directed by investigators. This will allow inspectors who are investigating serious incidents to require a person to give information or answer questions in circumstances where such information or answers might tend to incriminate the person with the assurance in the act that such information could not be used against that person in proceedings for an offence.

Before I finish, I wish to address recommendations that are not proceeding and certain concerns stakeholders raised through the process of consultation. Five recommendations from the coalmine board of inquiry will not be proceeding. Two are based on Resources Safety and Health Queensland advice that legislative amendment is not required as existing provisions are sufficient. Three are based on advice from the tripartite coalmining safety and health committee. Stakeholder feedback has been acknowledged regarding additional certificate of competencies for site senior executives. The coalmining safety and health legislation already ensures these key safety critical positions have appropriate competency to function effectively. Therefore, the bill does not introduce new certificate requirements for this role.

Concerns related to establishing site safety and health committees for the coalmining industry have also been acknowledged and these changes are not included in the bill. Current arrangements for workers to report concerns and be consulted on changes are considered sufficient. Concerns regarding the definition for remote operating centres that it would capture corporate head offices and enable control and direction of site operations without local approval have been addressed. Similarly, concerns that the definition of 'critical controls' was too broad have been acknowledged, and the bill provides that critical controls focus on the most serious risks to injury or death in line with the guideline issued by the International Council on Mining and Metals.

I understand there has been apprehension among some regarding the publication of information related to serious accidents and high potential incidents that identifies the mine or operator. To be clear, the bill does not introduce new powers for such identification; this authority already exists within the current legislation in relation to enforcement activities. The bill simply clarifies that this also extends to serious accidents and high potential incidents.

There are some reservations about the authorisation of unannounced inspections to mines by union nominated safety and health representatives authorised under the legislation. Unannounced inspections are one of a number of tools that support improved safety outcomes. Under the legislation, they would operate for these officials as they do currently for inspectors—that is, to report to the person in charge of the site to facilitate entry before proceeding. There are safeguards in place for any official who may abuse this authority. The legislation limits their functions to only safety and health purposes. They must not unnecessarily impede production, and the minister can terminate their appointment for failing to perform their functions satisfactorily.

Finally, certain stakeholders do not support the proposed contractor definition to include labour agencies. Some stakeholders have suggested it should differentiate between major service providers and other contractors. One has suggested that it may impact industrial matters and others that it will cause confusion over who holds safety obligations and compromise safety. There was a view that differences between contractors that maintain their own safety and health management systems and other contractors, like labour hire, should be maintained and specific obligations prescribed for labour hire companies.

I have been advised that currently the safety and health obligations for contractors and service providers are almost identical under the legislation. To be clear, the bill implements a key recommendation of the board of inquiry to remove any doubt that obligations apply to labour hire agencies. The bill includes a broad definition of 'contractor' that includes all aspects of contracting,

labour hire agencies and service providers. This simply removes any doubt that existing safety and health obligations under the legislation apply for any type of employment of workers and that the mine's site senior executive has an overall obligation to ensure safety and health of workers, regardless of employment type. As a government, we make no apologies for looking after the safety of all workers.

In conclusion, these considerations have been taken into account in the ongoing refinement of the proposed legislation to ensure a balanced and effective framework that prioritises the safety and health of all stakeholders in the resources sector. Overall, this package of preventative and proactive safety reforms aims to reduce the rates of serious accidents and fatalities and support the Queensland resources sector in implementing approaches consistent with high reliability organisations theory. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.37 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 Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.38 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report to the House on the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill by Friday, 31 May 2024.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 November 2023 (see p. 3648).

Second Reading

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.39 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This important bill, which I introduced into the Queensland parliament on 16 November last year, reflects the government's commitment to community safety through strengthening dog laws and implements necessary changes to support the ongoing sustainability of fisheries resources in Queensland. To ensure the most efficient use of parliament's time, the bill also progresses suitable amendments to other legislation in my portfolio, including implementing supported recommendations from legislative reviews and minor or technical amendments.

The community has voiced concerns about dangerous dogs in Queensland, particularly in the wake of serious dog attacks, including the tragic death of a meter reader in late 2022. This government has listened and consulted on a suite of measures aimed at strengthening dog laws in Queensland to make our communities safer. The Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 would implement those measures.

The bill amends the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to: introduce a statewide requirement for an owner to keep their dog under effective control; increase the penalties for offences relating to dog attacks and the control of dogs, up to and including imprisonment for the most serious

offences; mandate that a destruction order must be made in cases where a regulated dog seriously attacks a person or animal; introduce a power for the chief executive to make guidelines to assist authorised officers in performing their duties under the act; limit appeals of external reviews on destruction order decisions to only questions of law; and ban restricted breeds of dogs in Queensland.

The banning of restricted breeds of dog in Queensland under the bill has attracted significant attention. I want to be clear that breed is not the only thing that determines aggression in dogs. There are other factors that are significant including, as highlighted in some community submissions on the bill, the role that irresponsible dog owners play. However, the community has also made it clear that it does not want breeds of dog to be here in Queensland if they were bred for dog fighting or have been used for dog fighting. It makes them feel unsafe.

In its review of the sections of the bill that implement such a ban, the committee rightly concluded that the breed ban was appropriate and meets community expectations. The restricted breeds are limited to those already banned from import into Australia under the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulation 1956. It is also already an offence for a person to keep these breeds of dog in Queensland without a permit. The government understands the important role dogs play in many Queensland families. That is why this bill also includes transitional provisions to recognise and support existing compliant owners of a restricted dog to continue to be issued permits for the life of their dog.

The bill will also ensure a uniform approach is taken to the effective control of dogs in Queensland. Under the animal management act, dogs may be regulated because of their breed or because a local government has declared them menacing or dangerous based on their behaviour. The person responsible for such a regulated dog is already required to keep the dog under effective control as a condition of the dog's permit. However, there is currently no statewide requirement for effective control of other dogs.

Some local government areas have adopted their own requirements for non-regulated dogs, but these can differ between local government areas and some local governments have not brought in requirements at all. This bill would introduce a uniform statewide requirement on the person responsible for a dog to always keep the dog under effective control when in a public place. The new requirement brings together the new and existing effective control requirements, ensuring that whenever a dog is in a public place in Queensland there is a clear expectation that the dog is effectively controlled.

This bill will also support local government officers in carrying out their duties under the animal management act. Currently, the act gives authorised persons, generally local government officers, the power to seize a dog that has attacked, threatened to attack or acted in a way that causes fear to a person or animal. Under certain circumstances, they can also destroy it. Generally, this is after giving the registered owner notice and the opportunity to seek a review of the decision. While the destruction of a dog is a 'last resort', it is important that the safety of the community be the primary concern where a dog cannot be effectively controlled. However, the act gives limited guidance to assist the authorised person in deciding when a destruction order should be made. The bill addresses this by introducing a new power for the chief executive to make guidelines to assist authorised persons in discharging their duties under the act to help them with decisions about when to make a destruction order. Guidelines will also help ensure greater consistency across local government areas in making these decisions, giving greater clarity to victims of dog attacks.

The government also recognises stronger action must be taken in cases where a person has failed to control their dog following a regulated dog declaration. A regulated dog declaration is a clear indicator to the person of the risk to the community their dog poses. To address this issue, the bill also requires an authorised person to make a destruction order where the dog is a regulated dog and the regulated dog seriously attacks either a person or an animal.

This government recognises the significant impact dog attacks have on victims, their families and the broader community. The bill will send a clear message to dog owners and others with responsibility for a dog that they must act appropriately to control their dogs and prevent attacks. This is why the bill includes new maximum penalties of up to three years imprisonment for offences related to dog attacks on people. The highest penalties will apply to attacks by regulated dogs—that is, dogs which have already been declared menacing or dangerous and restricted breed dogs.

For example, if a person encourages a regulated dog to attack and the attack causes the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, a person, the bill would provide a maximum penalty of 700 penalty units or three years imprisonment. Similarly, if a person fails to keep a regulated dog under effective control and the dog attacks causing the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, a person, the bill would provide a maximum penalty of 600 penalty units or two years imprisonment.

The community has also made clear their concerns about the role irresponsible owners and other repeat offenders play in contributing to dog attacks. That is why these new maximum penalties also apply in cases where the responsible person for the dog has been convicted of a serious dog offence in the preceding five years. A serious dog offence includes offences under the animal management act where a dog attacked causing bodily harm. This means people who are repeat offenders will face higher penalties regardless of whether it is the first time that a particular dog attacked someone. I note that the committee report showed support for the increased penalties, stating that they provide a sufficient deterrent, particularly for dog owners who are repeat offenders.

Acknowledging community concerns more broadly, the bill also increases the maximum penalty unit amount of other key offences under the animal management act related to compliance and control of a dog by owners, including: an increase from 75 to 150 penalty units for failure to comply with permit conditions when a proposed regulated dog notice is in force; an increase from 75 to 150 penalty units for failure to comply with permit conditions for a declared dangerous or menacing dog; and an increase from 75 to 150 penalty units for failure to comply with a compliance notice for a regulated dog. These increases better align Queensland with interstate jurisdictions, particularly New South Wales, and aim to send a clear message to dog owners about the need for safety and compliance.

Another key issue which has been raised by local governments and the community is the impact long appeal processes have, not only on local governments but also on the welfare of dogs held long term pending the outcomes of reviews and appeals. That is why I was pleased to read that the committee also supported measures that improve the timeliness of responses. I would like to thank the committee for their comment that community safety will be enhanced by our amendment limiting subsequent appeals to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to questions of law only. This amendment ensures dog owners have the opportunity for an independent external review of the decision but cannot prolong the process further by applying to appeal, except where there may be an error of law.

This bill also makes necessary amendments to the Fisheries Act 1994 to amend our national and international commitments to support continued access to commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area, and maintain modern fisheries legislation which include: introducing a framework for independent onboard monitoring; enhancing the efficacy of and modernising provisions related to fisheries enforcement; and streamlining the process for amending aquaculture approvals by creating a separate approval for operational components to be processed under the Fisheries Act.

I would first like to address the introduction of a framework for independent onboard monitoring. There is currently no process in place for independently validating data on non-retained catch or protected species interactions in Queensland. The government has committed to addressing this by implementing a framework for independent onboard monitoring to support continued commercial access to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and Commonwealth wildlife trade operation approvals. Independent onboard monitoring is a process of using camera technology or observers on board commercial fishing vessels, and control systems and software to detect interactions with threatened, endangered or protected species, and other non-target catch during commercial fishing activities. The information or footage captured can then be compared with logbooks provided by fishers to independently validate the logbook data.

Legislating independent onboard monitoring is essential to supporting the ongoing sustainable management of fisheries resources in Queensland. It will: provide more accurate and reliable data for fisheries management; identify and quantify non-retained catch including protected species interactions; satisfy the conditions of wildlife trade operation approvals to maintain access to export markets; and strengthen the reputation of and confidence in Queensland's fisheries.

The amendments to the Fisheries Act to establish this framework include: power for the chief executive to impose monitoring conditions on authority holders; power for the chief executive to approve monitoring equipment to be used; prescribing installation requirements for video monitoring equipment; and creating an offence for interfering with monitoring equipment. The bill also includes heads of power to prescribe appropriate matters by regulation. These will include the specific authorities and boats to which monitoring will apply, requirements for how monitoring equipment is to be used and the period of use, and the types of information that must be kept.

This bill also makes important amendments to other legislation in my portfolio. The bill includes amendments that reflect the government's commitment to a strong and resilient biosecurity system, protecting Queensland agricultural industries, the economy and our way of life. In the past two years, the government has invested heavily in strengthening Queensland's ability to deal with biosecurity

threats as they continue to increase. In 2022, we committed \$22 million over five years and almost \$2.5 million each year thereafter. In the 2023-24 budget, we committed an additional \$21.7 million over five years and \$2.8 million each year thereafter. That is a commitment of over \$40 million in additional funds over the next four to five years, with an additional \$5.3 million in ongoing annual support. This bill will support the funding commitment by ensuring we have the right legislative tools in place to respond effectively and efficiently in the face of a biosecurity incident.

The bill amends the Biosecurity Act 2014 to implement several changes recommended by the review of the Biosecurity Act that was undertaken five years after it commenced. The review confirmed that the legislation was working well, but made a number of recommendations to strengthen our biosecurity framework. Amendments in this bill which arose from the review include authorising local governments to deal with locally significant invasive plants and animals under the Biosecurity Act. This will make it more efficient for local governments to manage pests and weeds that have been listed under a local law, but which are not classified as invasive biosecurity matter statewide. For example, if a local government authorised officer enters a property to deal with the state declared annual ragweed, they do not have to re-enter to deal with a locally significant invasive plant such as Easter cassia.

The bill would also transfer the primary lists of prohibited matter and restricted matter from the Biosecurity Act into the Biosecurity Regulation 2016. As the lists of prohibited and restricted matter are currently located in the act, updating the lists generally requires an amendment to the Biosecurity Act. Moving the lists to the regulation would ensure the lists can be managed more responsively through the regulation amendment process.

The bill would allow the chief executive to approve extending the maximum period that an inspector may use emergency powers from 96 hours to seven days, and extending the maximum period of a biosecurity emergency order from 21 days to six weeks to better support emergency responses. This would increase the time available to assess a biosecurity risk under emergency powers and reduce the need to make consecutive emergency orders during extended incidents.

Looking to our counterparts in New South Wales who have been responding to the varroa mite outbreak since June 2022, the New South Wales government was required to utilise their biosecurity emergency orders over an extended period of time. Even with regular updates to their emergency orders, several orders still needed to be in place for periods in excess of 21 days. It is in cases like these that Queensland would have to make consecutive orders as a result of our current 21-day limit. This places an unnecessary administrative burden on the emergency response when, in many cases, regular updates to the emergency order would still be needed throughout the longer six-week period.

Currently, our government is responding to an incursion of the varroa mite that was detected in a sentinel hive at the Port of Brisbane. Due to the surveillance program in place at the port, we were able to detect the invasive pest early and issue a movement control order to limit the spread of the varroa mite and its carriers. The government is continuing work to understand the spread of the incursion and eradicate any further detections of the varroa mite.

This bill would also continue to build on the government's strong record in animal welfare. It amends the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to ensure businesses are appropriately responsible for the conduct of their employees or representatives in cases of animal welfare offences. The changes in this bill evidence the government's commitment to address any issues that arise and follow the raft of animal welfare legislation improvements made in 2022, which at that time saw 2,300 submissions during public consultation and 1,500 submissions to the then State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The bill also supports the continued growth of the industrial cannabis industry in Queensland by amending the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. These changes include authorising the supply of industrial cannabis plants and seeds for testing related to the commercial production of industrial cannabis products. The amendments also establish a power to enter into information-sharing arrangements with entities including the Queensland Police Service to improve the sharing of industrial cannabis industry information under the act.

The bill implements recommendations of the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act review. The amendments to the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017 would reduce the emphasis on 'enforcement' in the wording of notices issued under the act, placing greater emphasis on the mediation component, and also require that the act be reviewed every 10 years.

The bill also makes a number of amendments to support human rights and First Nations peoples in Queensland. The bill amends the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 and the Sugar Industry Act 1999, making minor amendments to better align provisions in those acts with

human rights. The bill also amends the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Fisheries Act, updating outdated references to First Nations people. The bill also makes several minor and technical amendments that I will not detail here but have been considered by the committee.

This bill was referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for consideration on 16 November 2023. On 13 February 2024, the bill was transferred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee following the establishment of that committee. I would like to thank the chair of the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting, for his consideration and deliberation. He always does a very thorough and fine job as committee chair.

The committee's inquiry into the bill included a call for public submissions, three public hearings and a private briefing. I take this opportunity to thank every committee member or organisation who provided submissions to the committee and those who took the time to appear before the committee to brief them on the various issues addressed in the bill. Your input is a valuable part of this process and it has resulted in improvements being identified, as demonstrated by the amendments I intend to move during consideration in detail. I want to thank my hardworking staff at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as well for their hard work and commitment in bringing this bill to the House. The committee tabled a comprehensive report on the bill on 8 March 2024 which includes five recommendations. I table the government response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 2, 57th Parliament—Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, government response [\[629\]](#).

The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. I again thank the committee for its detailed consideration and support of the bill. Recommendation 2 proposed that the government develop guidelines on breed identification to assist local government officers. I advise the House that the government supports this recommendation and that it will work with the animal management taskforce to develop guidelines. Local government has the primary responsibility for the management of dogs in their local communities, including implementing the changes made by this bill, and our government intends to support them in that role.

Recommendation 3 suggests amendments to the new section 127A of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act in clause 67 of the bill to provide that if a non-regulated dog has seriously attacked a person as defined in the act, the authorised person must make a destruction order in relation to the dog. This amendment would compel local governments to destroy any dog if it attacked a person and caused bodily harm. If accepted, this would remove all discretion that is currently afforded to local governments in relation to dogs that have not previously been aggressive. It is proposed to instead insert and retain the option for a local government to regulate rather than destroy a dog that has not previously been aggressive. This ensures a more proportionate range of responses is available to local governments in circumstances such as where the dog has provoked and merely scratched a person. Local government officers would also be supported with guidelines to help them in determining when a destruction order should be made for non-regulated dogs. These guidelines will be developed with input from local governments and the Local Government Association of Queensland and will contain information such as the process of ensuring a destruction order; considerations for local government, for example, the severity of the incident and impact on the victim; and definitions of key terms.

Recommendation 4 calls for the government to consider introducing into regulation measures that safeguard the privacy of information collected through independent onboard monitoring, including the preparation and publication of an information privacy plan. I advise the House that the government is supportive of this recommendation. The government intends to adopt privacy-by-design principles when establishing independent onboard monitoring and will consider whether regulation measures can be used to safeguard the privacy of personal information. In addition, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will prepare a privacy impact assessment to ensure the privacy of fisheries is respected and protected.

Recommendation 5 is that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries consider the time frames associated with aquaculture authorities, specifically whether a period of more than 12 months may be appropriate. I advise the House that the government supports this recommendation and under the Fisheries Act the approval of authorities, including their length, is a matter for the chief executive of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. However, I am advised that it is envisaged that the aquaculture authorities will be issued for a period of up to 30 years when undertaken in tidal waters or in perpetuity when agriculture is undertaken on land.

As I mentioned, there are several minor and non-controversial amendments that I propose to move during consideration in detail. The submission on the bill by the Animal Defenders Office to the committee raised the need for greater clarity regarding the references to 'attack' in the penalties for the new effective control offence provisions. The committee's report also commented on the potential need for clarification. While the committee did not make a specific recommendation on this, I have heard the concerns of both the committee and the submitter and I intend to move an amendment to clarify the references to attack in clause 25 of the bill. This amendment will not change the operation of the offences that were drafted and consulted on. The amendment will simply clarify that the references to the penalty provisions of the new offence control to 'the attack' of references to where a relevant person has failed to effectively control a dog and the dog has attacked a person.


Under the bill, the primary lists of prohibited matter and restricted matters would be moved from the Biosecurity Act to the regulation. I will move amendments that ensure the criteria of listing by regulation still allow all current listings as needed. Currently, new offences related to dangerous dogs under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act would commence on 1 May 2024. We are close to that date already. The intention of commencing these offence provisions on a stated date is to ensure the committee has sufficient notice of the new penalties following the assent of the bill. To that end, I will move an amendment to defer the commencement date to 31 July 2024 to allow sufficient time to properly disseminate public information about the new offences before they commence.

Finally, the bill replaces the definition of 'shark control apparatus' under the Fisheries Act with 'shark control equipment'. I will move a minor amendment to the definition of 'exclusion zone' to appropriately reflect this change.

This bill demonstrates the government's commitment to listening to the concerns of Queenslanders and making amendments and investments in response. Our government is promoting responsible dog ownership in Queensland. That is why we have proposed the amendments to this bill with a \$7.574 million package to fund that arrangement. This investment in community safety will support an education and awareness campaign; more coordinated, consistent and effective government action in response to dog attacks; and dog management initiatives in First Nations communities. I want to thank those discrete, local Indigenous community members we engaged with when we held parliament up in Cairns who came not only to me but also to the committee members and spoke about the issues that are in their communities. We recognise the challenges that are ahead of us, but also the challenges they face in their communities. The Miles government listens to our rural and First Nations communities and addresses the concerns that they face.

Our government is committed to sustainable fisheries management. That is why we have proposed amendments in this bill to strengthen and modernise the Fisheries Act. We understand the importance of fisheries—whether it be commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, or people who enjoy the water and the act of catching fish. Our government is committed to biosecurity. That is why we have made record investments in biosecurity preparedness and have proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act in this bill that will support effective responses to biosecurity threats. Every member in this House would be aware of our proximity to the north of this state and aware of the challenge that we face in dealing with pests and diseases as they get close to our borders.

This bill reflects the government's determination to make improvements where issues are identified right across my portfolio and beyond. It is my pleasure to commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I declare that, in accordance with my register of interest, I am a primary producer and have a registered biosecurity entity. The main purpose of this bill is to deal with dangerous dogs. It has been years in the making. Despite all the self-congratulations, the minister has been slow to tackle the issue. It took four dog attacks in one week last April and media pressure on the former premier to get the minister to adequately respond. It was 16 months after promising a taskforce in December 2021, then another nine months before it even met. The minister's diary indicates that only two meetings of the animal management cats and dogs taskforce were held in April and May last year after the Premier had to intervene. It is another year later and we are now debating the bill.

As well as changes involving dangerous dogs, the bill makes fishing industry changes including independent onboard monitoring, or IOM, enforcement provisions and processes related to aquaculture. It also makes changes to biosecurity measures regarding significant invasive plants and animals, duration of emergency powers, movement control orders, emergency orders, powers of entry

and notices regarding biosecurity entities. While the LNP generally supports the policy intent of the bill, we have concerns about breed-specific bans on certain dogs and the rollout of IOM and its impact on commercial fishers.

The committee made three recommendations regarding dogs including that DAF develop guidelines on breed identification of dogs, destruction orders and safeguarding private information. Dealing with attacks by non-regulated dogs on private property is complicated. The LNP is concerned with committee recommendation 3 about destruction orders regarding a non-regulated dog. Of course we support destruction if a serious attack occurs in a public place. However, the department needs to further investigate serious attacks on private property before acting on this recommendation. Consideration should be given to whether the dog's behavioural instincts have been provoked or it is seeking to protect the residents of a property.

The bill introduces a statewide ban on restricted dog breeds. There are significant concerns about whether this is achievable by the legitimate identification of prescribed breeds and whether this will be open to legal challenge. Focusing on the breed and not the behaviour is flawed because you cannot accurately determine some of the prescribed breeds. Furthermore, the RSPCA submission said this approach targets dogs and dog owners that have no known history of menacing or dangerous behaviour, discriminating against them based on breed or appearance. Many councils and the LGAQ support this measure saying it will remove ambiguity, achieve consistency and provide clarity to council and dog owners about restrictions. Industry stakeholders, the RSPCA, veterinarians, Dogs Queensland, Animal Care Australia and dog professionals warn that this approach may not achieve the anticipated outcome.

The identification of prescribed breeds is vague and open to challenge because identification is unreliable. Breed identification can only be done by pedigree, appearance or DNA. Australia already bans importing certain breeds. The RSPCA advises that four of the five breeds cited are not even found in Queensland and the fifth, the pit bull, is not even a breed-specific dog. Pit bulls have a notorious reputation for being dangerous, yet pit bulls are not even a recognised breed. The term is a descriptive label given to dogs that loosely share some physical features. A pedigree certificate only helps to rule a dog is not a pit bull but is another breed.

The appearance method of identification is also flawed. The RSPCA said several studies showed that dog professionals, including veterinarians, cannot accurately identify the predominant features of different dogs. DNA analysis is also not possible. The former science leader of the Queensland University's animal genetics laboratory, Dr Vankan, said—

DNA-based breed identification is not reliable and could not be used as evidence in a court of law. ... Accuracy claims by commercial companies are untested by scientific scrutiny and published comparisons ... demonstrate a wide variability in test results ... DNA-based breed identification cannot be considered a valid tool for forensic or legislative enforcement purposes.

The representative from a leading genetic testing organisation, Orivet Genetic Pet Care, said—

The main issue with breed ID tests is that they are predictive and designed to answer questions around mixed breed, rescue or pound dogs that simply do not work to clarify whether a dog is pure or 100 per cent.

If the identification methods are unreliable, it would be difficult to enforce or defend against challenges. After more than a decade of breed-specific bans in Victoria, enforcement declarations about pit bulls are scarce. Since 2011, 74 per cent of appeals against declarations by council officers were successfully overturned. Any dog of any size, breed or mix of breeds can be dangerous. Management strategies for dangerous dogs should focus on the behaviour of the individual dog. The government must be open to amending and reviewing this legislation because the uncertainty caused by focusing on breeds and not behaviour means it could be vulnerable to successful legal challenge.

The bill also makes several amendments regarding the fishing industry. The committee has made two recommendations concerning the IOM system and time frames in the aquaculture industry. Across the board, the government inherently avoids conducting meaningful consultation. Once again, commercial fishers raise concerns about lip-service and the absence of meaningful consultation and alternative solutions. Commercial fishers are concerned that the proposed management regime does not need legislation; prevents a nuanced approach to issues; the chief executive's new powers are an overreach; and the precedent of government mandated solutions threatens their privacy, copyright and intellectual property rights.

The committee was advised there was effectively no consultation with the broader commercial fishing industry about the IOM and that DAF's claims of consultation are misleading. Consultation on the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, specifically around independent data validation on the east coast

otter trawl fleet, does not apply to the changes in this bill. To use those consultations as evidence is deceptive and it goes against previous commitments. QSIA executive officer David Bobbermen told the committee—

Yes, there was consultation around the sustainable fishing strategy, but very little consultation has occurred particularly in relation to the gillnet NX licence, independent onboard monitoring and broadly around the otter trawl.

In 2022 DAF assured commercial fishers they would be involved in the rollout of IOM from day one. David Bobbermen advised the committee that a field trial of the rollout for the gillnet industry never occurred. He said—

That has not happened in the gillnet fishery. The gillnet fishery, because of the pledges given by the federal minister and state ministers to UNESCO to mandate independent onboard monitoring on gillnet boats, have been told, 'Suck it up, princess. You either have it or you don't go fishing.'

Fishing does not occur in a bubble. The QSIA raised concerns that the one-size-fits-all approach is not feasible because of the geographical overlap with fishing operations, type of fishing apparatus and the experience and knowledge of individuals.

A new section 61 in the bill gives the chief executive new and increased powers. The QSIA is concerned the powers are too draconian and have taken no consideration of the regular experience of fishers. David Bobbermen told the committee—

Every fisherman ... has an interaction with threatened and endangered species at some time ... but an interaction as defined is all interactions. ... an interaction could be a migratory bird landing on the wheelhouse of a trawler or a bird resting on a cork on a gillnet. We believe that that power is too draconian ...

...

If you go up into the tropics, crocodiles are there everywhere. ... If you have two crocodile interactions, the chief executive has the power to close down your business.

Commercial fishers feel the government deliberately portrays their industry practice as untenable, unsound and indefensible. They feel they are being demonised and this legislation threatens their privacy, copyright and intellectual property rights. They have little faith that the footage from installed CCTV cameras will not be accessed and used against them. Footage becomes part of government data. It could be open to searches and then misused. David Bobbermen told the committee that footage of dead dugongs on Queensland beaches was used during the campaign to close gillnet fishing. Some of those pictures were 20 years old and others were not even from Australia.

The committee's recommendation No. 4 advocated for regulations to safeguard privacy of information from the IOM. To have such a recommendation from the Labor dominated committee is a damning indictment on the government's treatment of privacy. It proved the government introduced legislation without full consideration of privacy issues. Isn't there a smart enough mind to realise this measure impacts privacy and commercial confidentiality?

The member for Bundaberg ludicrously compared the IOM to the use of CCTV cameras in electorate offices. That is nonsense. Security cameras are not monitoring cameras. I do not know what happens in the Bundaberg office, but cameras in electorate offices face outwards. They deal with issues the state is losing control of. They are not there to monitor what is going on in the workplace.

The Queensland Law Society made several recommendations regarding its concerns about privacy and commercial confidentiality. It recommended that cameras not include audiovisual surveillance, that video footage is limited to departmental personnel validating data and associated prosecutions and that access to footage for other purposes such as personal injury claims is restricted. It recommended legislation only mandate vessel location and times for operation as is reasonably necessary to enable landing, sorting and discarding of catches as part of the vessel's commercial fishing activities to be independently validated.

Other Queensland Law Society recommendations include giving vessel owners and operators an as-of-right ability to access copies of footage taken on their vessels; to mandate delivery to or destruction of footage after a reasonable period has elapsed; mandating that personal information collected, held, used and disclosed by the department via this surveillance must accord with a published privacy plan; and, because individual video footage may be commercially valuable to competitors, to restrict access from right-to-information and freedom-of-information obligations. The government must get this right. There is too much mistrust because it frequency gets it wrong. Trust has been eroded and the sector is suspicious because its experience is that this government says one thing and does another.

The submission from the Australian Prawn Farmers Association is further proof of the caution stakeholders have with this government. The bill creates a new aquaculture authority to authorise the ongoing operation and management of aquaculture operations which generally relate to fisheries management and biosecurity. APFA submitted that—

... it strongly recommends that these processes come with procedural fairness, reasonable time frames for assessment, reasonable costs structures and rights of review and appeal.

It continued—

... this must be delivered in a practical and sustainable way which also protects and grows food production and Queensland's food security, as well as the flow on of ongoing investment in regional jobs and local communities.

The commercial fishing industry is under extreme stress from new government restrictions and changes and the government's refusal to consider the practical and daily impacts of changes. The government has form. The minister is fond of avoiding impact assessment statements. That makes sense if you do not want to know the impact of changes on fishermen, their families, their workers and their industries and communities which rely on them. How can you assess measures if do not know the true extent and implications of any changes? The QSIA submission stated—

Government needs to consider the implications of the proposed amendments ... and how it impacts the daily operations of the industry. Government at all levels and all departments must work collaboratively with industry to ensure that any unintended consequences ... are worked through ...

The legislation also makes changes to the Biosecurity Act about issues such as significant invasive plants and animals, duration of emergency powers, movement control orders and biosecurity emergency orders, powers of entry and notices regarding biosecurity entities. Managing biosecurity issues should always be at the forefront of the minister's attention. Already landowners and primary producers must meet strict biosecurity obligations. They are being made vulnerable to risks introduced by utility companies, third parties, animal activists and now from the surge in renewable projects across regional and rural areas. AgForce's submission said it was deeply important—

... to ensure compulsory compliance by third parties with farm biosecurity plans. Remoteness is no longer a protection for farmland, which is being increasingly accessed by renewable energy and other companies that are not compelled to take reasonable biosecurity measures required by primary producers as business owners, livestock and crop producers and as custodians of biodiversity ...

It called for additional amendments to enable enforcement of farm biosecurity plans to strengthen land access rules. AgForce further stated—

Key concerns relate to electricity infrastructure/supply companies ... and even the State itself when accessing reserves, State Parks and other kinds of Crown land.

The people in charge of such third-party entities have little legal incentive to enforce compliance with farm biosecurity plans, as there are limited avenues for a landholder to take action when an employee or contractor of a third party does not adhere to a farm biosecurity plan.

Primary producers resent being a neighbour of the state government. The state is a poor land manager, often leaving it a fire hazard and overrun with invasive pests and weeds. Submissions also raised concerns about threats from fire ants by defence personnel on defence land at Amberley, feral pigs infesting native title land and the loss of our northern most biosecurity checkpoint because of native title claims. In her submission, former senior policy advisor of biosecurity at AgForce Marie Vitelli said—

DAF's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Allison Crook has not responded to previous questions about the scope of authorised biosecurity officers to access defence land or native title land, which was raised at the National Feral Pig Conference in Cairns in June 2023.

A lack of clarity about guidelines and gaps in biosecurity zones seriously undermines eradication and control efforts. Both Mrs Vitelli and AgForce said it was essential there were clear unequivocal guidelines and that DAF's authorised officers must be able to check, inspect and impose movement orders over every land measure within biosecurity zones. AgForce's submission called for national parks to be required to undertake control of all listed species, including fire ants, similar to the requirements that are expected of their private neighbours. Currently national parks only treat fire ants directly and do not put down preventative buffers.

Last year Minister Furner closed the Cape York biosecurity centre at Coen. It was one of the first northern physical barriers to incoming threats. The closure has made us vulnerable. AgForce CEO Michael Guerin said that the consequences of the closure could be catastrophic and made no sense. He said—

It is simply madness to close the facility ... Without a solid movement control checkpoint in Cape York ... the country has lost the ability to prevent a pest or disease from spreading.

AgForce advised the committee it is—


... yet to receive convincing assurance that this gap in border surveillance and ability for vehicle standstill and checkpoint is being adequately addressed.

Marie Vitelli said—

Any priority prohibited biosecurity matter entering Queensland from northern shores will require cooperation and assistance from native title entities spanning Cape York and northern Queensland.

Last year the minister boasted that we were winning the war on fire ants. It was hollow. For years the minister has paid lip-service to biosecurity. Biosecurity has been underfunded and understaffed on the government's watch. Responses about biosecurity are dismissive, indifferent and full of spin. Numbers are twisted to confuse and conflate. The minister is habitually slow to act. Biosecurity is a serious issue, not just a media or a political issue. It should not be an afterthought.

While I support the majority of measures in this bill, I urge the minister to further consider breed-specific bans on certain dogs, destruction orders, issues around the rollout of IOM and the time frame for aquaculture changes. Before I conclude, we made an inquiry to the minister's office with respect to the amendments. I thank it for the clarity of the new provisions within the amendments that relate to dog attacks on not only persons but also animals and how that relates to off-leash dog parks, which I understand are public areas, and how that interacts. That clarity was welcomed and I ask the minister in his reply speech to this debate to clarify that to the House to ensure that there is no ambiguity, particularly around those off-leash dog areas. With those few words, I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will choose a shorthand title and call it the 'dog and fish bill', which makes it easier. In all seriousness, it is a massive bill. A lot of work has gone into it. I want to congratulate the minister and his departmental staff on producing this monumental work that I know will have a positive impact on agriculture, fisheries and pet ownership throughout the state.


I start by paying tribute to Lizzie Wingrove, a Bancroft local, who is here today. She turned 15 years old yesterday so happy birthday, Lizzie! At 7½ she was the victim of a very serious dog attack. If you look at her mother Veronica's submission on the bill you will see the photos that were taken following that attack. Lizzie is incredibly brave. She has undergone facial surgery and has worked hard over many years to deal with the impact of that attack. I also pay tribute to Veronica. For years she has fought to get improvements in the law so that in such situations her family is safe and secure and to make sure that other families are safe and secure. Veronica was an exemplary witness during our inquiry into this bill. I thank her for coming along today.

It is clear that this law will improve community safety because it will introduce tough measures around dangerous dogs. It will ban certain breeds: the Dogo Argentino, the Fila Brasileiro, the Japanese Tosa, the American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier and the Perro de Presa Canario. These breeds are already banned from being imported into Australia. Our laws will work closely with federal laws. I reject the LNP assertion that it will be difficult to identify those banned dogs. I point out that the federal agencies have been doing it for ages. They have a system for identifying them. I know from personal knowledge that councils also have pretty good systems to identify banned breeds.

The bill will introduce tougher penalties for people who own dogs that attack or cause serious harm. It will be an offence to not keep a dog under effective control in a public place. Very significantly, councils will now face less red tape when they need to take action against dangerous dogs. Specifically, they will be able to immediately issue a destruction order on a dog that has caused grievous bodily harm or death and, very importantly, they will not face long delays in the destruction order process if the case goes through appeals and to QCAT as it will place limitations on appeals to QCAT. With the current appeal process, a dog can be in accommodation for over 12 months while the case is sorted out. There is no doubt that the improved measures in the bill will mean people will feel safer.

I believe that these laws will result in the better management of fisheries in Queensland. We need to manage our fisheries, which are resources that are held in common by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. We need to manage our fisheries effectively and efficiently for future generations. That is an overriding principle that is absolutely essential. In our report, we noted that there are national and international obligations, such as wildlife trade operation approvals under Commonwealth legislation. There is a UNESCO report from 2022 that recommends independent onboard monitors, IOMs, for more fisheries in Queensland. We are talking about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. If we do not do that we face the possibility that wildlife trade operation export approvals could be revoked.

It is very important to put IOMs on certain fishing vessels. I think IOM cameras are the best way to go. They are cost effective and easy to install and maintain, especially when compared to having someone on the boat observing what is going on. I welcome the recognition of the difficulties that Queensland conditions can impose on those boats and the commitment to improve the privacy protections in relation to the use of video monitors. I thank the minister for working with us on the recommendations. It is a massive bill. We made a small number of recommendations to see if we could improve how this operates. Once again I thank the minister and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.35 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There is much to deal with in relation to this bill, in particular around regulated dogs, but there are also some very important aspects around the Biosecurity Act 2014. In 2018 there was a review of the Biosecurity Act and 22 recommendations came from that review.

While talking about agriculture, this is the first opportunity I have had in this House to place on the record our deepest sympathies to one of the farming families in the Lockyer Valley, the Stock family, following the recent passing of Dolores. She was a fit 79-year-old and it is a tragedy that she has gone. She will certainly be sadly missed. Dolores was an extremely conservative, hardworking woman in Laidley and the matriarch of her family. She was so supportive of the community and was always willing to help others. She was part of the hospital auxiliary and the schools. I wish to express our thoughts and condolences on the loss of someone who worked to improve outcomes for all. Those words were penned by Ian Rickuss, the former member for Lockyer. I place on record the condolences of the Rickuss family, that is, both Ian and Ann, as well as Deb, myself and our team. Rest in peace, Dolores. Dolores is survived by Alan, Luke, Amanda and their families. It is the hardworking farming families such as the Stocks who make a difference to our community in the Lockyer. They employ others and provide wonderful fresh produce for our community—in their case, wonderful high-value jersey milk for the community. It is great milk.

I turn to the important aspects of this bill, in particular around the control of animals. I thank the minister for the amendment. I look forward to understanding further details of the amendment regarding the separation of regulated dogs in public places and also private places. We were certainly concerned about this. With regulated or dangerous dogs, if a dog in a public place attacks somebody and is out of control then we have no problem with that dog immediately being dealt in the most severe circumstances under the law. However, I do think that there are cases where a dangerous or regulated dog can be at a family home for security purposes and, if somebody comes to that home, there may be mitigating circumstances that mean that dog should be given a chance. I am not at all condoning the attack or the regulation of that dog, which is very important. However, I know that there are cases where very minor attacks have occurred and the dogs have been destroyed. I think there needs to be some consideration around that. I thank the minister for that amendment and look forward to further details being provided.

I will not go through all the specific breeds of dogs, but thanks to the chair for outlining those in his finest linguistic fashion. These breeds are banned from import into Australia. Any dog resembling those brought into Australia has to be desexed. There are specific regulations around that at a federal level—and, in fact, there is very little evidence at all of purebred dogs coming into Queensland.


I place on record our concerns on behalf of many local governments and the RSPCA in terms of having the ability to work with this legislation. In 2011 Victoria went down the path of breed-specific banning and discovered that, over the preceding years, 74 per cent of appeals to the court not to destroy those dogs were overturned because it was not about the behaviour of the dog, it was about the breed of the dog. The difficulty in identifying breed-specific issues were very challenging. Vets had to identify dogs by description. Even DNA testing was inconclusive because of the crossbred nature of some of these dogs. It is very hard to get a purebred DNA marker for these animals. From the Victorian experience, 74 per cent of appeals concerning those breeds were overturned. The Victorian model changed.

I recommend strongly that the Queensland government consider a similar measure because it will be operationally challenging to impose breed-specific banning notices and destruction notices for these dogs. It will be very difficult to do. In fact, as the RSPCA said, it will mean that it is not about the behaviour of those dogs; it is about the breed. There are many dogs which we need to focus on and which officers need to focus on. It is important that we focus on dogs behaving badly and not waste time on court hearings for the others. I have covered enough about the breeds of dog.

I now move to fisheries controls. I draw the attention of the House to the evidence of the Queensland seafood industry and the Queensland Seafood Industry Association regarding the independent onboard monitoring and controls being put in place. As our shadow minister rightly pointed out, in terms of the operationalisation of some of these controls and reporting interactions with different endangered species, most of these interactions are innocuous. They are sighting, bumps or what have you with crocodiles or birds that might land on the deck of a ship. There are very few interactions with endangered animals such as dugongs, swordfish and so on. As we heard from those in the seafood industry, fishers are using best practice to be able to minimise any interaction. They do not want to be untangling swordfish from their nets. They are fishing in ways to strongly avoid that.

The point that industry representatives very much stressed to the committee through the evidence and the hearings was the lack of meaningful consultation that took into account their privacy and their suggestions in terms of being able to continue fishing with some confidence whilst not being subject to a Big Brother style solution. Most of these boats have CCTV solutions and fishers are happy to be able to assist in the management of the fishery because they want to ensure it is sustainable for generations to come. They were willing to work with government, but, as the shadow minister rightly pointed out, there were only a small number of meetings over a period of time. I understand that there have been changes in the department and a lack of passing on of corporate knowledge in that respect. Those are some of the challenges with respect to the bill that the committee heard about and that I wanted to share with the House.

There are a number of good changes in this bill that are welcome, but I am concerned, as was pointed out earlier by our shadow minister, the member for Gympie, that some of these recommendations have been on the table for quite some time. If they were to assist local government in managing the dogs and to assist fishermen in better managing their fisheries then they should have been introduced a lot sooner. I am happy to support the bill.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.45 pm): I am very keen to speak on this bill on which the committee has put in some great work. I need to reflect on the member for Gympie's contribution because for about 3½ years he has been trying to land a psychological blow on me. He thought today in his speech that he had done it. I do not want to—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, it is getting a little bit too rowdy in here. I ask everyone to keep it down.

Mr SMITH: I do not want to say it is common practice for the member for Gympie to go off early, but let us look at what he said. The member for Gympie was drawing a parallel to my comments in one of the hearings about whether onboard cameras are akin to CCTV cameras at our electorate offices. The member for Gympie suggested that that was a ridiculous notion because the cameras point outside and do not point into our offices. I have news for the member for Gympie because last year the Clerk had cameras installed to look into electorate offices to keep our staff safe from constituents who may become violent. I suggest that next time the member for Gympie is sitting at his desk signing some forms he look up. Let us just pray that he has his shirt on at the time, otherwise there might be a few surprises on that CCTV footage. Unlucky, member for Gympie. Have a look up and make sure you see the camera and keep your shirt on. That is a little bit of advice for everyone!

I hope that the member for Gympie reflects on my comments around the comparison between the onboard monitoring cameras and CCTV footage. The member might note that it was my questioning and my comments that ensured we knew that the department, through its cameras, was focusing on the tray on which species were sorted. If the member for Gympie had done his job, he would have read through the hearing papers and seen that it was me who wanted to ensure cameras were not put up at the helm showing the entirety of the deck. Unlucky, member for Gympie. It was a nice effort, but keep going and keep relying on those work experience kids. They keep letting him down. Next time, the member should do his own work.

It is important that we reflect on what the industry is talking about. The industry wants to make sure that it is protecting the safety and privacy of its workers. In recommendation 4 the committee recommends that the government consider introducing into regulation measures that safeguard the privacy of information collected through independent onboard monitoring, including the preparation and publication of an information privacy plan. I think that is absolutely fair. If we are to put cameras on board vessels to monitor the catch, it is important that we protect the privacy information of those on deck. The poor old member for Gympie tried to deal a bit of a psychological blow but, as we know, he is just not across his brief, is clearly not across things in his office and is a bit of an embarrassment in this portfolio.

I also reflect on the importance of ensuring we put forward laws that ensure community safety around dogs and that there are effective controls. All those in this House want to ensure we recognise the important role that pets such as dogs play in our community, whether it is to families or individuals who rely on dogs for support.

It is important that the community is safe, especially in public spaces, so I welcome these changes around making sure there are effective controls. I know that when I am out at different marketplaces or out in the community, like a lot of people if I see large dogs around small children I do become a bit nervous and wary. I think it is important that we are putting the responsibility back on dog owners to be responsible—as so many of them are—but we need to ensure that their choice to take their pets out into the community does not have harmful or negative impacts on members of the community. I thank the minister for his work. I thank all of the committee, the chair and the deputy chair. I do support this piece of legislation. Member for Gympie, maybe next time.



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (4.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I will briefly deal with the dog issue. I do not like standing up and criticising if I do not have a better alternative. Obviously we see the problem there and it is very difficult to fix. The problem is with enacting those laws. The flaws in how to address that were made quite clear, so I am not going to criticise the intent. This legislation may create more of a mess and slow up the legal process by trying to address it in this way. I will leave it at that.

The most important and obvious thing from the KAP's perspective is that this legislation enshrines into law the obliteration of the fishing and agricultural industries. When I went to school, I was taught that democracy was about the rule of the people and sovereignty—that we looked after our own state and our own country, and kept those interests at heart. For some reason, UNESCO—with an office based in Paris—now seems to have a bigger influence on democracy than people. I cannot get my head around it. I am sure there is a lot more to it that I do not know about. This is about UNESCO, particularly when we talk about the gulf. This did not come from a fishing study to see if it was sustainable or not. To be fair, the government is quite honest about that. There was no data to back this up, and I do not think my criticism has been properly addressed by the agriculture minister. I think I should be talking to the environment minister here in the parliament.

Tanya Plibersek wrote a letter to the director-general of UNESCO outlining how the Australian and Queensland governments were committing to 'substantial actions to secure the future of the reef'. If you were a fisherman in the gulf you would probably respond by saying, 'That's pretty bad for the fishing industry, but I guess we'll be okay because we live on the western side of the cape.' As destructive as that was on the east coast, you would have at least thought you were safe in the gulf. Much to our chagrin, there was an extra little line in there that said 'and we're interested in the interrelationship between any of the fish that might swim all the way across Cape York, back down there and then back onto the reef'. The worst thing is that you cannot say it was shut down. If I said it was shut down you would all scream, 'We're not shutting it down; we're just reducing areas.'

Then you start invoking the threatened species list and you say, 'We've got to save threatened species.' That's a good reason to shut things down in Karumba and Weipa, that is, the fisheries in the gulf. Now what you have done is put in big areas, which compresses things. You have not demanded that anyone exit the industry and there is no decent exit package, so everyone is just going to squabble over these little compressed areas now. If you were not threatening certain species before, you definitely are now because you are compressing everyone in there. They are all going to flog each other to death until, in 10 years time, they realise they are not all viable. Congratulations: you have forced everyone out of the industry without having to pay them out.

It is a bit of a problem for me as the member for Traeger because Karumba does not have a lot of industries. We do not have a lot of options in remote areas like Weipa. We do not have a lot of options. This was a fallback—a good, diverse industry—and as a result of a commitment to UNESCO from Canberra it comes up here. Everyone acquiesces and says, 'We love the environment; let's save it,' and here we are embedding in legislation the destruction of a wonderful industry.

You can get market applications that show transponders on boats. It will show you the fishing boats in Indonesian waters just off Australian waters in the gulf. You will see a little handful of dots operating in the gulf; you can hardly see the water in the Indonesian waters because they are flogging those waters right now. You will now have to buy the fresh fish that we were accustomed to over in Indonesia. Congratulations, all you lovers of the environment: you are endorsing practices over there and at the same time ruining our sovereignty—a word that Prime Minister Albanese has been using a


lot lately—over food. I have been talking to the aquaculture people lately, and they are not fist bumping the air either about the developments in their industry. They are not allowed to develop much either. I do not know how you address all of these things on the basis of a commitment to UNESCO.

The other interesting observation I have made is that most of the monitoring on sustainable fisheries—not all, but most—comes from the logbooks of commercial fishermen. If your plan is to take out commercial fishermen, I do not know how that works. You are not going to be sending Fisheries boats out there to net fish so they can count them. I do not know how you are going to monitor the fisheries, but I suppose it does not mean much now anyway because there is no science involved in any of this.

There are some other demands made by UNESCO. Let's see if any of this sounds familiar. UNESCO's demands of the weak Queensland and Australian governments read exactly like a playbook to kill off agriculture and fishing in North Queensland: map grazing land and action priority gully prevention and remediation; double compliance activity across the reef; expand land-clearing legislation and accelerate enhanced compliance; accelerate progress to achieve water quality targets; and the establishment of new water quality targets for 2025-2030. My point is that nowhere do we read 'develop the north', 'release water from the Flinders' or 'build infrastructure to develop new jobs'. All we read is 'drive agriculture and fisheries out of business'.

This is all about decimating our industries. It hurts us most in the regional areas and in the north because we do not have a lot else to fall back on. All too often we are the sacrificial lamb to people like UNESCO so everyone can feel good about what they are doing. We have wonderful producers like David Wren in Karumba. Like many other fishermen, he has invested the best part of his life in that place. He has invested a fortune. He built up his business and truly tried to work with the government to give them what they were after in terms of sustainable fisheries, but it does not matter if you try and do things right. If the political winds blow and UNESCO stamps its feet, we all seem to come to attention and do their bidding in parliament. It is so disappointing to be here today in this parliament talking against this bill and seeing it go through, because it will mean the destruction of many great livelihoods that have been built up for generations in places like Karumba.

You might say, 'This doesn't shut them down; they can still operate.' Try and get a bank loan or even buy a new car or a house if you put on the form, 'My business is commercial fishing.' Try and get a loan for your new boat motor, to upgrade your depot or whatever. This really just blows a hole in the future of the industry. If that is what you want then you have achieved it. Well done! This is an indication of what the government intends to achieve by signing these agreements. If you want to chase boats in Brisbane, great, but you are using us as sacrificial lambs. We have seen it in the sugar industry, the grazing industry and the native timber industry. We are removing all of the state forests. We cannot get new leases on those yet so there is great uncertainty around that. I hope it is recorded in the annals of history that, in the future, we paid for what has been done here, particularly in regional areas. In the future we will look back and see how people voted. I want it to be known that we will stand against this, because we stand for those industries that you are trying to kill with this bill.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.59 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The bill amends the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 by significantly reforming the control and management of dogs. It also amends the Fisheries Act, the Biosecurity Act, the Drugs Misuse Act, the Animal Care and Protection Act and the Farm Business Debt Mediation Act. I will focus my contribution on the amendments that relate to dangerous dogs within the animal management act.

I would like to start by acknowledging the great work of the minister for agriculture as well as his team in the department. I also congratulate the Animal Management Taskforce, which included representatives from the LGAQ and also the RSPCA. Thank you to all of the people who took the time to make submissions to the review. Voices were heard from all across Queensland. In fact, there were close to 4,000 submissions, which is a great response. People certainly feel very strongly about their pets. Victims of dog attacks and their families also feel very strongly about these laws.


Community safety is a key priority of the Miles government, and these legislative changes are a key part of keeping Queenslanders safe by preventing and reducing dangerous dog attacks. Amendments in the bill will introduce tougher penalties for irresponsible dog owners after thousands of Queenslanders backed the proposed changes to dangerous dog laws. Irresponsible dog owners will face fines of up to \$108,000, or up to three years in jail, if their dog causes serious injury or death to another person. In 2021-22, Queensland recorded almost a third of all of Australia's hospitalisations from dog attacks. Quite concerningly, children and the elderly were the most vulnerable demographic for dog attacks.

Last year, I spoke with a local from Sunnybank Hills. His name is Alexander Kaparov and, quite sadly, his daughter Paulina was attacked by a dangerous dog while walking down a footpath in the suburb. As a result of the attack, Paulina was seriously injured and may have even died if it were not for the help of a heroic local bystander by the name of Scott Dawson. I acknowledge his contribution. He came to the rescue of Paulina and forced the dog away.

Paulina had to undergo surgery. She spent a week in the Queensland Children's Hospital with severe facial and head injuries. Unfortunately, she completely lost her right ear. She needed two additional reconstructive operations to help her heal. The attack on Paulina occurred as she was coming home from a swimming lesson. She has life-long physical injuries and has been affected psychologically, as too her parents. When I met her father, I could see the pain and suffering that he was going through. He would certainly support any changes that we can make to dangerous dog laws.

There have been several other instances where dangerous dogs have attacked, for instance, workers who are just doing their jobs. I acknowledge, in particular, electricity meter readers and postal workers, who have reported that they are frequently bitten or attacked by aggressive dogs while on the job. Tragically, as we have heard other members mention during this debate, and all members would be aware, an Energex meter reader was mauled to death whilst at work reading meters at a property in Logan in 2022. That is very tragic. Everyone is entitled to go home safe. I certainly believe that our Energex staff and posties should feel safe in their jobs and not have to consider quitting because of the risk of dog attacks. I commend all of those who shared their stories with the taskforce to help ensure that our community can feel safe.

The amendments in this bill will help to promote responsible dog ownership by: developing and implementing a comprehensive community education campaign; imposing a new statewide ban on restricted dog breeds; introducing a new offence that includes imprisonment and a maximum penalty for the most serious dog attacks; clarifying and making easier when a destruction order must be made for a regulated dog; streamlining the external review process to make it easier for councils; and minimising any unnecessary delays. Community safety is such an important issue and I am glad that the Miles Labor government is taking the right action by supporting this legislation.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, otherwise known by some of our other members as the 'dog and fish bill'. In accordance with standing order 260, I declare that I am a member of the Queensland Working Sheepdog Association, and this is listed on my pecuniary interest register. I also hold a Queensland dog breeder registration.

The bill amends 14 acts and six regulations. It is a large bill. However, for the purposes of this contribution, I will focus on the amendments to the Animal Management (Cat and Dogs) Act as those amendments are the ones that are of great interest to Queensland local governments. It was very good to have all of the mayors at parliament yesterday, and I pass on my congratulations to all of them. There was certainly an enthusiastic feel in the room. They really want to get to work for their communities.

The amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 are intended to strengthen dog control and management laws in Queensland to enhance community safety by imposing a new statewide ban on restricted dog breeds, reviewing penalties for the owners of dogs that cause harm, introducing a new offence that includes imprisonment as a maximum penalty for the most serious dog attacks, clarifying when a destruction order must be made for a regulated dog and limiting appeals to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to matters of law regarding destruction orders.

In relation to the QCAT, on numerous occasions I have seen situations that drag on for many months in relation to destruction orders. It is really not good for anyone involved—not for the local government officers nor for the individuals involved in QCAT. It is probably better to deal with those things in an expedient manner than to have them drag out, and I have seen some drag out for 12 months. It is very difficult. I want to raise some concerns of Queensland local governments because I believe that there will have to be some further reforms and some more consultation with local governments in this area.

It is critically important that there is consistency from federal, state and local governments when it comes to bans and the operation of the restrictions. Ultimately, it is up to local governments to administer these laws at the frontline, and they have varied resources by which to do so. In some areas, local governments do not have access to veterinary services for the humane destruction of animals, and that can be quite problematic. Often there is only a visiting veterinary service once a month, which is important to keep in mind.

The City of Moreton Bay notes the bill does not establish how breeds can be identified in the event the owner of the dog disputes the breed identification. Any dog of size, breed or mix of breeds can be dangerous and dog management strategies should focus on the behaviour of the individual dog. This position is consistent with the large volume of evidence and global opinion. The committee consistently heard during the inquiry from stakeholders that there are challenges around identifying a dog breed. Measures could include a pedigree—that is, if there is one—its appearance or its DNA. However, none of the methods for identification can be relied upon to enforce breed-specific legislation, and these sections of the act would be difficult to enforce and open to challenge. I hope we do not see them going back to QCAT because that would really defeat the purpose of this legislation.

In addition to the issues of identification, there is also the complex issue of dog behaviour. The council recommends that the onus needs to be on the dog owner to prove that their dog is not such a breed and that that should be placed in the legislation to support local government and the effective implementation of the act.

There is also cost and time involved with DNA testing. If it has to be done on a regular basis by a council, the question would be: who is responsible for that cost? I am speaking from personal experience because I myself have actually done DNA testing of dogs in conjunction with my veterinarian and I can certainly understand why councils want the onus placed on the dog owner.


The Logan City Council recommends that dog attacks occurring on private property due to ineffective control need to be addressed. We do see that, with the increasing crime rates under this Labor government, many private property owners have dogs on their properties for protection. The opposition also have reservations about recommendation 3 in the committee report. The committee suggests that the government amend section 127A in clause 67 to provide that, if a non-regulated dog has seriously attacked a person, the authorised person must make a destruction order in relation to the dog.

We support the destruction of an unregulated dog if a serious attack occurs in a public place; however, we request the department further investigate serious dog attacks by unregulated dogs on private property before acting on this recommendation. This is a complicated matter and we believe that further considerations are required around the behavioural instincts of a dog, particularly if they have been provoked or there is a break-in or crime incident and the dog seeks to protect the private property or its territory.

We have also had a look at the amendments from the minister. Minister, I would like a clarification that amendments regarding clause 25 specifically relate to only regulated dogs. Perhaps the minister might give some answers. I have a couple of questions for him in relation to areas that I see quite regularly, not only in my electorate but also across Queensland.

In relation to clause 25, will those changes apply particularly to show dogs? A lot of show societies actually have show dogs. We also have working sheep and cattle dogs participating in trial competitions at public showgrounds and other public lands as well. I want to get an understanding and some clear answers from the minister because that is particularly important to not only show societies but also those people who participate in those competitions and those shows. Those show dog competitions are very well-regarded and are quite an attraction for people.

The member for Gympie mentioned off-leash dog parks. I would like to add to that list. What about off-leash dog beaches? I think we need some clarification on that in relation to clause 25 and the application. There are quite a lot of off-leash beaches around the Sunshine Coast and there are also some down in the Currumbin area. Minister, I look forward to your clarification in relation to those matters.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (5.12 pm): I rise to support this bill and I want to thank the minister and his team for bringing it forward. I will try to limit my contribution to focusing on the reforms around increasing the safety of our community in relation to dogs. The government understands the importance of dogs to the lives of millions of Queenslanders. Before I continue, I should declare my bias in case there is any conflict of interest. We have two dogs at home and my wife would kill me if I did not put their names on the formal record of *Hansard*. Coco and Louie bring great joy and love to our family, so I get it.

Being more serious, we all understand the social and mental health benefits to individuals, families and the community of healthy and responsible pet ownership. Extensive consultation occurred in developing the amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act, including gathering the experiences and perspectives of dog owners and the broader community across Queensland. I thank the minister for that extensive work.


Importantly, this bill unashamedly places the priority on community safety, but that is also complemented by funding of more than \$1.5 million over three years for an education and awareness campaign to promote responsible dog ownership that recognises the value that dogs bring to the Queensland community. We want to bring our communities together on this important issue. This bill is not about dividing dog owners; it is about bringing people together and making sure we all do the right thing as responsible pet owners.

Anecdotally, Queenslanders have voiced their unease around dangerous dogs, and their safety concerns are well-founded. In terms of the stats, we know that tragically there were 53 dog related deaths reported to Australian coroners across jurisdictions between 2001 and 2017. We know that those most at risk are our children because of the behavioural and group mentality of dogs when it comes to kids. That is not a criticism of any given dog; that is just the nature of the pack mentality. We need to recognise this and I think the bill does.

I also want to thank the minister because this bill is based on a lot of research and work. It was the work of the taskforce and the feedback from the community that has prompted this suite of amendments in this bill to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008. I think it finds a right balance.

As other speakers have outlined, there are particular breeds that are focused on, particularly those that are banned at a Commonwealth level, including breeds that have a history of being involved in dog fighting. Importantly, for me in my electorate, the proposed amendments emphasise a need for all dog owners to take responsibility for maintaining effective control over their dogs regardless of breed. The amendments will be supported by a community education awareness campaign so that dog owners can do the right thing, so that parents and caregivers can look after their kids and so that children within our community know the right thing to do.

The government is committed to ensuring responsible dog ownership behaviours are embedded into the Queensland community and become part of the normal practice. Included in that is increased penalties, especially for repeat offenders. This will ensure all Queenslanders can enjoy public spaces. This is not just about our children—as important as they are—or adults who get bitten; it is also about other dogs and other animals. This bill goes a long way to making it safe for people whether they are in suburban Brisbane or the Cape York so they can have a safe time with their pets when they are taking them for a walk, when they are playing outside or when they are interacting. I thank the minister and his team, the department and the committee for bringing this bill to the House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.17 pm): I would like to make a declaration of interest that I have been a professional fisherman and I hold a commercial fishing licence as a master fisherman and also a coxswain licence. I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The bill is an omnibus bill that amends some 14 acts and six regulations. Given the time constraints in addressing all the bill's changes, I would like to restrict my comments to those changes that concern me the most.

I will start with the bill's amendments to the Biosecurity Act 2014, which removes the requirement for authorised officers to obtain an occupant's consent before entering a premises. Under the bill's changes, officers will now simply notify the occupants that they intend entering their premises. The rationale provided in the EN is that seeking consent before entering a premise can be confusing if consent is not given and therefore authorised officers should be able to enter anyway. That is a pretty nonsensical line of reasoning. As QLS pointed out in their submission, wouldn't it be better for officers to simply take the time to provide occupants with better information on the reason for their request to gain entry? Why is the go-to always this heavy-handed, rights-stripping approach when it comes to the Queensland government?

On a similar note, clause 126 of the bill's amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 permits information sharing for law enforcement and regulatory efficiency purposes. These arrangements must have appropriate privacy and other safeguards and not be so broad that the information can be misused or disclosed in a way not contemplated by this bill.

Turning to the bill's changes to the Fisheries Act, I will start with clause 140, which I think needs to be removed from the bill. Clause 140 will insert a new section 61A into the act which purports to address the problem of marine animal death and injury and to make sure protected species, in particular, are not adversely affected. The clause invests enormous power in the minister for imposing new conditions on authorities, which could even prevent the use of that authority, without its holder

having any right to respond or object. The statement of compatibility claims that this is justified, saying that it is 'essential to ensuring that behaviour is modified and there are appropriate consequences for failing to do so'.

Again, it is a very weak justification for something that may breach the principle of proportionality and a number of human rights. Investing such broad executive powers in the hands of the minister is unnecessary and, I believe, dangerous. The section's goals could have easily been achieved using existing governance structures within the fisheries regime. The section needs to be removed and the issue it addresses dealt with through non-statutory management plans or arrangements.

Clause 173 amends the Fisheries Act to require authority holders to install approved camera monitoring equipment on their boats in order to monitor or record all commercial fishing activities. The footage must then be supplied to the department within a stipulated time frame for an independent validation of its date. The imposition of this big-brother solution on commercial fishing is extremely concerning. Many of the justifications for doing so provided in the bill's documentation are unconvincing, to say the least.

I think it is also pertinent to say that the situation with the fishermen at the moment is that they are losing any traction that they had in society. They are not able to meet their commitments. The mental health of fishermen is deteriorating rapidly. I have heard from people up in the northern areas that some are committing suicide in order to pay out their houses and meet their commitments because they have no future in the industry. That is concerning. I hope the government is taking some sort of measures to make sure this does not go on. It has to stop. We cannot kill our people like that.

There are also arguments that could very easily be adapted over time to justify the imposition of similar laws across a wide range of businesses. This is hardly a leap, given most of these framework bills being passed in Queensland come up with inbuilt mechanisms for mission creep. As one of the European fishing bodies told the EU parliament—

Will policy-makers agree to install CCTV systems in their own offices to ensure that taxpayers' money is well spent and to guard against corruption?

We believe the answer is no.

Why then fishers ... who actually hold an excellent record of compliance? We cannot help but feel persecuted and criminalised by a system that constantly applies a presumption of guilt based on mistrust towards the sector.

If surveillance cameras are deemed necessary to prevent overfishing, why would they not be used to prevent political corruption? That is something to think about.

The Queensland wild harvest fishing industry is possibly the most massively overregulated and over-surveilled industry in the state. Vessels are monitored by an array of satellites, planes and drones that constantly track their positions and activities. Now they are being enforced to install on their vessels onboard cameras recording where they fish and haul in catches. I remember the old days when we started fishing. We were told, 'These log books will never be used against you.' Yeah, right! These video monitoring systems include sensors and lasers that detect all onboard motion, triggering the cameras. Over the longer term, those systems are capable of building up an extensive record of fisheries data on every vessel in the state's commercial fishing fleet. Camera surveillance is an extremely offensive intervention that is completely out of proportion to the problems being addressed. It is unnecessary and violates the privacy of fishermen.

For some fishermen, their boat is their second home. Moreover, clause 173 will seriously impinge on the property rights of fishers in a manner that the act does not permit. It will do so by converting fishers' key commercial knowledge—their intellectual property—into the hands of unknown third parties. Where are the safeguards in the bill to ensure data will be securely transmitted to maintain confidentiality and to prevent third-party interception? There is no acknowledgement of this in the explanatory notes or of the fact that fishers' secret spots, also known as marks—we always have our marks—are their most valuable assets. We look after those marks. We do not go and fish them until they are absolutely exhausted; we plan it over certain times of the year. We might go to those places only two or three times in a year. For some fishers, that knowledge may have been inherited from their father. Mine was given to me by my old skipper. He told me, 'Never share them with anyone.' To this day, I never have. As one fishermen put it—

These marks tell a fisherman the spots where fish are likely to be—down to within a few feet. They also show me where the obstacles are: as a trawler I need to know where rocks are to avoid them, to stop them ripping my nets. If I was blue cod potting I would want to find rock where the fish live. Because I have these marks, I am able to fish in more dangerous inshore waters with many obstacles, which another fisherman without my local knowledge would not be able to do. It is my one real competitive advantage. I will even lie to my own brother about these things when I am fishing—even though we tell each other all our personal secrets back on land.

Neither the explanatory notes nor the statement of compatibility have anything to say about the potential threat to copyright and intellectual property. There are no comments regarding confidentiality, nor is there any mechanism through which the government would investigate a data breach by the third-party operator of the surveillance system.

All of this demonstrates why a comprehensive regulatory impact assessment was an absolute requirement for this particular amendment. The excuse provided for not doing one was nonsensical. The Office of Best Practice Regulation needs to better explain its reasons and provide evidence for those reasons. There is absolutely no social licence for the changes this bill makes to the Fisheries Act and very little meaningful consultation has occurred. This is a trend I am seeing with a lot of things—no RIS, no consultation, go back to the dams, go back to some of the stuff we have going on with renewable energy up in my patch—


Mr FURNER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been pretty tolerant in regards to the member's contribution, but there is no reference to RIS in the bill before the House. I draw your attention to the relevance of the contribution of this member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Mirani, it is starting to stray a little from the long title. I bring you back to the bill.

Mr ANDREW: QSIA said—

Most of the amendments proposed in the bill have had no consultation with the commercial fishing industry. Where consultation has occurred, it has been very limited and not canvassed alternative solutions to those specified in the proposed legislation.

All of that is why I do not support the bill.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. From the outset, I will say it will be less 'ruff' and far less 'bark and bite' than last night's contribution. In regards to declarations, having grown up in North Queensland and in the Bowen area, I fished extensively around Bowen and dragged nets up and down Queens Beach for garfish. What I am about to say is a sad indictment: I have lived at Abbot Point during its construction and been smashed by Spanish mackerel there, but in the past 10 years I have barely wet a line. That is just the reality of what we do. Maybe I should have taken a leaf out of the book of the former premier, the Hon. Tom Byrnes, and bought a boat a decade ago and called it *The Electorate*. My staff could constantly say I am out in 'the electorate'.

The main objectives of the bill are to: amend the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to enhance community safety—I will talk a little bit about that—by significantly reforming the control and management of dogs; amend the Fisheries Act 1994 to introduce a framework for independent onboard monitoring, or IOM, under the Fisheries Act as an outstanding element of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 to meet key commitments made by the Queensland government to support the Great Barrier Reef; and enhance the efficacy of and modernise provisions relating to fisheries enforcement and streamline the process for amending aquaculture approvals by creating a separate approval for operational components to be processed under the Fisheries Act.

The discussion paper sought community views on a number of proposals to promote responsible dog ownership and better protect the community from dangerous dogs. Dog management presents an ongoing challenge for local governments, health systems and communities. Unbelievably, more than 8,500 complaints about aggressive dogs and dog attacks are received annually by local governments across Queensland. Each year, 2,500 dog attack victims require hospitalisation and, worryingly and very concerning, over 80 per cent are children, some of whom have been attacked in their own homes.

In my former career as a paramedic with over 30 years experience, I attended some dog attacks, and they are traumatic to the victims and the family, particularly where children are involved. Unbelievably, I was bitten a couple of times on the job as well. I remember in the nineties a police officer actually pulled a firearm when a dog attacked me as we were wheeling someone out. It was one of those intense moments and I am glad it was controlled, but as I speak today it reminds me that we need better regulation for the control of dangerous dogs. I will pick up a point made by the member for Stretton in relation to attacks on frontline workers, such as attacks on posties. We hear tragic stories about attacks on electricity meter readers. Those are absolutely tragedies that have occurred in this state.

I call for more regulation and control and I applaud the minister for this particular piece of legislation. It will make the community safer, Minister, and thank you for your work. I acknowledge the former committee. Of course we have taken on agriculture in the health and environment committee. I

feel like a bit of a fifth wheel on this, but I wanted to speak to it because I have had some direct personal experiences. It is commendable that we put better regulation and control around dangerous dogs. In my current role, constituents ring me all the time about dangerous dogs which have been let out and have attacked small pets. They are mauled. They are deeply upsetting incidents.

Well done again to the minister and those on the committee who reviewed the bill. It is all about community safety. Importantly, it imposes a new statewide ban on restricted dog breeds. I am supportive of the penalties for the owners of dogs that cause harm and the introduction of a new offence that includes imprisonment as a maximum penalty for the most serious dog attacks. These amendments clarify when a destruction order must be made for a regulated dog and it streamlines the external review process for regulated dogs to minimise the unnecessary delays that are experienced by councils and relevant parties.

I want to make a brief contribution on the amendments to the Fisheries Act about onboard monitoring. In November 2022, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, released the report on the reactive monitoring mission to the Great Barrier Reef on 21 March 2022. The report recommended that the Great Barrier Reef be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and it identified 10 priorities and 12 additional recommendations for urgent implementation.

Impacts from the commercial fishing sector on threatened species is a key consideration for UNESCO in determining whether to list an area as 'in danger'. Such a listing would have major economic and reputational impacts on the Queensland tourism industry and the Queensland government. To address the priority and the additional recommendations, the Queensland government has made six key commitments, including legislating the requirement for mandatory IOM for the remaining N1-limited gillnet licences and the east coast trawl fishery by March 2024. If IOM is not implemented in Queensland priority commercial fisheries, WTO export approvals may be revoked. Consequently, fishing access, particularly within the GBR World Heritage area, may be reviewed, resulting in reduced or restricted access and less commercial catch and supply of seafood to domestic and international markets.

We know how important seafood is to our local tourism industry. These are sensible recommendations under the Fisheries Act. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the comments from the member for Bancroft earlier saying that this should just be called 'the dog and fish bill'. It, in fact, covers a lot more than that—it includes farm business debt mediation, biosecurity, agricultural chemicals, a forestry amendment and the sugar industry as well. The fact that the member for Bancroft failed to mention all of those other amendments suggests the lack of priority that the Labor Party give to rural and regional Queensland. The priorities of the Labor Party clearly do not align with rural and regional Queensland.

I understand that in October 2018 the minister for agriculture signed off on a review into biosecurity in Queensland. That is a very long time ago. I believe the minister said that the review was meant to cover the five-year point from the commencement of the act in 2016. If the review commenced in 2018, I suspect that the legislation would have been before the House a lot sooner. If it commenced in 2021 which is five years from 2016, it certainly has been many years since then. Once again, unfortunately, we see the Labor Party not prioritising biosecurity in Queensland.

I note in their submission that AgForce raised the important issue that the government 'ensure compulsory compliance by third parties with farm biosecurity plans' and that 'remoteness is no longer a protection for farmland, which is increasingly being accessed by renewable energy and other companies that are not compelled to take reasonable biosecurity measures required by primary producers as business owners, livestock and crop producers as custodians of biosecurity'.

I note that there is a local issue in Central Queensland with a gas company breaching a biosecurity management plan and that they are not being held to account by the Labor government to contracts of access. We know that everyone in Queensland has a biosecurity obligation and it is not being followed. I certainly urge the government to do more in that space.

Further, AgForce recommends additional amendment to the Biosecurity Act 2014, such that National Parks are required to undertake control of all listed species including Red Imported Fire Ants, similar to requirements expected of their private neighbours.

I could speak for days on the failures of the Labor government when it comes to fire ants under the biosecurity department here in Queensland. It is clear that the minister for agriculture has sat on his hands while these pests have got out of control. It is not an eradication plan because they have simply not been eradicated. The area they have been infesting has been spreading at a significant rate. They are now in New South Wales and this is appalling. This is the failure of this minister.

I move onto fisheries. We know that the government has relied on bad data that has been called out by many experts when they have made a lot of changes to fisheries in the past. This is very unfortunate for the great fishermen of Queensland, especially the great commercial fishermen who have been strangled by the Labor government. There is not many of them left. Next time you go to buy seafood have a look at the label and see where it is from because there is a lot less coming from Queensland these days. It is coming from other parts of the world and I raise the question of the environmental impacts of where it is coming from. I suggest that the global environmental impact gets worse with every piece of the fishing industry that Labor shuts down in Queensland. We also know that the minister for fisheries cannot even hold a fishing rod properly so what does that say about fishing in Queensland.


This bill allows the chief executive to shut down fishermen when there are interactions with native wildlife. As the shadow minister for agriculture mentioned, someone could have a couple of crocs come up and hang around their fishing nets and that could give the chief executive a reason to turn up and shut their fishing operation down. It is ridiculous that that could happen in Queensland.

Queensland produces the cleanest, greenest and freshest seafood in the world and, yes, we need to look after that, but we need to do it with the right science, the right facts and the right consultation. It is clear that Labor has not consulted appropriately on this legislation. The QSIA raised significant concern regarding the privacy, copyright and intellectual property surrounding the installation of government mandated CCTV systems on private property. They make a comment that this is a 'big brother style solution'. It certainly does set a dangerous precedent.

To the few fishermen who are left: thank you for what you do. The LNP will always have your back. It is clear that the Labor government is more interested in strangling you in red tape and strangling you out of existence. I suggest that has something to do with the deals they do with the Greens.

In regard to the changes to dangerous dogs in Queensland: we know that there has, unfortunately, been deadly attacks in recent times. Dangerous dogs are a complex issue; however, it is clear that outlawing specific breeds of dogs is not going to be effective in identifying dangerous dogs or bad dog behaviour. When it comes to DNA, as a member of the human species, unfortunately, I share far too much DNA with those opposite. Look at their behaviour compared to that of those on this side of the House. We know that, case in point, that DNA does not identify the difference between well behaved and badly behaved dogs. I thought it was worth noting that when it comes to species. Cattle dogs are a great example. Some cattle dogs can be incredibly dangerous and some cattle dogs can be the most friendly of dogs someone might ever have.

At the end of the day, if Queenslanders want to get rid of dangerous beings from parliament then they need to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.40 pm): I think the member for Callide was misleading the House. He certainly does not share my DNA and I will be writing to the Speaker about this! It is outrageous. I will not have the farmers' friend besmirched in such a horrific way as has just occurred. What we have seen tonight is the member for Callide has demonstrated that not only is the minister the farmers' friend; he is also the fishers' friend. He may not be much of an angler, he may not pull many fish out of the sea, but he is truly the fishermen's friend because he leaves all the fish in the sea for the other fishermen to catch.

I was very slow to become a dog owner or, shall I say, a steward of a dog because as anybody who owns a dog knows, you do not own the dog; they own you. In the few years we have had a dog I have always found it to be of great friendship and great comfort. My daughters keep telling me that I am a classic example of the fellow who should go on that Facebook page 'dads who say they don't want dogs but end up becoming their best friends'. There are many photos of me sleeping and the dog curled up on my chest.

Mrs Frecklington: What sort of dog?

Mr KELLY: It is a little dog called Sage. Let me give a shout-out to Sage. I say to the member for Nanango that I should be walking Sage right now. Not only are dogs a source of great comfort, they can also be a source of great conflict. While Sage brings me many happy memories, as did our previous

dog, Tinny, one of my earliest memories in life is walking with my older brother and sister near Padua primary school in the electorate of Stafford and I was attacked by a dog. It has stuck with me to this day; I can remember that day quite clearly. I have certainly got over that and I do not share a deep distrust of dogs, but I know they can be quite dangerous. In my community where a lot of people have dogs and we have high-density living, dogs can certainly be a source of great conflict. It is always quite worrying when we go out and about and we see a dog running around that is not restrained and there is no owner nearby. Unfortunately, we have seen some attacks in our community over the years.


I am proud to be part of a government that is certainly prioritising community safety, and this is an important part of that. The things that this bill does to standardise the rules across the state for local governments around managing dangerous dogs are certainly to be welcomed. It means people cannot feign ignorance when they move from one part of Queensland to another; they can understand the rules of the game no matter where they go. I think it is good we have moved to prohibiting those dangerous dogs. I think that is an extremely good step forward.

I want to come back to the member for Callide's contribution because I think to besmirch the farmers' friend in the way he has ignores some of those really important things we have done as a government. The support for Beef Week has become legendary. The support for Beef Week each year—

Mrs Frecklington: Relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr KELLY: I say to the member for Nanango that it is relevant because I am responding to contributions made by a previous speaker, but I will let the Deputy Speaker be the judge of relevance.

There is also the \$60 million worth of biofencing that was put into this year's budget for biosecurity. I know about this from my time as the chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I was strolling down the street in Barcaldine with a local grazier whose family had been in the district for a significant amount of time and he was singing the praises of cluster fencing to me and what it had done for the sheep industry. He was saying that realistically only Labor could have delivered cluster fencing because those on that side of the House are so caught up in rural politics they could never have delivered something like that. With those few words I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.45 pm): Before this bill is guillotined, I am really keen to add my comments on the amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act. I would like to thank the members of the Nanango Kennel Club who have provided me with feedback on this bill and the changes it proposes. I am the very proud patron of the Nanango Kennel Club. They are a fantastic group of people who have a passion for the dedication to dogs, dog breeding, education and training. I would like to give a big shout-out to president Annetta Bainbridge, vice president Ronald Riseley, treasurer Helen Williams, secretary Belle and all of their wonderful committee members. It was wonderful at the Nanango Show last weekend; it was an amazing dog show and the Nanango Kennel Club really do need to be congratulated for the hard work they put into that.

This is a group that was established in 1990. They have grown from strength to strength. They host championship shows, obedience trials, endurance trials and numerous workshops and social gatherings. Any local dog owner or breeder around the Nanango area would be more than welcome to join the Nanango Kennel Club. Importantly, they shared with me their submission to this bill made in conjunction with several other dog clubs, including the German Shepherd Dog Council and Club, the National Rottweiler Council and the Cattle Dog & Kelpie Club. Their collective motivation for their submission is a recognition that it is a privilege to own our companion animals and that too often certain breeds can be falsely demonised.

In the short time I have remaining I want to thank the shadow minister for agriculture, who really does so much in the space of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. He fills the gap. He is a farmer.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would say he is a grazier.

An honourable member: He used to grow peanuts too.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He did used to grow peanuts; I take that interjection. He is a grazier who understands the importance particularly of working dogs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (5.47 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contribution to the debate on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I listened intently to all the members. There were sound contributions by most members. I am uncertain what the member for Callide was speaking on. I am sure at some stage he might want to clarify what bill he was referencing, but it certainly was not this bill.

As we know, the bill is largely about strengthening dog laws in Queensland to protect community safety, meeting our national and international fisheries commitments, supporting access to commercial fishing in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area and maintaining a responsive biosecurity system. The reforms will protect community safety, increase consistency in dog laws across Queensland and provide a deterrent to dog owners by ensuring penalties for doing the wrong thing are commensurate with the harm done.

These reforms are crucial for our valuable fish habitats and fishery resources and ensure they will be protected with an effective, evidence-based management and compliance system, meeting our national and international commitments. Importantly, they will also bolster a growing aquaculture industry and enhance the management of aquaculture operations in Queensland. Further, the reforms also ensure Queensland maintains a modern biosecurity framework that is well placed to respond to a biosecurity incident; provide the necessary powers and time frames to assess the situation properly; and act appropriately to protect Queensland's economy, community and the environment.

The Queensland public has been a significant contributor to this bill both through the lengthy consultation in the lead-up to it and through the inquiry of the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee. The widespread acceptance of the changes among stakeholders, particularly the support for our strong dog laws, is evidence that the government is listening to stakeholder concerns. I thank the committee members from both sides of the House for their contributions during the course of this debate. The opposition raised a number of matters and made a number of errors to which I wish to respond. The member for Gympie clearly was not listening in my second reading speech and did not read the government's response to the committee report which had already indicated that the government does not support recommendation 3 of the committee report.

I welcome the member for Gympie's interest in the importance of the work of the taskforce in developing these proposals and note that he shares my passion for consultation. However, I need to correct the information about the taskforce meetings. The taskforce met on five occasions and was supported by a technical working group which met 10 times. There were many councillors from not only the Brisbane City Council but also the Gold Coast city council, the Logan City Council and the Moreton city council in attendance along with my professional staff from Biosecurity Queensland. Obviously I did not attend every meeting, but I have full confidence in my department to ensure the views of local government, animal welfare groups and the community are thoroughly considered and reflected in the outcomes.

The member for Gympie requested that I read into the record the response to a query about whether dogs are required to be controlled in off-leash areas and whether that only applies to regulated dogs. For a dog that is not a regulated dog, proposed section 192 provides that a relevant person exercises effective control of a dog in an off-leash area if they supervise the dog and can control the dog using voice command. For a dog that is a regulated dog, the more stringent existing requirements for effective control in section 192 would apply and there is no exception for an off-leash area. Just to be clear for the benefit of the House, there are three categories in terms of a regulated dog—a dangerous dog, a menacing dog and a prohibited dog—and that is quite clear in the existing act and why there were amendments made in previous years with regard to making controls more stringent and recognising those dogs, whether they be in public or within the confines of their owner's residential area.

New section 192 provides different requirements for effective control for dogs that are regulated and dogs that are not regulated. All dogs must be subject to effective control. The maximum penalties for an offence under section 193 for not exercising effective control in a public place depends in part on whether the dog was regulated or not regulated. Evidence from overseas suggests a breed ban can reduce dog attacks despite some enforcement challenges. I want to remind the member that the breed ban is only one of a suite of amendments aimed at reducing dog attacks.

In terms of biosecurity, many members made points about this issue quite eloquently in terms of what this government does to protect our precious state and the biosecurity factors that enshrine the protection of land, animals and the oceans. This is paramount and certainly a matter that I take very

seriously. I am very proud of this government's record on continuing to strengthen Queensland's world-class biosecurity system. This will safeguard Queensland's food sovereignty whilst also protecting our environment and continuing to maintain market access—all of which were concerns raised by the member for Traeger, and we have not cut anyone, as the member for Gympie indicated.

The government is committed to providing a responsive and effective biosecurity framework as evidenced by the significant funding allocated in response to preparedness activities in both the plant and animal sectors. That is reflected in the funding, and I thank the member for Greenslopes for reflecting on that as well. In 2022 we committed funding of \$22 million over five years to strengthen our readiness for multiple concurrent biosecurity threats and prepare for emergency animal diseases. In the 2023-24 budget we committed a further \$21.7 million over five years to empower collective action against plant, pests and disease. Activities under this funding include escalating the varroa mite response and investing in proven activities such as the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative.

Noting the opposition's concerns about biosecurity, perhaps it would like to detail to the House how much funding it invested in our biosecurity system when it was last in government. I also note the opposition's concerns with the privacy of data collected through independent onboard monitoring of fisheries. Had the member for Gympie listened to my second reading speech and read the government's response to the committee report, he would have realised that the government has committed to preparing and publishing an information privacy plan. The intention is to only film commercial fishing activity. However, the onboard cameras may capture images of boat operators or crew members on board the vessel. Those images are classed as personal information as defined in the Information Privacy Act and Fisheries Queensland will manage any personal information collected in accordance with this act.

I turn to the comments and contributions made by the members for Bancroft and Thuringowa. They quite rightly pointed out the relevance and importance of wildlife trade operations. I reflect on the previous LNP federal minister Sussan Ley—spelt with three Ss in Sussan—who indicated that there was a need to withdraw the operations of several fisheries in past years. Given these operations, we must consider and recognise the importance as to why we need to ensure these waters are protected and that there is appropriate monitoring of the people who do their business as commercial fishers in those waters to not only protect their businesses but also ensure they are compliant with federal government requirements for the trade of the stock that they fish.

I remind the House that the government takes community safety seriously. The measures in this bill strike the right balance between ensuring dog owners are responsible and celebrating the role dogs play in families and communities. The amendments included in this bill will ensure we have the right tools available to respond promptly and effectively in the face of a biosecurity threat and to protect Queensland's economy, environment and community. I am very pleased with the support given to the bill by the honourable members of the committee. I once again want to thank my department for its tireless efforts and its commitment for the many hours it put into developing the framework of this bill and for the consultation it did with not only the taskforce but also the committee, providing evidence and demonstrating the need as to why the Miles government needs to make these changes in this bill. I commend the bill to the House.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is that the bill be now read a second time.


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

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for this stage of the bill has expired. I will now put all remaining questions. I call the minister to table the explanatory notes to his amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

 **Mr FURNER** (6.03 pm): I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Furner's amendments [630].

Tabled paper: Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Furner's amendments [631].



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

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 11, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 16, line 7, '1 May 2024'—

omit, insert—

31 July 2024

2 Chapter 4, part 3, heading (Amendments commencing on 1 May 2024)

Page 24, line 12, '1 May 2024'—

omit, insert—

31 July 2024

3 Clause 25 (Insertion of new ss 191—193)

Page 29, lines 24 and 25, from 'if' to 'person'—

omit, insert—

if the dog attacks a person and the attack causes the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, the person

4 Clause 25 (Insertion of new ss 191—193)

Page 30, lines 3 and 4, from 'if' to 'animal'—

omit, insert—

if the dog attacks an animal and the attack causes the death of the animal or maims the animal

5 Clause 25 (Insertion of new ss 191—193)

Page 30, lines 12 and 13, from 'if' to 'person'—

omit, insert—

if the dog attacks a person and the attack causes bodily harm to the person

6 Clause 25 (Insertion of new ss 191—193)

Page 30, line 23, from 'if' to 'animal'—

omit, insert—

if the dog attacks an animal and the attack wounds the animal

7 Clause 29 (Insertion of new ch 10, pt 6, div 3)

Page 35, line 10, '1 May 2024'—

omit, insert—

31 July 2024

8 Clause 107 (Replacement of s 19 (What is *prohibited matter*))

Page 82, lines 9 to 14—

omit, insert—

the biosecurity matter satisfies the prohibited matter criteria under section 20.

9 Clause 108 (Replacement of s 21 (What is *restricted matter*))

Page 82, line 30 to page 83, line 2, from '22; and' to 'matter.'—

omit, insert—

22.

10 After clause 117

Page 86, after line 19—

insert—

117A Insertion of new ch 19, pt 4

Chapter 19—

*insert—***Part 4 Transitional provision for Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023****516 Existing prohibited matter**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) biosecurity matter was mentioned in schedule 1, as in force immediately before the commencement; and
 - (b) on the commencement, the biosecurity matter is prescribed by a regulation to be prohibited matter.
- (2) Section 19(2) does not apply, and is taken to never have applied, in relation to the making of the regulation.

11 Clause 138 (Amendment of s 31 (Exclusion zone))

Page 99, after line 2—

insert—

- (2A) Section 31(4), definition *exclusion zone*, ‘apparatus’—
omit, insert—
 equipment

Question put—That clauses 1 to 192 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT**Kingaroy Fire and Rescue Station; Small Schools Cluster Cross Country**

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (6.04 pm): I rise to talk about the Kingaroy Fire and Rescue Station. As our community grows so does our need to have a brand new fire station in Kingaroy. This is something that our hardworking local fireies and I have been advocating for for years and years. The current station was built in 1953. It did have an extension in 1990. Our current fire station has served us well. For about a decade it has been outdated and is struggling to meet the demands of the growing staff. It is no longer fit for purpose and certainly will not have the capacity to facilitate the doubling of staff anticipated for the upcoming 24/7 permanent staffing arrangements.

Ms Boyd interjected.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services. I am pleased the minister is in the chamber. She knows that I have met with all those local fireies. I encourage people, particularly in regional Queensland, to become auxiliary firefighters as well as rural fireies. Those locals are often the first to attend the horrific road crashes caused by a lack of road maintenance in Queensland. There is something like a \$6 billion backlog in road maintenance. Our rural and regional roads are death traps. It is our hardworking firefighters who are often the first ones to attend those crashes.

I will continue working with local firefighters to make sure they get the facilities that they deserve. In Kingaroy right now there is just one room that is their ‘everything’ room. Kingaroy also shares the testing room with all the local stations and it is not fit for purpose. Their lockers are not fit for purpose.

They sit in with the fire truck. I implore the minister to listen to the Kingaroy fires. A new station will not only enhance the effectiveness of the staff response capabilities but also ensure the safety of our firefighters who protect us all.

Tomorrow, straight from parliament, I will go to Tingoora State School and the Kingaroy Small Schools Cluster cross country. I will certainly not be running, but I cannot wait to see everyone on the finishing line. Those competing will be Tingoora State School, Durong State School, Wooroolin State School, Crawford State School, Coolabunia State School and Kumbia State School. I thank Dr Tanya Taylor, the principal, for inviting me. Guluguba State School will not be there. I say to all those small-school kids—they know I went to a small school; I love small schools: if you do go to a small school you can achieve anything you want to achieve.


Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.07 pm): Our Labor government is a government of action and delivery. Just last Friday our government delivered again for the Woodridge electorate. Last Friday I was joined by the health minister and member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman; the energy minister and member for Springwood, Mick de Brenni; and the member for Logan, Linus Power, who is with me in the House tonight, as together we opened stage 1 of the Logan Hospital Expansion project. This is a \$460 million expansion to one of Queensland's busiest hospitals, an almost half a billion dollar expansion that will deliver 206 new beds and provide more operating spaces. Seven new wards have already opened their doors to patients. This includes a new cardiac ward, a coronary care unit, a medical assessment and planning unit, a general medical ward and a palliative care ward.

When I had the privilege of serving as Queensland's minister for health and ambulance services I announced our government's commitment to expanding Logan Hospital. It was such a privilege to make that announcement because during the 2015 election campaign I promised the people of the Woodridge electorate that I would dedicate myself to providing them with better health services after they suffered from the devastating cuts of the Newman years. I listened to the community in the lead-up to that election and I heard about the terrible consequences of Campbell Newman's cuts. I also fought against the funding cuts to health by the then Liberal prime minister, Tony Abbott. The Woodridge community entrusted me with righting the wrongs of Campbell Newman's cuts and last Friday our Labor government delivered on that promise.

The expansion of the hospital adds to the hospital's new \$62 million multi-level car park, the new \$20 million 28-bed modular ward and the new \$19 million refurbishment of the maternity ward. Our Labor government is not done yet. Our government is cracking on with delivering stage 2 of the Logan Hospital Expansion project, an additional investment of more than half a billion dollars that I was proud to announce as Queensland Treasurer. Work will soon start on stage 2 which will deliver a further 112 beds, more operating theatres and surgical and procedure rooms. This is what we do. It is what Queensland Labor does. We deliver for Queenslanders by putting them first. Every day since my election I have worked as hard as I could to put the people of the Woodridge electorate first and I am so pleased to have delivered the expansion of the Logan Hospital for the people of the Woodridge electorate and the city of Logan.

Anti-Semitism

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.10 pm): I refer to the Speaker's statement of 16 April concerning correspondence from the Leader of the House. This was the first time this matter had been drawn to my attention. In response to the Speaker's request, I correct the record and advise that I should have referred to the fact that 18 of the 19 government ministers did not make ministerial statements on the day in question.

I want to address an issue of deep concern, one that strikes at the very heart of our cherished principles of multiculturalism, respect and mutual understanding. I have recently met Queenslanders of the Jewish faith who have told me stories of anti-Semitic events they have experienced right here in Brisbane since the terror attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023. These are stories of fear, isolation and hurt experienced by our fellow citizens. Time does not allow me to tell all of them, but here are some.

I heard the story of a family who came to Australia to escape the violence of the Middle East five years ago. They told me, 'We moved here for peace, but now we feel threatened in our own home.' At home here in Brisbane after her husband returned to support family in Israel following the attacks, one lady told me, 'I was petrified, moving from one friend's house to another just to sleep at night.' Her fears

were exacerbated by a stark reminder of conflict: graffiti in a West End park declaring 'Free Gaza', which froze her in fear and made her feel as if she could not escape the conflict or being targeted for what she believes.

Ayelet Rinon faced a direct menace at a Greens community meeting in Kenmore. There she encountered a man wearing a hi-vis shirt emblazoned with a chilling message. She told me, 'The shirt read "Zionist Final Solution"—a phrase echoing the darkest times for my people.' Ayelet says, 'That speaks volumes about the normalisation of such hatred.'

I was also contacted by Elle who, after the October 7 attacks, was shattered to hear of calls for a 'Night of Broken Glass' against Jews in Australia. She says that she feels this reference to the Kristallnacht pogrom was no mere rhetoric; it was a call to violence that left her suffering from severe anxiety to the point of physical illness. There are alarming reports from parents about the experiences of their kids at school. One mother described the daily fear of sending her children to school where they face bullying and chants of hate. She said, 'Imagine sending your kids to school, knowing they might be bullied for being Jewish.'

Lastly, Gail's story was passed on to me. Gail was raised in a small kibbutz near Gaza dedicated to peace. She witnessed the betrayal of that core tenet of her community during the 7 October attacks. Her anguish was evident when she told me, 'The very people we welcomed into our homes were the ones who turned against us.' We must call out all forms of anti-Semitism large and seemingly small. As Ayelet says—

I would like to clarify the point I made about our sense of anxiety and the rise of antisemitism. It is generally not one major incident; it's rather a cumulative effect of many smaller incidents ...

Queensland must be safe for all its residents, anti-Semitism must be condemned and, importantly, irrespective of its government, we must support the ongoing right of the people of the state of Israel to exist free from terror.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund; Queensland Family and Child Commission, Event



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.13 pm): I express my excitement for the handful of community organisations from Redcliffe lucky enough to be selected for funding from the Gambling Communities Benefit Fund in round 119. Of course, the investment that people put into our communities not only through their time volunteering but also the management of these organisations and the funds that they raise are crucial to maintaining the sense of belonging that ensures the connections residents have to each other.


I would like to give a special shout-out to the Redcliffe Leagues Hockey Club, the Redcliffe Area Youth Space, the Redcliffe Tigers AFC and Scarborough State School P&C, all receiving funding totalling over \$110,000 for a range of upgrades to their respective facilities. These upgrades to their amenities will prove to be important investments in the social, sporting and community hubs that make Redcliffe such a great place to live.

While I am on my feet, I also want to thank the Queensland Family and Child Commission which put on a two-day youth summit last week. Some other ministers and I had the opportunity to go and listen to young people up to the age of 25 expressing their views on a whole range of issues. I sat in the session headed 'Valued, loved and safe'. I listened to these amazing people and had the opportunity to reflect on their contributions.

I want to acknowledge: Oliver, 21, who talked about children with a disability in the child protection system and what more we can do to support them; Ruby, 16, who has developed a website for children exposed to domestic and family violence in their household; Charis, 15, who talked about her family's personal experience of racism in their school and in their community; Caroline, 23, who talked again about her lived experience of domestic and family violence and being a kinship carer for her young siblings; Abbey, 17, who talked about how we educate young people about their self-worth and their value; Randhawa, who emphasised the importance of having time with your parents and the importance of having a good family unit around you; and Malakai, 20, who did a rap and talked about his time in residential care and what it meant for him.

All of these kids had such deep, meaningful stories to tell. They have all been hurt, but they all had solutions of what we can do to support them. I thank them deeply for their contributions. I look forward to working with them in the future.

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.16 pm): Before the House rises tonight, I think it is important that I put a few words on the record in relation to the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee being disbanded last night in an ambush by this government using its numbers in the House. As my friend the member for Lockyer pointed out last night and as has already been raised in this parliament, the member for Lockyer—a former senior sergeant of police—the member for Currumbin—a former Commonwealth prosecutor and barrister—and I know full well how important this committee, its reforms and important, tougher laws and more resources for our police are. It was not that long ago that a person, who I will not name—a senior member of this place; not a member of parliament—advised the committee that the methodical way we were going through the report might take another week. Subsequently, it is on the public record that the chair of the committee moved a motion in March asking for a delay until next week. I am happy to table it again.

The chair of the committee moved a motion asking for a week's extension to the arbitrary timeline this government had placed on the committee. We agreed to that extension. Members opposite voted it down. It was only another week. This government proved last night that it was politicising this issue when it blew it up because of an arbitrary timeline—no doubt because before too long members opposite want to see the Premier in a press conference using this report as a prop. We were working through the report. We had asked for an extension and so had the chair, and members opposite blocked the extension.

As has already been aired in this chamber, the committee was only halfway through the report.

Government members interjected.


Mr PURDIE: I am sure those opposite now interjecting would probably want a bit more time to get to the end of the report because at page 91 is the heading 'Building community confidence in the youth justice system'. This is the section towards the end of the report that talks about gagging the media and silencing victims. Members opposite are trying to correct the record on that and rewrite history. It is in the report. They wanted to put it on the traditional media to improve the perception of crime.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members!

Mr PURDIE: It is actually in the report. They did not want to hear from victims. They shut down victims. They tried to silence the media and they tried to silence victims. That is why there was no way I was putting my name to a report to be released when we had not reached the section that glossed over police numbers and gagged the media to improve the perception of crime in this state. I want to get that on the record and I want to get on the record that I feel for the victims of crime who appeared before the committee such as Vyleen White's family, Voice for Victims, the police and people across Queensland who are furious that this government has used the committee as its political plaything.

Autism Awareness Month

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.19 pm): I thought I might bring a bit of positivity to the House this week. I think it has been sorely lacking. I would like to remind the House that, being April, it is Autism Awareness Month. Today, 18 April, Autism Queensland hosts Action for Autism Day—a national day for the community to unite in solidarity to remove barriers, embrace everyone's unique strengths and perspective, and raise funds for autism awareness. I know that many of my schools get involved. As is my wont, it is this time of year when I update the House on my family's autism journey.

Hi, Ronan! Ronan is now 10 years old and in grade 5. Having recently read the 2024 National Autism Education Survey, I can confirm that our autism experience mirrors that of the majority of respondents to this survey. He is currently an NDIS participant. Like 64 per cent of the respondents, he has level 2 autism. Like 51 per cent of respondents, he goes to a public school and now, like 70 per cent of children with ASD, he has ADHD as a co-occurring condition. The ADHD diagnosis is new for us. It is something that required a significant amount of testing. Those who have had experience with ASD children would know that a blood test is not a fun experience. He was a brave little man throughout the whole experience and we had all the diagnostic tests done.


As a result of this diagnosis we now have medication for him. The intent of this medication is specifically to help him with his focus at school. His diagnosis is ADHD inattentive. We are really hoping that, as we get to the meaty part of primary school and he gets ready to go on to high school, we can really focus on learning and attention while he is studying. His interests have changed. Trains still interest him, but now he would like to challenge every single one of you to identify the flags of the world.

He has managed to beat everyone in his class and all of his teachers. He has an ambition, and I can tell you that as a parent there is nothing better than to see your child, who really struggles with school, have an ambition. His ambition is to be a school captain next year in grade 6. I applaud the number of schools that have decided to include inclusion captains within their school. He would like to mentor the next group of young ASD kids coming through his state school.

This is this year's self-portrait of Ronan at 10 years old. He has labelled himself as 'random and wacky'. I table his self-portrait.

Tabled paper: Child's drawing depicting a self portrait of Ronan aged 10 [\[632\]](#).

Toondah Harbour Development


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.22 pm): Good on you, Ronan, and good luck with that, mate. In more good news, Walker Corporation has just withdrawn its application for the Toondah Harbour development. The Toondah Harbour development was always a terrible idea, and the Greens have said so from the outset. As both of the major parties change out of their cheerleading uniforms for this hugely unpopular project, I think it is worth a quick trip down memory lane.

It was, of course, the Newman LNP government that declared the PDA over Toondah Harbour in 2013. Let's not forget that Labor opposed these PDAs in 2012, with the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, calling them 'an outrageous abuse and concentration of power' that was about giving government land away to 'its developer mates'. Too true. But when Labor was in government in 2015 they went on and endorsed the Toondah Harbour PDA. In 2016 Labor signed a secret development agreement with the Walker Corporation and Redland City Council. They later spent at least \$67,000 in court to keep that agreement secret after community group Redlands 2030 made a successful RTI application for its release.

That was all because by this time there was already enormous community opposition and a campaign against the Toondah Harbour development. It privatised publicly owned foreshore, trashed community consultation and threatened the Moreton Bay Wetlands, which are protected under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. Unfortunately for Queensland Labor, that convention—to which Australia is a signatory—meant that we had obligations to protect those wetlands, so from 2016-17 the Queensland environment department, under the leadership of none other than then minister Steven Miles, lobbied the federal government to change the boundaries of the protected wetlands for the Toondah development. The problem is that Ramsar says you cannot do that unless it is in the urgent national interest. It is a bit tricky to argue that a private developer building 3,600 luxury apartments and some shops right on top of critical habitat for threatened species was in the urgent national interest.

It is still unclear why Labor pushed Walker's plan so hard instead of just upgrading the ferry terminal. Granted, this was happening around the same time that Walker Corporation donated \$23,000 to Queensland Labor and paid for cash-for-access meetings with Labor ministers, but those were not Walker's only timely political donations. Who could forget the \$200,000 donated to the Liberals right after the federal environment department said the development was clearly unacceptable. Then Liberal environment minister Josh Frydenberg ignored that advice to progress to the next stage of development. It is a testament to the community campaign that Walker's plans are now dead. The staggering lengths to which Labor and the LNP have gone to gift this land and water to a private developer and political donor and to trash critical habitat cannot be forgotten. We need a commitment from the government now that they will not pursue any private development at this site.

Townsville Electorate, Renewable Energy


 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.25 pm): What a great day it was in parliament today to see the public gallery full of tradies and people supporting renewable energy and the projects we will be doing as a result of our Clean Economy Jobs Bill, which was passed today with government support. It was such a shame that they got to see empty seats and the Leader of the Opposition voting against our bills. Essentially, they voted to privatise our energy assets.

I want to provide an update. I had a briefing from Powerlink recently in Townsville. I am glad we have North Queensland people here. We talk about Queensland's SuperGrid, but North Queensland has its own super energy grid, and it will be backed in. In a couple of months the turbines will start at Kidston. What a great use of an old gold mine: 2,000 megawatt hours that will power 143,000 homes in North Queensland. I think that is great. Our state government backed that in. Everyone remembers the 2019 Townsville regional sitting where we committed over \$140 million to build that 270-kilometre,

275-kilowatt line. I heard the flat-earthers on the other side say it would not create jobs. Well, go and speak to the local Ingham concreting company that had to employ more concreters and buy more trucks when they did the footings for Kidston. Go and speak to the hundreds of workers who worked hard. That entire energy project is surrounded by renewable energy in terms of wind farms and solar panels. All of them had to be put in by those hard workers.

We also have CopperString, which will kick off in July when we break ground for stage 1 in Hughenden. I will invite all of the flat-earthers over there and the people who do not believe in renewable energy because, backed by our government's \$1.3 billion, CopperString will create thousands of jobs through unlocking the North West Minerals Province and creating thousands of jobs. I want those who are smiling over there to come out to Lansdown and see what we are doing by providing trunk infrastructure to enable future jobs in the renewable energy space. We will be producing batteries in North Queensland and manufacturing them to the world through the largest port in North Queensland, our Townsville port. I know that all of the North Queensland members are right behind CopperString. The Labor government is behind CopperString. I call out the LNP because they are silent on CopperString. They will not back it. The Leader of the Opposition is completely weak on CopperString. He should man up and tell us what he is going to do.

Anzac Day

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.29 pm): On 19 April 2024 I will be honoured to attend the University of Queensland Medicine Anzac Day Memorial Service, which is to be held at the Mayne Medical school. I wish to thank the University of Queensland Medical Society and Brigadier Michael Reade AM for the kind invitation to attend this Anzac memorial service. For over 70 years this annual service has recognised the strong connection that the University of Queensland has with Australia's defence forces whilst also acknowledging the 14 medical students and graduates who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of our nation.


As a graduate of the University of Queensland and a medical officer with the 2nd Health Battalion, specifically Alpha Company, I take this opportunity to recognise the leadership provided by Lieutenant Colonel Kelly Dunne CSC, Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 1 Matthew Shoemark and Lieutenant Colonel Julian Williams to the health capability within the Australian Army.

This coming Sunday, I am honoured to be participating in the 2024 Run Army 10 kilometre and 5 kilometre charity event. This important community event has significantly grown and supports not only our Australian Army and our veterans but also Legacy Australia, RSL Queensland and the Queensland police, fire and ambulance services. I again wish to acknowledge Run Army President Major General (Ret'd) Jake Ellwood DSC, AM, CSC for his leadership of this important initiative. I will also be attending the Anzac Nurses Memorial candlelit vigil on 24 April, hosted by the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses.

On Anzac Day, in the electorate of Moggill, there will be a number of significant services held, commencing with the annual Bellbowrie Dawn Service hosted by the Kenmore-Moggill RSL Sub Branch, followed by the 9 am morning service and community march at the Brookfield Showground, as well as the commemorative Shell Green T20 cricket match, starting at 11 am. I acknowledge the important service being held at the Bolton Clarke Fairview aged-care facility as well as an important service being held at our local Mount Crosby Bowls Club.

Our Anzac Day services pay respect to the service and sacrifice made on behalf of our nation. These services also serve as an important opportunity to unite our communities in reflection, assist in teaching future generations about the values of courage, resilience and solidarity and ensure the legacy and the sacrifice of our Anzacs continue to be remembered. I join all members of the Queensland parliament in recognising the service of both past and current ADF personnel. On Anzac Day, lest we forget.

Anzac Day

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.31 pm): I associate myself with the comments of the member for Moggill because Anzac Day is, indeed, a time for our community to come together to reflect on the courage and the sacrifice of the soldiers who have gone before us and, of course, who are still serving. Tonight, I would like to invite the House to the many wonderful Anzac services that are happening in my community. I will be attending the Corinda Primary Anzac service that happens prior to Anzac Day. Unfortunately, this year I will not be able to personally attend the Middle Park State School service, which is always well attended by members of the school community, our Centenary RSL and many other delegates from Rotary and other local groups.

Centenary State High always has a very moving service and an excellent guest speaker so I am excited to see who that will be this year. In years gone by they have had a Vietnamese refugee speak about what war has meant to them and how it has changed their lives. The audience was in tears listening to those recollections. They always do a wonderful job at Centenary State High of selecting a moving and important guest speaker.

Jindalee State School will also be paying their respects, and I will be delighted to do that with the school community before Anzac Day. On Anzac Day itself, I will be attending the dawn service at Clewley Street, which draws a crowd of around 5,000, before a gunfire breakfast over the road at Westside HQ, where everyone is welcome. If you are attending the Darra RSL service, they also have a gunfire breakfast that you can attend. About 5,000 locals come along to the morning service at Mount Ommaney and it is a beautiful service. If you are looking for somewhere to attend, I highly recommend it.

I will finish up my Anzac Day at the Oxley service, where I will be singing both the Australian and the New Zealand national anthems, which I am very proud to do. In the time that I have left, I want to acknowledge the reason that I learned the New Zealand national anthem in the traditional Maori. It was because of a bet my nana, Margaret Pugh, made with me. She bet that I could not learn it after one of my little nieces came home from school one day in New Zealand and sang it so beautifully and so perfectly. She said, 'I bet you can't do that, Jess.' So I thought I had better learn it to teach her a lesson.

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Ms PUGH: I will sing it on Anzac Day, member for Stafford. Members may remember that my grandparents celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 6 March, but just a few short weeks later my Nan sadly passed away on 22 March, surrounded by family. Sadly, I was not there with her. She was such a strong woman and I am so lucky and so proud to have known her. I will be so proud to sing that song on Anzac Day in remembrance of her and of the soldiers we have lost. Lest we forget.

The House adjourned at 6.33 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Zanow