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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 23 May 2024

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THURSDAY, 23 MAY 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 STATEMENTS

Matters of Privilege; Disrespect to Chair, Apology



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday evening the member for Mudgeeraba rose on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. A genuine matter of privilege suddenly arising may be raised by a member at any time under standing order 248. To satisfy the requirements of standing order 248, firstly, a matter must be a matter of privilege and, secondly, it must be a matter that has suddenly arisen and requires immediate redress. The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Matters that may fall into that category include members being unable or prevented from entering the chamber, strangers being present in the House and interrupting proceedings, or required material not being available for proceedings before the House.

Unfortunately, as with points of order, some members attempt to use matters of privilege to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another member is misleading the House, or put the member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or material. These matters are not matters of privilege suddenly arising and are simply yet another example of abuse of the rules. The member for Mudgeeraba's matter was not a matter suddenly arising and was simply an abuse of the rules. I note that letters about this matter from the Manager of Opposition Business and the member for Mudgeeraba had already been dispatched to the Clerk and myself. Furthermore, the member was not stopping her prepared statement despite my calling her to order multiple times. The member continued to talk over the chair and, despite apologising at some stage, continued with the statement.

I have reflected on this matter overnight and reviewed the broadcast. I am not pleased with this conduct and the disrespect shown to the chair. I would ask that the member for Mudgeeraba apologise for her conduct.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I apologise to you and the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member.

Broadcast of Proceedings, Conditions of Use



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Legislative Assembly authorises the further publication of its broadcast of proceedings, subject to the various conditions, including that the material must only be used for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings and must not in any circumstances be used for political advertising, election campaigning or any advertising campaign that would normally require at law a broadcaster to announce who has authorised the material; satire or ridicule; and commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising.

Importantly, excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation of the proceedings. Republication of excerpts of the broadcast on social media and complaints about those excerpts not complying with the broadcast rules is becoming a more frequent occurrence. A different but related issue is increasing complaints about posts on social media that involve proceedings of the House that are arguably misrepresenting proceedings.

The Clerk and I try to resolve these complaints informally. Usually the Clerk will approach the member in whose name the posts are made and ask them to be taken down. This system has been reasonably successful in the past, but in more recent times members have been resistant to removing posts or sometimes remove the post only to replace it with another similar offending post at a later time.


It is clear that there are a number of issues driving the increasing complaints and the reluctance to withdraw offending posts. Firstly, the creators of posts made on the social media sites of members are often not the member themselves. The creators are usually skilled in the art of social media and are focused on what sorts of posts attract views. Shorter clips are the preferred fodder for social media, but shorter clips often do not show full context. Secondly, the third-party creators are not focused on the rules of this House but rather are focused on good copy. Thirdly, if a post is achieving a great number of views, there is a reluctance to remove the post despite the informal guidance provided by the Clerk or me.

I currently have a matter before me where, on the face of it, the member has been asked to remove a post twice only to repost a version of the offending post a little while later—a third time. I have another matter before me where complaints have been made against multiple members alleging a misrepresentation of proceedings. It is clear that this material has been distributed to a large number of members.

The increasing frequency of issues is alerting me to the fact that, to date, an informal way of dealing with these matters may not be acting as sufficient deterrent. Members and those who assist in creating posts need to be aware that the protections at law for republishing proceedings are limited to fair reports of those proceedings. I take this opportunity to ask that all members review their posts in accordance with the broadcast rules.

SPEAKER'S RULING


Amendments Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the member for South Brisbane has circulated amendments to the residential tenancies bill. Amendments 2 to 6, 17, 18, 26 and 27 enliven the same question because they canvass issues subject to the same question rule explained in another context in a ruling by Deputy Speaker Kelly on 11 May 2023—pages 1380 and 1381. Amendment 1 is pre-consequential to these amendments.

Amendments 8 to 11 and 22 enliven the same question rule because they canvass issues subject to the same question rule explained in another context in my ruling on 14 September 2021—pages 2524 and 2525. Amendments 12 to 14, 19 to 21, 24 and 25 are consequential to these amendments, so amendments 1 to 6, 8 to 14 and 17 to 27 are either themselves out of order or consequential to clauses that are out of order and thus nonsensical and also out of order. Clauses 7, 15 and 16 remain in order but are outside the long title of the bill as they seek to introduce new principles and new offences. Leave will be required for these amendments to progress. I know that my statements are long this morning; I apologise.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Besic, Ms A


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Azra Besic, Cleaning Supervisor from the cleaning team, reached 40 years of service on 8 May. Azra commenced working for QBuild Cleaning Services on 9 May 1983. QBuild assigned Azra to work at Parliament House, commencing on 8 May 1984. Azra worked for QBuild Cleaning Services until November 2012, at which time she was directly employed by the Queensland Parliamentary Service. I am sure all members will join me in thanking Azra for her dedicated service and add their congratulations on achieving this milestone.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the month of May is recognised nationally each year as 65 Roses for Cystic Fibrosis month. Cystic fibrosis is the most common, life-shortening, genetic chronic illness in Australia. It attacks the lungs, airway passages and pancreas—slowly shutting down the organs. A child is born with cystic fibrosis every four days; most will not live past their twenties. There is no cure. Cystic Fibrosis Queensland provides support and hope to cystic fibrosis sufferers and their families. They are a not-for-profit charity advocating for the cystic fibrosis community and raising essential funds. Each May our community comes together in a national campaign—65 Roses for Cystic Fibrosis—raising funds and awareness for the cause. The Queensland parliament marked this occasion by lighting Parliament House in red earlier this month to help bring attention to this important cause. More information can be found at www.cfqld.org.au.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Finally, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Philomena School in the electorate of Logan and Varsity College Primary in the electorate of Burleigh.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Flynn, Dr JG

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.39 am): I move—


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

John Flynn was an extraordinary man who lived an extraordinary life and achieved extraordinary things. He was an outstanding scholar, scientist, doctor and MP whose time in this place was not long enough; a man of compassion, a man of conscience who cared for community, who tried to make life better and easier for all not just through his decades as a GP but through the organisations he set up and worked for. John Flynn wanted to make things right—from brilliant school and uni student to researcher at the Royal Women's Hospital and to his medical practices. In the mid-1970s John spearheaded the free and groundbreaking Caxton Street Legal Service. It not only helped launch the careers of Wayne Goss and future attorney-general Matt Foley but to this day continues to help those in trouble and in need.

By 1989, in the wake of the Fitzgerald inquiry and after decades of Joh Bjelke-Petersen, a political career came calling. He took on the might of the National Party in Toowoomba North, winning the seat by just 374 votes and becoming part of the team that swept Wayne Goss and Labor to power after so long in the political wilderness. As part of his sweeping overhaul of Queensland parliament and its institutions, Tony Fitzgerald recommended a Public Accounts Committee—a crucial reform to make parliament and government more transparent and accountable—a committee that Wayne Goss set up and John Flynn chaired during his time here. That was cut short by a redistribution and John lost his seat by less than 200 votes after just one term.

John Flynn was lost to parliament but not to medicine. As I said earlier, John was a man of compassion and caring. After returning to general practice he helped establish Algester Aged Care Medical Services, a 24/7 service that allowed staff at nursing homes to call at any time for free medical advice. John's sense of caring and his social conscience came from the man he was. As his son Tom said in his eulogy, his dad was kind, brilliant and compassionate; a devoted, loving family man; happy helping others; happiest being wrapped in the love and company of his family.

Sadly, John Flynn passed away in February, but not before a life very well lived and not before leaving Queensland very well served. I know the House will join me in thanking John Flynn for his decades of service to medicine and our democratic processes and institutions and in passing on our condolences and best wishes to his family—his wife Kelyn, daughter Julia and son Daniel, who are here today, and his friends, some of whom are with us. Vale, John Flynn.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.42 am): The opposition offers its support to the motion moved this morning, recognising the service to this House of Dr John Flynn, who served the people of Toowoomba North from 1989 until 1992. John Flynn won a seat for the Labor Party in 1989 which for the previous 15 years had been held by the Liberal or National parties. However, his victory followed in the footsteps of two significant Labor identities from Toowoomba—Jack Duggan and Les Wood, both of whom served as leader of the opposition after the split of 1957. The year 1989 remains a significant year in Queensland political history. That election saw 24 Labor members elected in seats that had been held previously by the Liberal or National parties, John Flynn being one of them.

Dr Flynn was born in Brisbane into a family of Irish Catholic immigrants and completed his secondary education at Marist College at Rosalie. After graduating from the University of Queensland with a first-class honours degree in biochemistry, John enrolled in medicine. After hospital service at both the Royal Brisbane and Royal Children's hospitals, he bought into a general practice in Toowoomba in 1982. Throughout this entire period John Flynn's strong links to Labor came to the fore. He ran on the radical action ticket for a position on the student council at UQ. He joined Young Labor

and honed his campaign skills through the Paddington branch of the ALP. He was an active participant in the principle political campaigns of the 1970s, including those against the Vietnam War, conscription and the 1971 Springbok tour.

His contesting of Toowoomba North in 1989 was very much an extension of the practical politics he had pursued for nearly 20 years. Despite the 15 years that had passed since Labor last held the seat, the then member for Caboolture, Ken Hayward, convinced John Flynn that the seat was winnable, and he provided valuable advice on campaigning. John was successful by a margin of 374 votes, and so began his term as a member of this House in which he was the sole ALP representative in southern Queensland west of the Great Dividing Range. It is instructive to note that in his first speech to this place in March 1990 John Flynn highlighted issues which he regarded as critical to his constituents in Toowoomba North, including child abuse; sexual assault; the need for new educational facilities; and the need for efficient, cost-effective health services. He sought to promote the cause of regional development as well as narrowing the gulf between city and country.


Throughout his three years in this House John Flynn was keenly aware of the need to improve rural health services throughout the state. This concern covered access to screening services, improved facilities and, importantly, an increased ability to consult qualified GPs and hospital doctors. He believed in the importance of parliament and he chaired the Public Accounts Committee in his final year in this House. However, the swings and roundabouts of politics saw John Flynn defeated after only three years, albeit by a mere 199 votes, after a redistribution.

He returned to medicine, setting up a number of private practices in Brisbane's southern suburbs. He championed medical care for the aged, believing in the need to avoid hospitalisation for the elderly while not comprising continuity of care. He maintained an interest in professional medical organisations and continued his lifelong support for the Labor Party and its candidates. Throughout his time in this House John Flynn served his community with diligence, compassion and commitment. While his time in this place was brief, he made a mark as both a member of parliament and a dedicated medical professional.


I express my thanks to John's wife, Kelyn, who provided much of this information on John's life and achievements and shared some further stories with me this morning. In doing so, I cannot help but reflect on John's first speech when he recorded his gratitude for all that she had done for his campaign. He said—

After our victory was announced, she expressed concern at the effects it would have on our family. It was with great pleasure that I could say to her, 'Well, it's your fault. You were the campaign-director.'

We are honoured to have Kelyn and two of their children, Julia and Daniel, in the gallery. Tom is unable to be here today, but he is watching online. His former electorate officer Sharon joins us today, as well as other members of John's family. We extend our condolences to you. We acknowledge John's contribution to the parliament and his community and we record our appreciation for all that he has achieved. Vale, John Flynn.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (9.47 am): It is an absolute privilege to say a few words of condolence for John Flynn and to acknowledge Kelyn Flynn and his family in the gallery here. Kelyn and John were a very strong team right throughout his life. I would like to say a few things. I first knew John when I was a young Labor activist and John was part of the new Goss government team. I can honestly say that John was one of the kindest, most gentle and compassionate people I have met in my life. He applied that throughout his life in terms of his professional career, whether it was medicine or politics. He was always kind and he was always receptive. He always had time for anybody to whom he was talking. He was very inclusive and he practised what he preached.

John made a significant contribution while he was here but he also made a massive contribution in the area of health, and I will give the House a simple example. I knew John in the 1990s and early 2000s when he moved to Algester after having served as the member for Toowoomba North. After a Woodford festival I had a few friends staying, one who was a performer who became ill quite quickly at a time when nothing was open, so I called John. John said, 'Take him down to the surgery and I'll meet you there in 20 minutes.' That is the kind of person he was. He would do anything for anybody, especially if he had the skills. He was just a fantastic man in every sense of the word. This parliament is fortunate to have had his service here. I extend my condolences to Kelyn and to his family. Vale, John Flynn.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.49 am): As the current member for Toowoomba North, I would like to contribute to today's condolence motion for former member for Toowoomba North Dr John Flynn. I would like to start by paying my respects to the family and friends of Dr Flynn who join us in the gallery today.

Though Dr Flynn and I hail from different political backgrounds, we share a common commitment to serving and representing the people of Toowoomba North. Dr Flynn was born, raised and educated in Brisbane. After school, he attended the University of Queensland where, as we have heard, he began an engineering degree before switching to biochemistry and microbiology, earning a first-class honours degree. This is something we do not have in common. He later pursued medicine before becoming a general practitioner, which took him to Toowoomba in 1985. He bought into a practice with Dr John Morgan and moved there shortly before his son Tom was born. The two Johns bought a second practice at Wilsonton and John practised there until 1991.

When Dr John ran for the seat of Toowoomba North, his wife, Kelyn, became his campaign manager, which as many people here would know is a brave move to even put that request forward. She obviously did a fantastic job and, as we have heard, maybe more than she intended because he was successful by 374 votes. Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to meet Dr Flynn but, after reading his maiden speech and having discussions with his family and friends this morning, he was committed to leaving the community better than when he arrived.

Dr Flynn was vocal in addressing the housing crisis that affected so many in our community at the time, especially the state of public housing in Harlaxton. He wanted to see adequate police resources and an enhancement in the educational infrastructure for Toowoomba North. One of his lasting achievements for the electorate of Toowoomba North was the commitment to build a new high school west of the city at Wilsonton, which is now Wilsonton State High School. That school's very large attendance shows that the community needed their own school, and his passion to get that school started was fully realised in my term serving here when it became a fully functioning high school.

His advocacy for health was unwavering, especially upgrading the facilities that we see standing today at the Baillie Henderson Hospital. Dr Flynn also championed the cause of regional development and decentralisation of decision-making, something I strongly agree with him on. As a strong local voice for his community, Dr Flynn understood that local voices make the most resonant decisions. Perhaps most importantly, Dr Flynn sought to foster unity and respect across all divides. His efforts to ensure every individual was treated with dignity and without discrimination are lessons that resonate deeply with us all today, regardless of our political stripes. Vale, Dr John Flynn.


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

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will commence at roughly 10.38 am.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coal Royalties

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.54 am): Yesterday, my government made history. We locked in a \$1,000 energy bill rebate for every Queensland household—that is 2.2 million households that will get \$1,000 back in their pockets. The Albanese Labor government has tipped in an extra \$300, bringing the savings to \$1,300, meaning most households will not pay an electricity bill until 2025.

This is the biggest cost-of-living relief measure ever delivered by any government in Australia. It is a measure that will directly drive down bills while keeping inflation low because that is what is important to Queenslanders—Queenslanders like Rob, who joined the Deputy Premier and me yesterday to explain just what this will mean for his family of six. 'We are excited to see it,' he said. 'It definitely can help families, especially large families like us. The cost of living is definitely going up—we see it every week with our grocery bills—so \$1,000 off our power bill is going to be a big win for us.' My government is doing what matters for Queensland.

This year, we have made kindy free for four-year-olds, saving about \$4,800 a year. We are delivering free TAFE and subsidised training to ensure a good job is within reach for every Queenslanders. We have over \$8 billion in rebates and concessions for Queenslanders right now. These measures are only possible because our government is making multinational coal companies pay their

fair share through our progressive coal royalties. Those royalties have delivered \$16 billion back to Queenslanders—\$16 billion that would otherwise have gone back to the shareholders of big business mining companies.

This funding has helped our government deliver projects like the new Moranbah Hospital; new hospitals at Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg; expansions to the Cairns, Mackay and Townsville hospitals; funding for LifeFlight and the Royal Flying Doctor Service; new dams for big pumped hydro builds; the Fitzroy to Gladstone pipeline; the Browne Park redevelopment in Rockhampton; and, of course, CopperString.


Today, the Deputy Premier and Treasurer will introduce a bill to safeguard our coal royalties, to keep them in the bank so they can benefit generations to come. Our plan will ensure the royalties we receive from multinational mining companies cannot be lowered by the government of the day—only by a vote of parliament. This means any reduction in what is owed to Queenslanders would be subject to the public and parliamentary scrutiny it deserves.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, you will cease your interjections. The level of conversation generally is too high in the chamber.

Mr MILES: This means any reduction in what is owed to Queenslanders would be subject to the public and parliamentary scrutiny it deserves. Queenslanders deserve their fair share of these coal royalties. The laws will protect investment in cost-of-living relief, industry infrastructure and medical care across Queensland. Only a Labor government will lock in guaranteed funding that will ensure Queensland continues to deliver nation-leading, cost-of-living relief, game-changing infrastructure and world-class healthcare facilities. I look forward to the House supporting this move to lock in progressive coal royalties for all of Queensland.

Coal Royalties, Legislation

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.57 am): Our Labor government understands the importance of delivering what matters for Queenslanders. That is why we have introduced progressive coal royalties to ensure Queenslanders get their fair share of our state's mineral wealth. Those progressive coal royalties are delivering a \$1,000 power bill rebate for every Queensland household. Those royalties are delivering a new hospital for Moranbah, thanks to the persistent advocacy of former Isaac mayor Anne Baker. Those royalties are helping to build the 1,000-kilometre CopperString transmission line to Mount Isa. Those royalties are delivering a new Fitzroy to Gladstone water pipeline.

Since the introduction of progressive coal royalties, I am pleased to inform the House that investor confidence in Queensland coal has never been as high as it is today. That confidence has seen BHP reverse a two-decade policy to now seek new growth in Queensland through the prized mines of Anglo American that they want to purchase. When our government introduced progressive royalty tiers, we did so through the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. These new tiers could have been introduced through regulation but we made a deliberate choice to enshrine them through a parliamentary vote. While those opposite did not cast a vote against progressive coal royalties, in the 700 days since they have sought to denigrate, undermine and attack this vitally important revenue source for Queensland.


Most recently when the Leader of the Opposition was asked about royalties in front of the coal lobby, he told them that when the LNP released their tax and royalties policy they could 'take it to the bank'. The LNP's conduct is all the proof we need. If given half a chance, the LNP will reduce and repeal progressive coal royalties. Therefore, today I am pleased to inform the House that our government will introduce new legislation, the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. This legislation will ensure that progressive coal royalties can never be cut without a vote of this House.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: If the LNP supported coal royalties, they would not be yelling out across the House denigrating them. If they supported coal royalties in this House, every member would say, 'We support progressive coal royalties now, today, forever,' but the reason the LNP interject on me in this ministerial statement is that they do not support progressive coal royalties and will seek to cut and repeal them.

Let me say this again for the benefit of the House and every Queenslander: this legislation will ensure that progressive coal royalties can never be cut without a vote of this House. These royalties are paying for the \$1,000 electricity rebates that Queensland households will receive from July. We have to protect these royalties for the benefit of Queensland taxpayers forever. There will be no quiet Friday afternoon regulatory changes under any future Queensland government. Any reduction to the coal royalties will be subject to the scrutiny of the people of Queensland through their parliament, as it should be. I believe this move will bring greater clarity to Queensland's economic prosperity and indeed greater certainty to investment in resources. Coal royalties should not be in the banks of coal companies. They belong to the bank of the people, and the Miles Labor government will keep them there.

Infrastructure


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnell—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.02 am): The Miles government has an exciting vision for the future of Queensland, and we are turning that vision into a reality. Our record-breaking Big Build, with over \$90 billion in the next four years alone, is delivering the homes, the schools, the hospitals, the renewable energy infrastructure, and the roads and transport our growing state needs—all supported by our progressive coal royalties. For example, last week I was pleased to announce that Economic Development Queensland, EDQ, is developing a concept master plan for a new health and education precinct when I joined the member for Bundaberg, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the health minister to turn the sod on the new \$1.2 billion Bundaberg Hospital. Again, this record investment in health care is supported by our progressive coal royalties. The plan will deliver a strategic blueprint to guide decision-making and development opportunities the hospital will bring to ensure services are there for this fast-growing community, including housing for our frontline workers.

Last week, along with the member for Hervey Bay, I also announced that EDQ and Maritime Safety Queensland are developing a strategic master plan to provide a long-term vision for Urangan boat harbour. The rain did not dampen our spirits, did it, member for Hervey Bay? This magnificent harbour is already a key regional tourism and maritime destination on the Fraser Coast, but we believe there is greater opportunity. Much of the land around the harbour is underutilised and there is potential to better capitalise on Hervey Bay's proximity to K'gari and status as a whale heritage site. Consultation opens next month and I encourage the local community to get involved, as I know the member for Hervey Bay will as well.

In Brisbane, the Woolloongabba Plan, which is currently out for public consultation, will deliver around 14,000 new homes and provide workplace and business opportunities for 36,000 workers around the new Woolloongabba Cross River Rail station that Labor is delivering. Recently I also launched the Future South Bank Master Plan, which renews the vision for one of Queensland's most popular precincts. South Bank's transformation is central to Brisbane becoming a more sustainable, better connected and accessible city for everyone.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Queensland delegation who are going to BIO 2024 next month whom I had the pleasure of hosting in parliament yesterday. This year marks the 25th year Queensland has been involved in BIO and is another example of our state leading the way when it comes to the jobs of the future, supported by our government's Biomedical 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan. With that plan, we have attracted Sanofi to invest in the Boggo Road Translational Research Institute as well as supporting Vaxxas, which are delivering innovative needle-free vaccines. The Miles government's progressive coal royalties are supporting these exciting plans for a future made in Queensland—plans which would all be at risk if we were not making multinational companies pay their fair share.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (10.05 am): The Miles Labor government is helping Queenslanders make ends meet. We want to ensure every eligible Queenslander receives our nation-leading rebates. We are delivering the biggest cost-of-living relief measure by any state government ever, funded by our strong position on coal royalties announced by the Deputy Premier. More than two million Queensland households will benefit from \$1,000 from this Labor government, plus \$300 from the Albanese Labor government. That is a minimum of \$1,300 for every Queensland household. As a result, power bills in Queensland will be about half that of any other state in the nation. An additional 620,000 Queensland households are


eligible for a further \$372 electricity rebate, bringing their cost-of-living rebate to \$1,672. That is an additional \$372 for Queensland seniors, Queensland pensioners and Queensland concession card holders enabled by our strong position on coal royalties.

Today I am asking members of the House to help get the word out. Today we issue an important message to the community—to check with your friends and family to see if they are eligible for the further \$372, because we estimate there could be up to a quarter of a million Queenslanders not yet registered for the additional rebate and they could be missing out on an extra \$372. We ask all members of this House and all Queenslanders to check with your mum, your dad, your neighbour or that older person you might know from the footy club or the pub to see if they could be eligible. They just need to phone their energy provider and register their seniors, veterans or concession card to their account.

I can advise the House that last year Queenslanders rallied to this call and helped an additional 14,000 seniors access this extra help. I want to acknowledge the important role the media has performed in getting this message out to those Queenslanders who need it. We saw articles on news.com, 9News online, Channel 7 and Channel 9 in South-East Queensland and in the regions—a big team effort that delivered results for Queenslanders who needed it most. I want to thank the journalists who covered this story in the public interest.

It is the Miles government's strong position on multinational coal companies that means we can deliver this important support to Queenslanders and help those Queenslanders feeling the pinch of global inflationary factors. Queenslanders know that Labor is on their side and they know that sometimes so is the news.

National Palliative Care Week


 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.08 am): This week is National Palliative Care Week. It is such an important opportunity for us to come together and highlight the importance of compassionate end-of-life care. It is also an opportunity for us to celebrate all of the important work that the palliative care sector does for Queenslanders with life-limiting illnesses in profoundly difficult times. Those working in palliative care organisations dedicate their lives to ensure people are comfortable and dignified in their final days.

We know these organisations are under pressure. Demand for palliative care services continues to increase at the same time that operating costs continue to rise. Across the state, palliative care NGOs have told us that they need support. That is why this National Palliative Care Week the Miles Labor government is stepping up. Because of our progressive coal royalties, I am proud to announce today that we will be providing an additional \$4.1 million in funding to eight palliative care organisations to ensure they can continue providing vitally important services to vulnerable Queenslanders. Organisations like the Toowoomba Hospice Association, the Katie Rose Cottage Hospice on the Sunshine Coast and the Wesley Mission's Hummingbird House on Brisbane's north side will be among the beneficiaries.

This \$4.1 million investment is the first phase of our review that our government has undertaken into palliative care funding. The first phase is aimed at achieving funding parity between services based on occupied bed days or services delivered in recognition of the different workloads organisations face. The second phase of work will focus on delivering a long-term, sustainable funding model that allows these services to plan for the future and continue delivering care in their communities.

I am so proud to be a member of a government that is prioritising funding for compassionate and dignified end-of-life care—again only possible because of our progressive coal royalties. We know all of that funding is at risk if the LNP win government in October and slash our progressive coal royalties. I want to send my best wishes to everyone working in the palliative care sector this National Palliative Care Week, and on behalf of the entire Miles Labor government I want to thank them for everything they do every day.

Housing, Local Government

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.11 am): We are delivering genuine infrastructure partnerships with councils right across Queensland to build more homes for Queenslanders faster. Yesterday I announced \$100 million for South-East Queensland councils to build the water supply, roads, drainage and infrastructure that can help them deliver more homes. This adds to the Premier's announcement last week for the largest round of the popular Works for Queensland program, with \$300 million

available to regional councils. That is on top of the \$366 million we have provided to councils and industry to fuel residential lots and bolster community infrastructure, the \$1 billion Townsville City Deal, the \$1.8 billion South East Queensland City Deal and the \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund—funding we are able to provide councils because of progressive coal royalties.

'Partnership' is an easy word to say, but our government is backing it up with real action, working hand in hand with councils to deliver the infrastructure they need. For our government it is not just a slick slogan to slap on a glossy brochure; we have taken on big multinational mining companies to deliver genuine infrastructure partnerships with councils. One of the best ways we know we can unlock housing is by unlocking underutilised land close to public transport services and where people work. That is why we have announced a \$350 million Incentivising Infill Fund to deliver more affordable housing in well-located areas. All of that is at risk under—

Mrs Frecklington: For the last decade?

Ms SCANLON: All of that is at risk under the LNP. I take the interjection from the member for Nanango and I remind this House that, on average, there have been more homes approved, delivered and built under our government than under the LNP.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: It is true. All of that is at risk under the LNP. When the member for Broadwater was the local government minister he cut funding to local councils, and he did not regret it. Now those opposite have a list of billions of dollars worth of cuts, and they have made it clear that they will hand those billions back to multinational mining companies. Come October, Queenslanders have a very clear choice: the Miles Labor government, which will build the homes and infrastructure Queenslanders deserve, or an LNP—

Mrs Frecklington: What have you been doing for the last decade?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango!


Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. We have been building homes, unlike the LNP which sent social housing in this state backwards.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on standing order 62(1), which clearly defines what a ministerial statement should and should not be, as well as the longstanding convention. We are increasingly seeing a number of attacks on opposition members and the crossbench through these ministerial statements and I ask that you ask ministers to keep them to what is listed in standing order 62(1).

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. I am aware of the standing order and the convention. The convention is what dictates largely how ministerial statements are delivered. I would urge all members who are delivering those statements to adhere to that convention.

Ms SCANLON: It is only a Miles Labor government that will build the homes and infrastructure Queenslanders deserve.

Resources Industry

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (10.15 am): We know critical minerals are what Queensland and the world needs to achieve its energy transition. We have these minerals in absolute abundance, particularly in the North West Minerals Province. There is potentially \$500 billion worth of these deposits in the ground. There is vanadium for storage batteries, there is copper and aluminium for transmission lines, and there are rare earths for our wind turbines. We have it all. Our critical minerals will be potentially the next boom for the resource industry.

We are already seeing some of these projects getting underway. Just last week I approved the mining lease for AIC's new Jericho copper project. The development of the Jericho mine and the expansion of AIC's nearby Eloise processing plant is expected to increase the production rate to more than 20,000 tonnes of copper and 10,000 ounces of gold each year. As the world's most cost-effective conductive material, copper is essential to the world's energy revolution and in helping Queensland reach its bold net zero emissions target. We want to see more projects like this because it means jobs, jobs, jobs and royalties for all Queenslanders.


The key to unlocking this potential is our \$5 billion CopperString project. This nation-building infrastructure will help unlock these critical mineral deposits. CopperString will also connect the largest renewable energy zone on the east coast of Australia which will also help deliver cheaper power. These

resource projects, along with the cheaper power from these renewable energy projects, are being facilitated by CopperString, which I know is backed by this side of the House along with the member for Traeger, who is a huge supporter of this project.

It is our progressive coal royalties that are helping deliver CopperString, a project that will transform our future and provide cheaper power for North Queenslanders. Cheap, reliable and renewable energy delivered through CopperString will not only encourage more smaller scale critical minerals mines to be developed but also, more importantly, attract big investors that require their mineral commodities to be ethically sourced and ESG credentialed. We on this side of the House know that renewable energy, as opposed to nuclear power, is the way to drive down power bills into the future. We know that Queensland's critical minerals are what are needed to get to net zero, because you cannot have a strong renewable energy sector without a strong resources industry.

It is only the Miles Labor government that is backing CopperString not only for the jobs it will create but also for the cheaper power it will generate. This is not the only way we are helping ease the cost-of-living pressures. We are backing Queenslanders with \$1,000 off their power bills, and the only way we can do this, along with CopperString, is through our progressive coal royalties. Queenslanders deserve their fair share of the royalties that belong to them. It is the Miles government that will invest these royalties into things we know will help people with their cost-of-living pressures.

Training and Skills

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.18 am): This week signals a new era for vocational education and training in our state with the launch of our new Queensland Skills Strategy. It is a plan for our future that will deliver one million subsidised training places so Queenslanders can access good jobs with better pay, including additional higher level courses to upskill and reskill. It is a plan for our future that delivers priority skills with a network of high-quality training providers, and it is a plan for our future that is funded by Labor's progressive coal royalties. As part of our Skills Strategy, this morning I am pleased to announce that the Miles government will develop a new Skills Assure suppliers framework. Each year around 250,000 Queenslanders complete training with a Skills Assure supplier, including public, private, not-for-profit and dual sector providers.


The new framework will use evidence to target skills investment, including what courses are subsidised, with what providers and details of when and where. It will focus on making sure that all eligible Queenslanders have access to the high-quality training that we have to offer and it will improve processes for current suppliers and open the door to new ones. The Chief Executive of the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia, Troy Williams, said—

When it comes to the task of helping Queenslanders into their first job or upskill for a new job, it's great that through the new skills plan the State Government recognises the work of independent training providers and their reputation for delivering quality skills training.

The new framework will create opportunities for all eligible registered training organisations to express interest in supplying priority training in the future and, importantly for Queenslanders, they will have more access to subsidised skills for good jobs in priority, traditional and emerging industries like construction, energy, manufacturing, health and community services and they access that cost-of-living relief thanks to funding from our progressive coal royalties.

With the support of our strong Skills Assure Supplier network, Labor will deliver world-class training for Queenslanders no matter who they are or where they live. This will create jobs, keep our economy strong and ensure a good job is within the reach of every Queenslanders.

Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.21 am): We know that councils are at the front line when it comes to delivering local infrastructure like water supply, and the Miles Labor government is right there with them. We roll up our sleeves to help, we roll out the funding to support them and we deliver for our Queensland communities.

I am pleased to advise the House that the Gracemere to Mount Morgan pipeline is now one-third complete. More than 10 kilometres of pipe has been laid along three sections, with design work being finalised for the new pump stations and reservoirs along the route. I acknowledge the member for Rockhampton, who was out there with me recently, along with Mayor Tony Williams. I was not in the

trenches but I certainly saw the workers who are doing the work. There are machinery and workers on site right now. It is great to see that project forging ahead for Central Queensland, supporting 50 local jobs along the way, which is fantastic.

I am pleased to advise the House that this project is expected to be complete by September 2025, weather permitting. The Miles government proudly provided \$40.4 million to fund the delivery of this project. It is another fantastic investment by the Miles Labor government. The mayor of Rockhampton said one thing that really stuck out to me. He said—


Funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments for this and other projects helps us to put downward pressure on rates and water charges—that's money Rocky ratepayers don't need to fork out for.

That is so true. We are rolling out the funding so that councils like the Rockhampton council do not need to pass on the full costs of infrastructure to their ratepayers.

This is an important project for the Mount Morgan community. It highlights how fundamental water security is for economic development in regional communities. There is a real optimism in the community right now, not only because of the pipeline but also on the back of Heritage Minerals' exciting plans for a future goldmine. In Rockhampton, I spoke to the federal resources minister, Catherine King, about how important Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility financing is to get the project off the ground. It is an exciting project for the community.

When councils ask us for help, we help. We provided assistance to the Douglas Shire Council in its emergency response to Cyclone Jasper. We are delivering the Toowoomba to Warwick pipeline and the Mount Morgan pipeline. We are investing in Building our Regions round 6 projects. The state government is rolling up our sleeves to help our regional councils. I am proud to be part of a Miles Labor government that is delivering the infrastructure that our growing state needs. We are getting on with the job and we are delivering. Our councils know that the Miles Labor government will always support them. This is all possible because in Queensland we support progressive coal royalties and making multinational mining companies pay their fair share.

National Parks, Investment

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.24 am): The Miles government knows that Queensland families are struggling with national cost-of-living pressures and rising household bills. That is why we are taking \$1,000 off the power bills of Queenslanders. It is another reason why the investment in our national parks is so important. Not only do Queensland's national parks have some of the most spectacular natural attractions and cultural sites in Australia but also our low overnight camping fees provide cost-effective holiday options for Queensland families, interstate visitors and international visitors alike.

I take this moment to acknowledge that some of our Indigenous rangers from across Queensland are in the gallery right now, as well as Patrick and his team from Country Needs People. I give them a warm shout-out for all of the amazing work that they are doing across our beautiful state.

Visitors can enjoy overnight stays in World Heritage areas, beautiful beaches, tropical rainforests and the rugged outback for just \$7.25 per person per night or \$29 per family. In 2023 more than 650,000 visitors enjoyed almost 1.4 million overnight stays in Queensland's parks and forests. The Miles government, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, is actively upgrading visitor infrastructure facilities to enhance visitor experiences across the state. This financial year we are investing more than \$170 million worth of capital expenditure in our national parks and forests to deliver new land acquisitions, visitor infrastructure, management facilities and plant and equipment to help manage, protect and promote visitation in these areas.

Major capital investment that is currently underway in visitor facilities in our parks includes construction of the brand new Ngaro track multiday hiking track on Whitsunday Island, improvements to Hinchinbrook Island's famous Thorsborne Trail and upgrades to facilities across a number of visitor sites in the beautiful Bunya Mountains National Park. Planning continues for a \$16.4 million investment in visitor sites across the Springbrook National Park, including the iconic Purlingbrook Falls viewing lookouts; a new visitor information hub, visitor amenities and improved visitor parking at Girraween National Park; and finalising designs for the replacement of the Jindalba boardwalk at the Daintree National Park.


The Miles government's record \$262.5 million commitment to expanding protected areas will provide even more low-cost visitor experiences and holiday options when the new land acquisitions transition to national park. For example, the future addition of the lakes north of Hughenden to the protected area estate will support a drive-tourism experience connecting Blackbraes National Park to one of Queensland's most magnificent natural wonders, Porcupine Gorge National Park.

Ms Grace: I'll have to go there.

Ms LINARD: You will have to go there; I take that interjection from the Minister for Infrastructure. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manages a range of conservation focused attractions across Queensland that provide unique recreation experiences. David Fleay Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast and Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre in Brisbane both offer value-for-money junior ranger programs during school holidays where kids can learn what it is like to be a ranger or a wildlife officer. At Logan, entry to the Daisy Hill Koala Centre, much loved by its local member and our Leader of the House, is free of charge. It allows visitors to see koalas up close and learn about how our Parks and Wildlife Service is protecting that iconic species. All three centres offer various free-of-charge broader recreation opportunities, walks, picnicking and swimming.

Other popular and affordable attractions include the Mon Repos Turtle Centre near Bundaberg and the Chillagoe-Mungana Caves National Park west of Cairns. There are so many opportunities for Queensland families and visitors alike to enjoy the incredible natural and cultural opportunities here in Queensland. I encourage everyone to visit our national parks. To visit them is to love them and want to protect them.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.28 am): The Miles Labor government is not only assisting households with the cost of living; we are assisting those who are most in need and at highest risk from domestic and family violence. I am proud to advise that a new specialist domestic and family violence service has been established in the Redlands to better respond to the needs of women and children who experience domestic and family violence.

The Centre for Women & Co. is leading the new Redlands-based high-risk team, offering enhanced coordination to better respond to victims at risk of serious harm. It was a pleasure to meet the team last week with the member for Redlands. I have seen these high-risk teams in action and I can confidently tell the House they are saving lives.

In the 2023-24 budget we are investing \$10.1 million per annum in high-risk teams and system support including integrated service system responses. We have committed to providing an additional \$995,000 in recurrent funding to seven of the original eight HRTs to support the specialist domestic and family violence services to better deliver coordination and case management functions. This is a serious response to a serious issue. High-risk teams bring government, non-government agencies and community groups together into one room to provide timely responses to keep victims safe and their children who are at imminent risk of serious violence. This initiative ensures responses are integrated and by sharing critical information amongst support agencies, they can identify the most effective ways to help victims of violence and hold perpetrators accountable in Queensland's criminal justice system.

I am proud to highlight the dedicated work of the Centre for Women & Co., who are leading the Redlands high-risk team and will further enhance the region's capacity to provide critical support to those facing increased risks of domestic and family violence. My thanks also go to the community-led organisation Five Bridges, which have also been funded to deliver the First Nations cultural adviser to support the work of the Redlands high-risk team, and the member for Redlands who advocated for this initiative in her electorate. The Redlands high-risk team is the 10th team we have established around the state with Rockhampton in line to be the 11th next year. We will continue to evaluate and refine the model and support government community services to better address domestic and family violence in our state. We will do so because the Miles Labor government says no to violence against women and gender-based violence. We will also continue to stand by our girls and women who make up the majority of the victims of this sort of violence we are seeing in this state.

Queensland Government Air

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (10.31 am): I will be addressing a topic which is of particular interest to the member for Thuringowa. Mr Speaker, you are probably not aware, but the member for Thuringowa used to be a paramedic!

Honourable members interjected.


Mr RYAN: Everyone is surprised by that, but he was! He was also a paramedic with QGAir. Today I want to acknowledge the outstanding team at QGAir. The Queensland government rescue helicopter fleet has actually set a global record: surpassing 30,000 operational flight hours. As a result of this dedicated service for Queensland, I am told that QGAir is regarded as a global leader and has the highest time of any emergency medical services helicopter operation in the world. This is a monumental achievement. Not only has QGAir become the first emergency medical services helicopter operation in Australia to surpass 30,000 operational flight hours, but QGAir was also the first emergency medical services helicopter provider in Australia, and it is publicly operated. That is very important; it is run by public servants for the people of Queensland.

QGAir's fleet of five helicopters is based across Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville and provides more than 3,000 flight hours per annum and an average of 2,000 patient rescues and transfers each year. Operating within the Aviation Capability Group of the Queensland Police Service, QGAir's fleet serves as a vital asset in frontline aeromedical, search and rescue, law enforcement and government capabilities throughout Queensland. Here is just one example of what QGAir does. During the 2023 Cairns floods, QGAir was responsible for carrying out aeromedical transfers in Cooktown in addition to search and welfare checks at several properties, ensuring the safety of Queenslanders affected by those severe floods.

The Miles government will continue to invest in this world-class capability and I note that three QGAir helicopters are due for replacement in the next three years. I am very pleased to announce to the House today that scoping work is now underway for those three new replacement helicopters. The significance of what our rescue helicopter fleet has achieved cannot be underestimated. There are so many people who are alive today who would not be if not for the lifesaving missions these aircraft and their crews undertake and every member of the rescue helicopter team contributes. Whether it is the pilots, the medics, the paramedics, the engineers, the aircraft crew, the support staff—they all play their part in keeping these lifesaving operations in the air.


On behalf of all Queenslanders, I want to thank every one of those team members for their efforts. They do what they do because they want to help others. They are true servants of the public, true servants of their fellow Queenslanders and we all salute them.

ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.34 am): I advise the House that Minister Mullen and Minister Furner are absent today due to illness. I advise the House that Minister Linard will act for Minister Mullen and Minister Ryan will act for Minister Furner during question time and throughout today. I thank the Manager of Opposition Business for his agreement to pairs for these members.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Clerk of the Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that today is the Clerk's birthday. I get him every year. We are fortunate that he is here with us today to share the celebration. Happy birthday, Mr Neil Laurie. While you are a year older than last year, the good news is that you are a year younger than you will be next year. I am sure members will join me in extending our appreciation and warm wishes for the year ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Member for Mudgeeraba

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.35 am): Yesterday I made comment during Minister Fentiman's answer to a question about mothers being forced to bypass their local hospitals to give birth. My interjection was not directed at the health minister. It was a reference to the absurd notion that young mothers were having to hold on whilst in labour until they got to another hospital.

In the last 24 hours social media posts by the health minister suggesting these comments were directed at her and without reference to the context of the debate around maternity services have gone viral and unleashed a wave of cyberbullying at me that, quite frankly, has been horrific. Worse, I have received vile messages and threats of violence on my phone, my email, my social media and to my office. As a childhood victim of domestic and family violence, these threats have been terrifying.


I now ask that the incitement of these threats stop and I plead with the health minister and others to take down her misleading and deceitful videos.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I think the statement stood alone.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.37 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Mudgeeraba has made very strong allegations that I have incited threats of violence against her. I find that—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the House heard the member for Mudgeeraba's statement and they heard it in silence. I ask that you show the same courtesy to the Minister for Health.

Ms FENTIMAN: I reject that. I find it personally offensive. I will ask her to withdraw. Like all members of this House, I have a duty of care about comments that are posted on my social media. I take very seriously—

Mr SPEAKER: Just briefly, I think you need to separate your matter of privilege suddenly arising from taking personal offence. Member for Mudgeeraba, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have written to you about this and these comments are not just—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I do not want a repeat of yesterday. I am separating two issues here. There has been a request by the Minister for Health; she found the comments personally offensive and she has asked for you to withdraw. I will deal with the remainder of the member's matter of privilege suddenly arising shortly. Will you withdraw?

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

Mr SPEAKER: I am waiting for a response. What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, with reference to your earlier ruling with respect to the abuse of matters of privilege suddenly arising, the quote from the health minister's video asked her followers to retweet and share the message about the member for Mudgeeraba. How can the member for Mudgeeraba be possibly asked to withdraw a factual comment about the Minister for Health who was deliberately deceptive? It is absurd.

Mr SPEAKER: I will give general guidance to the House: these matters are ordinarily dealt with not on the floor of the parliament but by way of letter making a detailed case about what the concerns or allegations are. I would ask that we cease this particular line right now and we will deal with this as would normally be appropriate. The longstanding convention that members are asked to withdraw if a member finds something directly personally offensive is still the convention of the House. In order to maintain that convention, member for Mudgeeraba, will you withdraw and, as I said, we will deal with these matters at a later time?

Ms BATES: I am a victim and I do not withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Mr Bleijie interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mudgeeraba, I appreciate the depth of feeling around the issue. I have tried to ensure that this matter is dealt with at a later time. There is a particular matter which relates to something that a member has

found offensive. It is the convention of the House. You have refused to do that. I have no choice but to warn you under standing order 253A. I trust that all members understand the importance of convention. It is important to help guide the House through challenging times.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.41 am.

Ambulance Service

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.41 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain how hardworking Queensland Health staff could be so under-resourced that no ambulances were immediately available for a code 1C patient who died waiting for help just down the road from a major Queensland hospital?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family during this difficult time. As the Queensland Ambulance Service commissioner said yesterday, a patient was prioritised as a code 1C, which is the third-highest priority under the internationally recognised Medical Dispatch Priority System. The paramedics arrived within 22 minutes. Sadly, on arrival the patient was in cardiac arrest. Advanced care was provided and unfortunately the patient passed away. There was a lot of demand for QAS services at the time, according to the commissioner. I am advised that there was no ramping at the local hospital, but QAS were prioritising higher acuity cases when the call was received. The commissioner has advised a full review is currently underway to see whether or not this particular case should have been coded higher in the first instance.

The QAS is the busiest service in the nation, as I have said many times. They also have the best response times in the nation. Our paramedics work incredibly hard. I want to pay credit to those particular paramedics who attended this gentleman. We do know how confronting that would have been for them. They did their very best. As the commissioner has said, this was not a case of ambulances being at the hospital; there was just a lot of demand. They prioritised it as best they could. Those paramedics did a really good job and I want to pay tribute to them. Again I pass on my condolences to the family at this very difficult time.

Ambulance Service

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. Cath Groom died waiting for an ambulance to arrive. In response the minister said there was a huge surge in code 1 cases. Wayne Irving died on the ramp and the minister said it was a particularly busy week. Now after the death of a father waiting for an ambulance just down the road from a hospital, the reason given was a spike in triple 0 calls. After nearly a decade in power, does the Labor government accept any responsibility for a lack of planning and resourcing hindering hardworking Queensland Health staff from doing their jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: That was a reasonably long preamble. I will not rule the question out of order, but I need to caution all members to ensure the questions are as succinct as can be.

Ms FENTIMAN: Again I want to acknowledge the work of our Queensland Ambulance Service. They asked us last year to give them 200 paramedics. We have already delivered 200 more paramedics. We have hundreds more ambulances on the road to keep up with the demand that we are seeing across the state. I have made it very clear to the Queensland Ambulance Service commissioner that whatever they need to keep running the busiest ambulance service in the country the government is here to support them. Despite the massive demand that we have seen in recent times with triple 0 calls and people needing emergency care, the fact that the QAS still has the best response times in the country is a testament to how well they are working. As I have said, we will continue to give them the resources they need to keep having the best response times in the nation.

The commissioner spoke at length about this case yesterday. I understand the family do not want this case discussed. They are obviously grieving and they need privacy. What I can say to Queenslanders is that, if you are in need of an ambulance, as the commissioner said yesterday, Queenslanders should have full confidence to call the Ambulance Service. They are one of the best in the nation, they have the best response times and Queenslanders will get exceptional care.

Coal Royalties

Mr MARTIN: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on how the Miles Labor government has taken on the multinational mining companies to ensure that \$1,300 is taken off every Queensland household power bill, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Stretton for his question. Everywhere I go in Queensland Queenslanders raise with me concerns about cost of living, including Queenslanders like Rob, whom the member for Stretton brought in to meet with me yesterday. Rob talked about the particular challenges of buying groceries for a family of six. He was pleased to hear about our plans to deliver \$1,000—together with the Australian government's rebate for a total of \$1,300—off their electricity bill. It does feel like everything—whether it is putting fuel in your car, rent if you are renting, your mortgage if you are paying off your home or the price of groceries at the supermarket—just keeps going up. I have heard from Queenslanders that that is their No. 1 concern and for that reason it is my No. 1 priority.

We have said that the absolute focus of our budget will be on cost of living. Providing that support to families was too important to wait until then, so yesterday we passed the cheaper power bill, putting \$1,000 onto the bill of every Queensland household—indeed, up to an additional \$372 for concession card holders and seniors, meaning they will get \$1,672 off their bill. The energy minister highlighted earlier how every member of this House can assist their electors to get the full amount they are entitled to. We know there are many seniors who are not registered for that additional discount. That is something that we can all play a role in. Of course, this is only possible because of our progressive coal royalties—progressive coal royalties that are opposed by those opposite. Those opposite want those royalties taken to the bank of multinational coal companies, not to the bank of Queenslanders.

The laws that we will introduce later today will make sure that they cannot just sneak their promise to the QRC through in regulation; they will have to be honest with Queenslanders and come into the parliament to change the laws to let them take those royalties to the bank. They will not be able to be sneaky and hide it; they will have to be honest about it. We on this side of the House are very honest with Queenslanders about what our priorities are because they are responding to the concerns of Queenslanders, including using these progressive coal royalties to deliver \$1,000 off the bill of every single Queensland household.

Ambulance Service

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Following the death of mum Cath Groom waiting for an ambulance, the minister said the government's efforts were showing signs of improvement in ramping. The minister has said ambulance ramping was improving despite it being the worst quarter on record. Did the minister know that a Queensland father died waiting for an ambulance just down the road from a major hospital only days before she made that statement?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. The case that we have been discussing this morning came to my attention yesterday, but I also want to be very clear that, despite being absolutely inundated with demand—cyclones, floods, heatwaves, RSV, influenza and COVID earlier this year—we have seen an immediate improvement in ambulance ramping in March. I have been very clear about that and thanking our hardworking staff for working through those particularly challenging months and seeing a turnaround in March. I have also said repeatedly—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections. Pause the clock, please. I remind the House again that, when a minister is being responsive to the question, I will hear the answer and interjections should cease.

Ms FENTIMAN: I have also said repeatedly—this week and previously—that on every other performance indicator that measures our entire health system, we are improving and in fact we are doing better than we were pre pandemic, which is a huge achievement for our frontline staff and a testament to their hard work. It is also showing that, in terms of the additional resources that we are making in our health system with our \$700 million Putting Patients First plan and our \$14 billion Big Build, we are starting to see real improvement in our health system. The fact that we lead the nation in elective surgery and that in some hospitals there are now zero long waits—a big shout-out to the team at Bundaberg who have gone from hundreds of people waiting for surgeries beyond the recommended time in 2022 down to zero—is not only testament to the staff but also testament to the resources that we are providing our frontline staff and hospitals.

Further, our brand new satellite hospitals are absolutely working to make a difference. Queenslanders absolutely love them. They are getting great care, they are not having to pay, they are being seen and treated and heading home within four hours, which is a fantastic achievement.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: Our satellite hospitals are absolutely taking pressure off our emergency departments with a 12 per cent reduction in those non-urgent presentations at our emergency departments. We know that those opposite do not want those satellite hospitals to remain in public hands. They are going to sell them off, privatise them and shut them down. They have not met a satellite hospital they have not wanted to cut. The frontline staff are absolutely so excited to work at these satellite hospitals that they are clamouring to work at them, but we know those opposite have never supported them. Imagine the additional demand on our hospitals if we did not have those satellite hospitals. Again, I thank the Premier for his vision as the health minister in setting up those satellite hospitals. They are absolutely having the impact we knew they would.

Coal Royalties

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Will the Deputy Premier outline how the Miles Labor government's 'keep them in the bank bill' will enable future Queensland governments to keep delivering what matters for Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. The member for Mackay knows how important the resources industry is to our state and how important progressive coal royalties are to the people of Queensland, particularly those people living in regional parts of our state. That is because the member for Mackay joined me on the day we visited Moranbah to announce the new hospital for the miners of Moranbah and their families in the Bowen Basin. We made that announcement with Anne Baker, the then mayor of the Isaac region and now the Labor candidate for Burdekin. The benefits of progressive coal royalties are on display.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Aren't members opposite worried! The benefits of coal royalties were on display yesterday when we debated the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Bill. It was a bill that those opposite did not cast a vote against per se, but didn't they whinge, whine, moan and condemn the \$1,000 we are going to take off the power bill of every Queenslanders? 'A pork barrel and a sugar hit' said the member for Mermaid Beach. 'A short-term sugar hit' said the member for Whitsunday. 'A way to soften up Queenslanders' said the member for Buderim. 'Bribing Queensland voters' said the member for Gregory. 'A bandaid fix' said the members for Nanango and Warrego. 'A temporary measure' and 'a cash splash just before the election' said the member for Callide. That is exactly why the people of Queensland need the 'keep them in the bank bill'—to protect coal royalties and to protect cost-of-living relief. That whingeing, whining and moaning just did not happen over the last two days; it has been absolutely consistent from the LNP for the last 700 days. We have heard them whingeing, whining and moaning about progressive coal royalties.

We have had a whole range of comments but, of course, we had the worst comments from the Leader of the Opposition. The leader of the LNP called them 'deceitful and dishonest' and said 'They are a betrayal of people wanting to invest in Queensland.' We know what follows from that. If they have a chance, they will cut progressive coal royalties. In March this year, before the Resources Council, the Leader of the Opposition told multinational coal mining companies, 'What we take to the election at the end of this year, you will be able to take it to the bank.' On 26 October Queenslanders should not fall for LNP tricks. Coal royalties do not belong in the banks of coal companies; coal royalties belong in the bank of the people of this state. Our Labor government intends to keep it that way.

Ambulance Service

Mr ZANOW: My question is to the Minister for Health. Following the November deaths of Cath Groom waiting for an ambulance and Wayne Irving on the ramp at Ipswich, the minister announced another five-point plan to fix ramping. Given we have learnt that a father died waiting for an ambulance just down the road from a major hospital, does this show the health minister is not up to the job?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. As I have made clear this morning, as unfortunate and as sad the case is of this gentleman passing away—and again my thoughts are with his family today—there was no ramping at the hospital when this occurred. It was categorised as a code 1C. Paramedics got there within 22 minutes and, unfortunately, he was in cardiac arrest. The question from the member which asks me why someone had died whilst there was ambulance ramping is completely untrue and misleading. This is a very tragic case, but, as I have said, this was not a case where we had ambulance ramping at the hospital. It was categorised and paramedics got there within 22 minutes to provide that care. Again, I want to thank those paramedics.

Since November, after convening a meeting with specialist emergency department doctors and paramedics, we have injected an additional \$20 million into putting more nurses in our ED waiting areas, putting in place medical commander roles to triage patients appropriately and putting on more radiologists to get scans done more quickly in emergency departments to improve patient flow. Those measures are working. This week we heard Dr David Green from the Gold Coast say that, while it was the busiest day he had seen in his 40 years—and there were three complex trauma cases—the patient flow initiatives are working and we will continue to see things improve. They are not my words; they are of one of our senior emergency department directors.

I meet fortnightly with the QAS and our heads of emergency department directors who tell me that the initiatives they asked for that we are funding are making a difference. We can see that in every performance measure in our hospital that is improving, because our ED seen-in-time is improving. The median wait time in our emergency departments is 16 minutes, which is one of the best in the nation. The rate at which we are getting through elective surgeries has never been seen before in this state. The resources that we are investing are at the behest of the clinicians—the doctors and nurses who run our hospitals.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition, who will not stop interjecting whilst I am on my feet, has said that he wants to put them back in charge. That is exactly what this looks like. Because they have asked for those initiatives we are funding them. On every performance measure we are improving, including patient off-stretcher time between February and March. Even comparing this quarter with last quarter, more than 4,000 patients were off the stretcher within 30 minutes. The Leader of the Opposition still interjects, but putting doctors and nurses in charge is what we are doing.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I do give you more latitude than some. You are continually interjecting. If you wish to ask another question, ask a question through another member. Please ask your questions that way and not at the minister. You are warned under the standing orders.

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government's stupendous Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line supports communities in Caloundra and newer communities like Aura, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: It is stupendous. It was also stupendous and a pleasure to join the member for Caloundra last week to announce contracts going to market for the Olympic and Paralympic Games—a nearly \$300 million investment in infrastructure the Sunshine Coast probably never would have got had we not won the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will be an absolutely transformational investment that will make a huge impact. The only one welcoming it all is the member for Caloundra. There are crickets from those opposite about what is happening right in their patch.

Caloundra is one of the fastest growing communities in our state. The Caloundra South PDA has already delivered 7,000 lots for new homes since 2010. A further 13,000 are either approved for development or under construction. We welcomed the Albanese government coming to the table and giving \$2.57 billion so we can deliver the Sunshine Coast rail line, providing faster, more reliable connections between the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Brisbane and, of course, bringing people closer to the action during the 2032 games. It will be a game changer.

We are delivering this, as recommended by the business case, in stages. The experts and engineers are telling us that is vital to its success. Apparently, those opposite know better. They want to deliver it right through to Maroochydore, and they think they are going to get it by 2032—against all of the advice. They are promising that they will have it there with more than \$6.6 billion. What do we

hear from those opposite? All they have are false, fantasy slogans that are being made to people on the Sunshine Coast. They deserve better. The LNP do not even have Peter Dutton supporting them in relation to their false promises. I do not know how they are going to deliver it.

All we hear from those opposite is whingeing and whining. This week I heard the members for Buderim and Kawana say that we are turning Caloundra into a car park. Rather than worrying about whether Caloundra is a car park or not, the member for Kawana should worry about the 'Elizabeth Line' and what he may want to call the rail line from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast. Maybe he wants to call it the 'Sir Duke of Edinburgh Line' or something like that. Maybe he should worry about that.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I remind all members to please use members' correct titles.

Radiography Services

Mr MICKELBERG: My question is to the Minister for Health. Eighteen-year-old Zoe from Buderim has a rare chromosomal disorder and is non-verbal. Zoe urgently needs a CT scan under sedation to diagnose and treat the reason for significant pain in her mouth. Queensland Health have said that Zoe has to wait until October for the scan. How many Queenslanders like Zoe are living in pain waiting longer than they should for medical imaging?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I am more than happy to look into Zoe's particular case. It sounds incredibly distressing for the family. If the member would like to send me the details, I am more than happy to follow that up. What I would say about medical imaging, as I have already said this morning, is that we have just embarked on a huge program of hiring more radiographers—more than ever before in Queensland's history—because our clinicians have told us that they need to be able to get these important scans in our emergency departments on weekends and after hours, but also to make sure we can continue to prioritise our elective surgery list. As I have already outlined this morning, we are doing so much more in the elective surgery space. I am pleased to report to the member that on the Sunshine Coast over 90 per cent of patients who are ready for surgery are getting their surgery on time. That is a fantastic achievement for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. As I said, I am more than happy to look into that particular matter for the member.

Police Service, Resourcing

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is backing the Queensland Police Service with the resources they need, and is the minister aware of any risky approaches?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. I have known a number of members for Thuringowa and I have to say that this member for Thuringowa is the best member for Thuringowa that the Queensland parliament has ever seen. It is very exciting—and what a great question as well. This member for Thuringowa and his colleagues on this side of the parliament know full well that the Miles Labor government fully backs the police front line. In fact, we have another graduation next week in Townsville—welcoming almost 60 new constables to the Queensland Police Service. It is part of a huge pipeline of recruitment that is underway. In fact, we have a whole heap of new recruits starting next week, taking the total number of recruits at the academy to almost 700. There are also over 2,000 applicants in the recruit pipeline. I say well done to the recruit team at the Queensland Police Service for what they are doing to support the front line. This is a government that does support the front line. We are very open about how we do that. We are very encouraged by the efforts of the Queensland Police Service.

There are some risky alternative approaches. I note with great interest that the new *Queensland Police Union Journal* has come out. We were talking just a moment ago about train lines on the Sunshine Coast. Well, the member for Ninderry had a train-wreck interview with the Queensland Police Union. The question was asked—

There are many in the LNP that believe you undermined Dale Last. Did that happen?

The member for Ninderry replied that, essentially, there is no proof. He said—

I don't think there's any evidence that I leaked to the media about him, or that I undermined him, or that I took the credit for stuff that he was doing.

Firstly, he was not doing any stuff, but he was very prescriptive about saying there is no evidence. I wonder whether he made a little bit of a Freudian slip.

There is a bit of an insight into how the leader constitutes his frontbench. I did like the response to a question about replacing the member for Burdekin—no evidence, of course. In response to the statement, 'But you did replace him,' he responded, 'Yes.' He then gives an insight into the leader when he says—

I think I can be more agile as things come to hand in the Southeast.

...

... I think I'm just more geographically placed to respond to those issues. ... I think that was the only ... real decision in it.

Talk about risky approaches! The leader makes his decisions about who is best for the job on where their electorate is. We are a government for all of Queensland. We are a government for the Queensland Police Service. We will always back them in.

Gold Coast University Hospital

Mr O'CONNOR: My question is to the Minister for Health. A SAC1 is a serious incident resulting in permanent harm or death. How many SAC1 events have occurred at the Gold Coast University Hospital in the year since the minister took over the health portfolio?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. SAC1 events are determined by clinicians and there are triggers for an automatic independent clinical review. They are also reported nationally. As I have said repeatedly in answer to questions at estimates, there are very good reasons why SAC1s are managed internally by clinicians and reviewed by those clinicians. We report those incidents nationally through sentinel events and they are publicly available.

Police Service, Resourcing

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the Miles Labor government is delivering more support and resources for the Queensland Police Service, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. As he knows, on this side of the House we will always back our police and always make sure they have the resources they need because keeping Queenslanders safe is important to us. That is why a key element of our community safety plan is extra police and extra resources for them such as the brand new helicopter in Townsville. We are backing our police with the resources that they tell us they need and it is working, with a continued reduction in crime in Townsville through April. That police helicopter has been called out 200 times and found 100 people, including 54 vehicles of interest. It has proven so effective in Townsville that our community safety plan has expanded police aerial capabilities into Cairns, the Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast.

That is important because on this side of the House we believe community safety is about keeping Queenslanders safe. We know those opposite do not care about keeping Queenslanders safe. They only see crime through the prism of winning seats. We have long suspected that, but now they are being quite honest about it. In the opposition police spokesperson's tell-all interview with the *Queensland Police Union Journal* titled 'Is Dan the man?', I am not sure if Dan is the man but he is certainly surprisingly honest. He told the *Queensland Police Union Journal* that his job as the LNP police spokesperson is to make sure they pick up seats off the back of crime. His job is to make sure the LNP use crime and victims of crime to win seats. He even said he is the guy who is supposed to sell their message on crime.

They are not concerned about Queenslanders. They are not concerned about victims of crime. They do not have a community safety plan. All they care about is politicising crime to win seats. Now they are so honest they are even saying it. He was also quite honest about the member for Broadwater's one policy on community safety—the so-called 'gold standard'. The police spokesperson was asked: 'What is gold standard?' He answered quite honestly that he did not know what that was. They have no concern about keeping Queenslanders safe. All they care about is using victims to win seats.

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. The worst ramping on record, Queenslanders dying waiting for an ambulance or on a hospital ramp, mums not being able to give birth where or how they want and maternity units regularly on bypass, releasing hospital data late on a Saturday and kids having to wait months for medical treatment: what more does it take to sack this health minister, Minister Fentiman?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. I note for the House that this is three days in a row where all the LNP can think to do is to attack our health system, to attack our hardworking health staff who come to work every single day to take care of Queenslanders. Now that they are honest that crime is about winning seats, they should also be honest that their attacks on the health system are not about keeping Queenslanders healthy; they are about winning seats. They are determined to politicise everything. They see everything through the prism of their own egos and their own ambition.

Mr Head interjected.

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

Mr MILES: I suppose we should welcome the fact that at least the member for Ninderry is honest about their motivations. The member for Ninderry says that they talk about crime to win seats. He says, 'My job is to be the messenger on crime to win seats.' It is exactly the same when they come in here and talk about health care. Just as they do on community safety, they cherry-pick statistics to try to talk our health system down.

We have one of the best universal healthcare systems in the world. We continue to have that because on this side of the House we have continued to invest; continued to employ more nurses, more doctors, more allied health professionals, more paramedics, more health staff; and continued to build more hospitals, more hospital expansions and more ambulance stations. Seven satellite hospitals are already delivering health care to 50,000 Queenslanders. Satellite hospitals were never supported by those opposite. That is 50,000 people who would not have received care in their local community if the LNP had had their way.

I think it is a crying shame that our healthcare workers have to put up with being talked down by those opposite every single day. We know that when they get the chance they will sack them—sack the nurses, sack the doctors—close the mental health services and sell off the hospitals. They come in here and they call them 'duds'. They accuse them of letting Queenslanders down. What I know from having seen it firsthand is that we have a fantastic healthcare system, and Queenslanders can and should have confidence in the care that they will receive.

Women and Girls' Health Strategy

Ms KING: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister outline how our Miles Labor government is supporting regional health care and Queensland women, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. She is a huge advocate for better health care for women and girls in her community. It was a pleasure to join her as part of our consultation for our Women and Girls' Health Strategy where we heard from over 12,000 women.

We have a great track record when it comes to supporting Queensland women and girls. Thanks to our progressive coal royalties, we now have a billion dollar health strategy for women and girls in this state. As part of that strategy, I was so proud to announce \$40 million for the Termination of Pregnancy Action Plan, which is improving access to sexual and reproductive health care, especially for women in regional, rural and remote communities.

We will always stand up for women in the regions and their right to choose and their right to access health care. Clearly, those opposite do not share those priorities. Cutting coal royalties will mean fewer regional health facilities and services, fewer violence prevention services and worse access to reproductive health care—but they do not seem to care because for the LNP it is simply not a priority. In fact, their new police spokesperson, the member for Ninderry, when recently asked whether he agreed with the recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, responded: '... I haven't even reviewed it. And it's not big on my to-do list at the moment ...'. That is how much of a priority safety for women is for the shadow spokesperson for the LNP.

We know they voted to keep abortion in the Criminal Code and voted against expanding access most recently for nurses and midwives to be able to prescribe MS-2 Step for early terminations. What we do not know, and what the big question is, is what they will do when Amanda Stoker becomes the attorney-general if the LNP win the election. We know her views on the termination of pregnancy. Now we learn that she will be joined by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana at the Sheraton Grand Mirage hotel on the Gold Coast for an exclusive conservative legal conference of the Samuel Griffith Society.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will cease parading that. Either table it or put it down.

Ms FENTIMAN: At the Saturday dinner Amanda Stoker, David Crisafulli and Nick Minchin will be the guest speakers. There is a beautiful picture of the Sheraton Grand Mirage on the Gold Coast in the background. The Leader of the Opposition wants to tell Queensland women he is a moderate, but he is absolutely lining up an extreme right-wing, anti-choice member in Amanda Stoker as the future attorney-general. Poor old member for Clayfield did not get a mention.

(Time expired)

Agriculture Industry, Support

Mr KATTER: My question is for the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. I understand the Minister for Police is taking those questions today so I direct this question to the Minister for Police. In recent times we have seen the decimation of rural industries and communities, one after another: the sugar industry with reef regulations; the grazing industry with vegetation management laws; the fishing industry with commercial bans; the timber industry denied access to resources; and now, federally, the ban on live sheep exports. Will the minister please inform the House which rural industries and communities are next in line to be decimated?

Mr RYAN: As a friend of the farmers' friend, I am very happy to rise in this place to take this question on his behalf. The farmers' friend, Minister Furner, is one of the most successful agriculture ministers in Queensland history. He knows regional and rural Queensland. He fights for regional and rural Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr RYAN: That reflects the commitment the Miles Labor government has for rural and regional Queensland. We know that agriculture is the backbone of rural economies. By supporting and investing in those regional communities we can grow the economy and we can support a bright future for Queensland. This government has always put support for rural and regional Queenslanders front and centre. Who could forget the investment in cluster fencing, which has secured the sheep industry for generations to come. I note that the member for Nanango criticised that. She said—

Labor seems to believe the wild dog menace will be solved by shiny new fences being erected in cluster models promoted by individuals and some local shires.

I have had conversations with people from rural and regional Queensland, including that great champion of the bush Vaughan Johnson, one of the wild dog fence commissioners, who said that this has made a huge change to the sustainability of the sheep industry in Queensland. Where did that come from? A Labor government! Labor governments stick up for the bush. Those opposite sell out the bush. If you list the investments they have made in rural and regional Queensland you will have a very short list. This government has a strong commitment to rural and regional Queensland and we back it up with investment. We back it up with real and measurable supports.

We will continue to invest in the bush. I am advised by the minister's office that we have a number of programs to support the sustainability and future of regional and rural economies, including grants programs such as the Rural Agricultural Development Grants program. We have also announced support for Beef Australia to continue their great work with Beef Week, which brings all of those related parties and industries together to celebrate what is great about beef in our country. It is, of course, based in the beef capital of Australia: Rockhampton. We will continue to invest. We will continue to support those industries. We are a very good friend of regional and rural Queensland, including those agriculture sector industries. I am assured that Minister Furner will reach out separately to the member for Traeger to explore his question further.

Social and Affordable Housing

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister outline how the Miles government is delivering housing support and measures for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Redlands is really passionate about delivering good, affordable housing. In fact, I am told that in her previous job she was involved in award-winning work with organisations like the Brisbane Housing Company. She, like everyone on this side of the House, is incredibly passionate about our Homes for Queenslanders plan. It is a big plan with big investment: an additional \$3.1 billion over the next five years. It is only

possible because our government has put in place the settings to make sure we can pay for it. We learned again last night from the member for Burnett that he thinks we are spending too much on public housing.

Mr Bennett: I'm not finished with you yet.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection. He said he is not finished. I am sure he is not finished, just like the member for Everton is not finished cutting. We have put the right settings in place to make sure we can deliver on our Big Build, which includes making sure that we hold big multinational mining companies to account to pay their fair share so we can build more public housing in this state. We know all of that is at risk if the LNP is elected in October. They are chomping at the bit to make sure they give big business a tax cut.

There is no clearer example of that than the secret meetings the member for Toowoomba South has been holding with the Resources Council and their lobbyists. We only know about that because this side of the House moved changes to make sure we can see shadow ministers' diaries. When pressed about their secret meetings with LNP shadow ministers and lobbying firms, the lobbying firm said it did not know the staffer would be present and if he had he would not have attended. That is right: the excuse is essentially, 'If we didn't know this was going to be a secret, then we wouldn't have had the meeting in the first place.'

The questions for the Leader of the Opposition are: how many other secret meetings have those opposite had with shadow ministers and lobbying firms? What was the purpose of those meetings? Were there meetings with the coal lobby to reiterate to them that they do not support progressive coal royalties? I suspect that is exactly what it is. That means they will cut funding to schools, hospitals and roads because they will not be able to pay for them. We know those lobbying firms are spending up big to get in front of the Leader of the Opposition and his 'wannabe' ministers. I wonder why that could be. The Leader of the Opposition thinks he is going to be the premier of this state. He needs to come clean on what his plans are, because he has been silent on these issues. He needs to come clean on his plans. It is only a Labor government—

(Time expired)

Coal Royalties

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Premier. The government's so-called progressive coal royalties will stop collecting any significant additional revenue this year, leaving Queensland's budget billions of dollars worse off. If the Premier agrees that mining companies should pay their fair share, why won't the government raise the base rate for royalties?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. It goes to the heart of what we on this side have been talking about this week, that is, making sure that multinational coalmining companies, when they are making superprofits, pay a fair share of those profits to the state in the form of progressive coal royalties. We then use those coal royalties to deliver cost-of-living relief to Queensland households, to fund our schools and hospitals and our Big Build construction program—a \$90 billion investment in infrastructure right across this great state.

We have outlined today how we will legislate those progressive coal royalties as the minimum amount of coal royalties going forward because we know those opposite have done a secret deal with the Queensland Resources Council and multinational mining companies to cut those royalties in the future. We know that is why they kept their lobbying meetings secret. We know that the industry has a very clear expectation from the LNP that if they help get them elected they will turn around and reduce the amount of tax they have to pay. That would have an even more devastating impact on the budget, because not only have they said they will cut revenue; they have also said they will cut debt in their debt reduction plan and they have said they will spend an extra \$6 billion on the Sunshine Coast direct rail. The only way you can do those three things together is with massive cuts to spending—enormous cuts to spending. They will not be honest about that right now; they were not in 2011 either. We know that once they are elected they will come good on the secret deals they have made with resource companies to reduce coal royalties, reducing the capacity of the government to support households—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question went to the government's refusal to raise the base rate for royalties. I would ask whether the Premier might be brought back to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maiwar. There is a particular element to the question, Premier, but I believe you have been relevant today.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the member for Maiwar for his point of order. What we have very clearly in this House now is a clear difference and a clear thing that is at risk in October, because on this side of the House we are taxing multinational coal companies and using those taxes to deliver for families while those opposite have a secret deal to get rid of them.

Maryborough, Manufacturing

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Can the minister update the House on how Queenslanders are making things in Maryborough from renewable energy, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Maryborough, because he has made his city famous for manufacturing. He has made it famous for Queensland jobs. The member for Maryborough tells me that there are more manufacturing jobs today in his community than there have ever been in its history. The member for Maryborough knows that, across Queensland, manufacturing is dependent on clean energy. Under Labor, Maryborough is a clean energy manufacturing powerhouse thanks to the member for Maryborough. It is amazing what Queenslanders can make in Maryborough. We know that they are making trains in Maryborough. They are making defence and medical equipment in Maryborough. They are making timber products and processing macadamias, sugar and beef. With the announcement today of Australia's first national battery strategy, regional Queensland—places like Maryborough—will become the national battery capital of Australia. You can make anything in Maryborough. It is not a country town; it is a manufacturing powerhouse.

The fact is that Queenslanders across the state can make anything. However, the LNP, despite announcing their so-called premier-elect, seem to not be able to make anything. They cannot make a single policy or a single credible plan. I know that the constituents of Maryborough are asking this of the Leader of the Opposition: where is his plan on energy and where is his plan on paying for hospitals and health services in this state? They are asking where the Leader of the Opposition's plan is for housing. It is pretty simple—make a plan, make a policy, do something. They are also asking where their plans are for manufacturing. We know they have no plan for manufacturing. Where is their plan on skills? Where is their plan or policy on jobs? The fact is that Queenslanders can make anything, but the LNP cannot make a single plan or a single policy. It was revealed today that their only plan is to win seats off the back of crime, off the back of the misery of others, off the back of misfortune. That is the opposition's entire offer to Queenslanders—slogans, pamphlets and royal monarchists. That is the best that they have for Queenslanders. They have no plan for Maryborough, no plan for manufacturing and no plan for Queenslanders. It is clear that they have no plan for Queensland.

Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for the Arts. At estimates in 2021, the government said the builder had signed the guaranteed contract sum for the new theatre at QPAC. Can the minister advise what has changed, the new cost and when the project will now be completed?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Moggill for the question. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, before I answer the question I want to thank the member for Moggill, the member for Greenslopes and the member for Thuringowa for their attention to me yesterday. It made a big difference and I wanted to put that on the record.

With regard to the question from the member for Moggill, I am advised and understand that Lendlease, the builder, have advised Public Works that the new performing arts venue at QPAC will not be delivered this year and that there are further delays. I understand that this revised completion date reflects a number of challenges that have impacted project delivery, including, as we all know, major flooding that occurred in 2022; several major subcontractor insolvencies, which have had a major impact on the delivery of this project; the inclement weather that has been impacting all projects right across South-East Queensland; and those supply chain pressures that everybody has been feeling. I understand all of those things, but that does not take away from the fact that, as the arts minister, I am deeply disappointed for the arts sector that this project has been delayed again.

This project, when completed, will make our performing arts centre complex the largest in Australia. It is something that we need, so we are absolutely working with Lendlease and with Public Works on the review of any cost implications because of Lendlease's updated program. That is underway at the moment and will be made clear in the weeks to come once those considerations have been made. We know that we on this side of the House are backing the arts. We know that the arts are a very important part of our economy, and of course they are an important part of the story as we move

towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In just four years time we will be handed the baton for our cultural Olympiad and this major complex will be very important to support that work going forward. When those opposite were in office, we saw an absolute turning of their backs when it came to the arts. Their plan for QPAC was to put a hotel on top of it—not to grow any more arts facilities but to basically commercialise it even further. Those opposite had a number of arts ministers last time around, including the member for Mudgeeraba, who lasted just a few months as the minister for arts after she plagiarised speeches.

(Time expired)

Transport Infrastructure

Mr SKELTON: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services. Can the minister outline how Labor governments are investing in transport solutions for Queenslanders, including on the Sunshine Coast, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr MELLISH: I thank the member for the question. I know that he is a big backer of our fantastic Sunshine Coast direct rail project. This project has been talked about for years and this side of the House is making it happen. We have secured \$5.5 billion for the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line to build stage 1 from Beerwah to Caloundra—properly costed, properly planned and with \$2.7 billion from the Queensland government and \$2.7 billion from the federal government we are making it happen. This is not just an imaginary figure drawn up by the opposition on the back of a coaster down at Hotel Maroochydore; this is a genuine investment in public transport that will revolutionise the way people travel between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Up to six express trains an hour will run during the morning and afternoon peaks. The trains will travel up to 140 kilometres an hour for more than 80 per cent of the new line, making a peak-hour trip to Brisbane at least 45 minutes faster than a car. That is 15 days a year in lost time sitting in traffic that regular commuters will get back. I cannot think of a better advertisement to ditch the car and hop on a train.

Stage 1 will help ease pressure on the Bruce Highway, and it will open in time for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games—unlike the LNP's empty promise to build all the way to Maroochydore by 2032 which would result in nothing but bunting and construction sites for spectators and residents to see. We know that the entire line to Maroochydore cannot be built by 2032, and so does the LNP. How much is the LNP's Maroochydore mirage going to cost Queenslanders—\$15 billion, \$20 billion? Not even their federal LNP counterparts and Peter Dutton want to fund this rail line. How are they going to fill their multibillion dollar black hole? What projects will they cut to fund it? How many thousands of workers will be sacked? Queenslanders must not forget that, when the LNP were last in charge, they cut \$1.6 billion from Queensland's transport and roads budget, they cut \$60 million from road safety funding, they sacked more than 2,500 transport and main roads workers—20 per cent of the workforce—and that included 700 RoadTek road builders, and they did not progress a single major infrastructure project other than a new office for themselves at 1 William Street.

Unlike the opposition, we do not cut, we do not sack and we do not sell; we deliver. We deliver transport solutions. The LNP's only interest in public transport is to rename it after the Royal Family. They are so arrogant and out of touch that, if they had a chance, they would probably name it after themselves. I know the member for Buderim does not believe in business cases. I know the member for Ninderry wants to win seats off the back of crime. Our members for the Sunshine Coast are focused on outcomes and solutions for their communities. Their members for the Sunshine Coast are carrying on with whatever they think will win votes. Our members are committed to their areas. We will deliver the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line which will improve the lives of people on the Sunshine Coast. It is an outstanding project and I cannot wait to see more on it.

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. Has former Chief Justice Catherine Holmes recommended the retrospective release of the Jackie Trad and Peter Carne CCC reports or not?

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

Mrs D'ATH: The government has received that report this week. We are going through that report. It will be released publicly and we will be providing our government response very shortly. I will not say what each individual recommendation is. I will make sure that everyone can read it in the proper context with all of the recommendations.

Coal Royalties

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister outline how progressive coal royalties are supporting Queensland jobs, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?


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

Mr McCALLUM: I thank the member for the question. He is a member of the Miles government who is focused on good jobs, decent wages and a strong workforce, and that is exactly what we are delivering. The latest ABS statistics reveal that Queensland has had the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2000—up 366,900 persons. That is because we are focused on delivering more jobs for Queenslanders, and it is because we are delivering it through employment programs that are funded by progressive coal royalties. That is the deliberate economic architecture of our policies—as opposed to the LNP, who say that low wages are a deliberate design feature of their economic architecture. We will always back Queenslanders into good work.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.


PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, during question time I have had time to reflect on the refusal of the member for Mudgeeraba to withdraw comments at my direction under standing order 234. I appreciate that this is an emotional issue for the member. However, in terms of the office that I hold, I cannot allow directions by me under the standing orders to be simply defied. Refusal to follow a direction of the Speaker to withdraw a matter is disrespecting the authority of the chair. It is an extremely serious matter. It undermines the authority of the Speaker and risks the order of the House. In accordance with standing order 268(1) I am now recommending that the member's refusal to follow my direction to withdraw be referred to the Ethics Committee for its consideration and report and it is accordingly referred. That means standing order 271 now applies to this matter.

PROGRESSIVE COAL ROYALTIES PROTECTION (KEEP THEM IN THE BANK) BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.43 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 for a particular purpose. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Cost of Living and Economics Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024 [\[852\]](#).

Tabled paper: Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[853\]](#).

Tabled paper: Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[854\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. The reason for this bill is simple—to protect progressive coal royalties from the LNP. On 20 March at a Queensland Resources Council function the Leader of the Opposition was challenged on his royalty policy, and what did the Leader of the Opposition say to the coal companies present? The leader of the LNP told them that when his policy is released they could 'take it to the bank'. We do not want those royalties taken to the banks of the coal companies. We want to keep them in the hands of the people of Queensland.

I remember well, nearly two years ago, those members opposite did not cast a vote against progressive coal royalties because they did not have the courage of their convictions. Every single day since, the LNP have sought to denigrate, undermine and attack this vitally important revenue measure for Queensland. Never, not once, has any member of the LNP set out a clear position since. The LNP never say, 'We will keep them permanently.' The LNP never rule out making changes. The LNP never say, simply, 'These are good. We support them now, tomorrow, permanently.'

We know the LNP can say those words. The shadow Treasurer and member for Toowoomba South is in the House this morning, and we know that the member for Toowoomba South said those words immediately about the foreign land tax surcharge. The member for Toowoomba South fell over himself to rule out any changes to that revenue measure that the Labor government introduced, so why can't the LNP say the same thing about progressive coal royalties? Queenslanders know the answer, and it is because the LNP want to cut progressive coal royalties.

All we get from the LNP and their leader are word salads, autobabble and complicated formulations about forward estimates and budget sittings. When their guard is down though, the LNP reveal the truth: the member for Burdekin, when talking to his local paper, promises to 'sit down' with the coal industry about royalties; the member for Condamine, speaking to an industry publication, denies that the LNP ever supported royalties; and the leader of the LNP gets asked about royalties and just says he wants to cut taxes. We saw the truth revealed by the member for Ninderry when he was interviewed. He made it clear. When every member of the LNP is asked about progressive coal royalties, they reveal the truth as well. Let me say that again: when the leader of the LNP is asked about royalties, he just says that he wants to cut taxes. He wants to cut the taxes of multinational coal companies in Queensland—rip away cost-of-living relief from hardworking Queenslanders and give that back to multinational coal companies.

My expectation is that the LNP will repeal progressive coal royalties and hand back billions to multinational coal companies. Why else would the LNP be having secret meetings with the coal lobby, and why else would the LNP be taking donations from Chris Wallin and QCoal? It is why the member for Burdekin voted to destroy a town in his own electorate. The LNP and its leader are so captured by the coal companies—this is how low they will stoop—that they voted to destroy a town in one of their own electorates.

This bill is an important protection but, sadly, it is not a comprehensive protection. If the LNP wins a majority of the Legislative Assembly on 26 October, then we will not be able to stop them from repealing progressive coal royalties. That is just the honest truth. However, what we can do, and what this bill does achieve, is to make that as difficult as possible. I repeat, Mr Deputy Speaker: what we can do, and what this bill does achieve, is to make that as difficult as possible.

Mr Janetzki: Mirror, mirror—get the good side.

Mr DICK: If I were the member for Toowoomba South, I would be looking in the mirror and asking why they are taking money from Chris Wallin and QCoal. The member for Toowoomba South should have a look in the mirror and work out why he had secret meetings with coal lobbyists. The reason is that the member for Toowoomba South wants to be the author of the destruction of progressive coal royalties in Queensland.

The honest truth is that we will not be able to stop the LNP from repealing progressive coal royalties should they win the election on 26 October, but what we can do and what this bill does is make that as difficult as possible. For that, the Premier, the Labor government and I make no apologies. Of course, I expect that the LNP does not want to vote for this law, but in the end I expect those opposite will grit their teeth and not cast a vote against it because they want their secret plan to stay secret. They want to trick the people of Queensland into thinking they will keep progressive coal royalties, and then they will seek to win a majority so they can wind back progressive coal royalties. When the LNP do not cast a vote against the bill, they need to understand what that means.

If the LNP do not cast a vote against this bill, it means the LNP are recognising they cannot be trusted with the revenue settings of this state. It will not be me saying it about the LNP, it will be the LNP saying it about themselves. Even if the LNP vote for it, the people of Queensland know that the LNP vote is meaningless. You only have to ask every Indigenous person in Queensland to know that. They have the lived experience. Every First Nations person in this state has the lived experience that the vote and the word of the Leader of the Opposition is worth nothing. The minute the political winds change, the Leader of the Opposition changes his position, even if it means repealing a law he voted for, and he will do the same thing on progressive coal royalties. I say to Queenslanders, on 26 October, do not fall for LNP tricks. On 26 October, Queenslanders should not fall for LNP tricks.

Of course, as the debate progresses, we can expect to hear all sorts of falsehoods from the LNP. The LNP will claim falsely that we have attacked the coal industry, that we have damaged investment. Let me make this clear to all members of the House and to all Queenslanders: nothing could be further from the truth. Employment in the coal industry has never been higher—a fact even acknowledged by

LNP Senator Matt Canavan. Conditions for investment have never been better. We have never seen so much money pouring into the coal industry of Queensland, and it is about time the LNP admitted that fact. That is what has occurred since progressive coal royalties were introduced.

Whitehaven Coal stumped up \$6.4 billion in new investment to buy into the Queensland coal industry. Even BHP and CEO Mike Henry gave up the fight against progressive coal royalties. BHP are not just investing to maintain, which they said they would do—a billion dollars each and every year—BHP are now flicking the switch to invest in growth of their coal portfolio in Queensland, reversing a 20-year exit from coal. BHP CEO Mike Henry has cultivated a reputation for not overpaying for assets, but when it comes to the Queensland coalmines of Anglo American, Mike Henry is offering top dollar.

The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a coal royalty rate floor by providing that a regulation may not prescribe coal royalty rates that are lower than those prescribed at the time. The progressive nature of the new tiers means they only apply during periods of high prices which has enabled Queensland to remain competitive with investors demonstrating continued confidence in the Queensland coal industry. In addition, employment in the state's coalmines has increased to record levels since the introduction of the new progressive coal royalty tiers. The additional revenue raised from coal royalties, including the new tiers, has allowed the government to invest more than \$16 billion in critical economic and social infrastructure and essential services across all regions of the state, including in coal producing regions.

Coal royalty rates are currently prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013. This means that any changes to coal royalty rates, including a decrease, can be made by way of regulation. Although a regulation is subject to the notification, tabling and disallowance provisions of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, the making of a regulation itself is not subject to parliamentary consideration and debate. Therefore, to protect the integrity of progressive coal royalty rates and ensure there is appropriate visibility and parliamentary consideration of any proposed decrease to the rates, the bill amends the Mineral Resources Act to introduce a coal royalty rate floor. The bill achieves this by inserting new provisions into the Mineral Resources Act which prevent a regulation prescribing coal royalty rates that are lower than those prescribed at the time. The amendments would commence on assent.

As a consequence of the amendments, any proposed decrease to coal royalty rates must be made via a bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly. This ensures there is appropriate parliamentary scrutiny and assessment of the proposed decrease and its potential impacts for Queenslanders and the Queensland economy. The bill does not make any change to current processes for increasing coal royalty rates via a regulation, or for coal royalty rates to otherwise be changed via a bill. To be absolutely clear to the House, the royalties can still go up by regulation, but they cannot go down without legislation, and I think that is an appropriate position.

This bill protects the integrity of Queensland's progressive coal royalty rates which ensure Queenslanders receive a fair return on the use of the state's valuable, limited and non-renewable natural resources when coal prices are high. Coal royalties should not be in the bank of coal companies; they belong in the bank of the people, and the Miles Labor government will keep them there. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.55 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Cost of Living and Economics Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee.


RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL PARKS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 22 May (see p. 1811), on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.55 am), continuing: Regarding changes to common areas where body corporate approval may be required, the department noted that provisions requiring property owners to give a decision to most requests within 28 days, or a longer time if agreed by the parties. The amendments also provide that QCAT may make an order.

The bill introduces several measures to protect privacy for renters, including: extending the notice period from 24 to 48 hours for entry other than for general inspections, safety checks, in an emergency, or with agreement; prescribing a rental application form and categories of supporting documentation to limit the information that can be requested of prospective renters; and requiring that renters' personal information is securely stored and disposed of within three months of an unsuccessful rental application or three years after a tenancy ends.

REIQ recommended that the limitations on information that can be requested under new section 57C(2) be removed, and suggested that: a rental property owner or property manager should not be prohibited from asking a former rental property owner or property manager if the tenant previously breached the tenancy agreement; and a rental property owner or property manager should be able to obtain financial statements from a tenant to verify that they have the financial capacity to meet their obligations under the tenancy.

For a property owner to be prohibited from asking about a renter's past history does not encourage anyone to invest in the property market for rental purposes. This is one of the issues we have. The challenge is that when you get a bad tenant, it is very difficult to remove that tenant and, as we know today, there is nowhere for them to go in any case.


Currently, there is no restriction on a rental property owner or their agent accepting an offer of a higher rent amount or payment of more rent in advance than an owner or their agent can require under the RTRA Act. The bill includes new provisions to prohibit a person from soliciting, inviting or accepting an offer of an amount of rent that is more than the fixed amount stated in an advertisement, including for rooming accommodation. The bill also amends current provisions within the RTRA Act to require that a person must not accept more than a specified maximum amount of rent in advance. The maximum amount is two weeks rent for a periodic agreement, rooming accommodation agreement or movable dwelling agreement or four weeks rent for a general tenancy agreement which was previously one calendar month. This also applies to the term of the tenancy. In 2023, the RTRA Act was amended to limit the frequency of rent increases to once every 12 months from 1 July 2023 for all tenancy agreements. Several submitters were of the view that the bill did not go far enough. For example, Tenants Queensland, QCOSS, Q Shelter and LawRight suggested tying rent increases to the consumer price index. They noted that the best way to address rental affordability is by increasing housing supply. I think we all know of that.

As a result of the housing crisis we are also suffering a rental crisis across the state, and it is no different in the electorate of Condamine. Many of my constituents live in the City of Toowoomba as the electorate of Condamine takes in the western suburbs of Toowoomba. My daughter is looking for a rental property in Toowoomba. When she goes to inspect properties, she is one of about 50 who turn up. There is nothing available. Until more development happens in Toowoomba and other areas of the state, no housing will be available. To achieve that development, you need to encourage investors to invest in rentals.

I was talking to a cousin of mine who lives at The Gap. She told me that recently her daughter had her second child so she is taking time off work. Her husband, who works in the hospitality industry, is the family's sole provider. The house they were staying in was just sold so they have to move. They have not been able to find another rental property. Part of the problem is that, on his wage, he does not reach the percentage that the agents are asking for before they will give you a lease. Suddenly, my

cousin's daughter, her husband and two children are moving back home. My cousin and her husband are semiretired or virtually retired and will now have another four people living in their house. If it were not for them, they would have nowhere else to go.

This crisis is affecting every sector of our society. There is only one way you will fix it and that is by giving the private sector the confidence to build, buy and own rentals. They want to know that they will have some control over that dwelling, whether that relates to bad tenants or different additions and constructions added to a house. This bill addresses some of the issues we have in the state, but the problem is that you must give investors a reason to invest.


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.02 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate bills that are being debated: the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024. The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, in its reports No. 6 and No. 7 of the 57th Parliament, tabled in this assembly on 10 May, recommended that both the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024 be passed.

I will speak to the investigation that was done by the committee into the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill, but before I do I want to raise a few points in relation to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We know that the best way to stabilise rents is to increase supply. Stage 2 of the residential tenancies bill is the Miles government's commitment to rental law reforms. This legislation will help to strengthen the rights of renters, stabilise the private rental market and ease the cost-of-living pressures that are being experienced by renters in Queensland.

The legislation will also deliver some of the most demanding reforms under the national cabinet's A Better Deal for Renters agreement. The Miles government is providing extra relief for renters who are doing it tough with a \$160 million rent relief package delivered through our Homes for Queenslanders plan. This direct cost-of-living support sits alongside the additional protections we are providing through this piece of legislation.

The Labor government will never turn its back on renters, but we know the LNP government will not hold the same line. When they were in power, they tore up the code of conduct for the rental sector. We are bringing it back. They also cut funding to vital tenant advice and advocacy services and rejected \$2.5 million in emergency funding from the Commonwealth to keep tenancy support available. We know those opposite think that these reforms, which strengthen the rights of renters, stabilise the rental market and ease cost-of-living pressures are radical and silly.

I now turn to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024. The residential parks bill will make residential parks fair and transparent. The legislative framework for residential parks is complementary and meets the community's expectations. The residential park business model is sustainable for home owners and park owners. Approximately one-third of the state's households rent their home with some of the state's most vulnerable Queenslanders relying on the private rental market for sustainable and long-term housing that meets their needs and from which they can build and maintain their connection with family, community services, education and employment opportunities. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.06 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate on the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. When passed, both bills will have a significant impact on baysiders and, indeed, all Queenslanders by providing further protections for the many renters and owners of manufactured homes like those who live in Hometown's Bayside park in Tingalpa. These protections for renters include: banning all forms of rental bidding; offering fee-free options to pay rent; creating opportunities for renters to modify and personalise their homes; protecting renters' privacy; improving the rental bond process, including by capping rental bonds at a maximum of four months rent; and the portable bond scheme. This will mean that renters like my neighbours, Ree and Spud, her beautiful dog, can be protected from rental bidding and can transfer their rental bond from one property to another. Moving is a very stressful time, let alone with the current cost-of-living pressures.

I am particularly thrilled to talk to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024. As I said earlier, there is a manufactured homes park in my electorate. Previously, I worked for the former member for Lytton, Paul Lucas, and was involved with members of the old Nestle Inn Village


caravan park as well as the Belcaro Caravan Park. During that time, I saw how poorly the residents in those places were treated. I have also worked for an organisation called CAMRA that used to offer advocacy and advice for residents of manufactured homes. That was a fabulous organisation. It is another example of an organisation that was defunded in the Campbell Newman era. That meant that in communities across Queensland very vulnerable people living in parks and manufactured homes were left without anyone to advocate on their behalf and park owners were able to run rampant and do whatever they liked.

I would like to share some examples of the behaviour of these people, which are shocking to imagine. At the old Belcaro Caravan Park, public areas such as the laundry were left in such a terrible state that there were no clean washing facilities. The shared bathroom facilities were terrible. At the old Nestle Inn Village caravan park, the residents were essentially bullied to make way for new tenants following a redevelopment in the park. The old owners were encouraged to move on, but not in a particularly supported way. The on-site manager often walked around with a pool cue, which he thumped across his hand when any residents questioned him about their mail, for example.

It was actually a terrible time for those residents. These people had nowhere to go apart from places like CAMRA. The LNP government of the day decided it was fitting to get rid of that support, so these people were left to hang out to dry. Thankfully, the Labor federal government stepped in for a period and provided some support to continue to run that advocacy program. I felt very much for those poor residents in those parks. The member for Bulimba spoke about the Monte Carlo Caravan Park, and residents from that park came and talked to us as well. In fact, we had people from parks all over Queensland coming and talking about the terrible examples of park owners ripping off people, and it was happening all over Queensland.

For those members who do not understand, people who live in manufactured home parks only own the home they live in; they do not own the piece of dirt the home is sitting on. As a consequence, the residents are vulnerable to exploitation by the owners of these parks. We have to make sure that that does not happen. Many people move into these parks because it seems to be a nice environment. On the outside it sounds like a lovely way to live: they are living in a small community and there is a community hall, a bus, a pool and they can all get together and socialise. People of a certain age group will think, 'There will be someone there I can talk to. There will be supports around me.' Sadly, that often is not the case for people who move into these homes.

I have to say that I know they are getting better. As a government we have introduced a tranche of provisions and legislation to improve the lot of the residents of these parks and I am really proud to have been a part of that. I want to make sure that the residents who reside in the residential homes and the manufactured homes are taken care of. I would encourage any of the owners who live there to make sure that they consider, if they have not already, setting up a residents committee to ensure they have a voice to the owners of the parks. The great news is that they are going to be controlled by this new piece of legislation we are debating, which I wholeheartedly support. I am really pleased to see there are further protections in there for the residents. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.12 pm): In the short time available to me I say that I wholeheartedly support these two bills. It was a pleasure to be part of the committee, to hear from the residents and also to represent the two manufactured home parks in my local area, the Thorneside Mobile Home Park and the Redlands Mobile Village on Collingwood Road. I received over 100 submissions and feedback from our consultation and a lot of it is addressed in this bill. I know that we cannot go all the way with regard to the CPI and 3.5 per cent increases. However, I think it is a fair way to go about it because there are building costs that do go above CPI. I do think the maintenance also needs to be taken into consideration when we are talking about this bill. I think there are further measures we can take around dispute resolution and formalising the committee structures of these places. A lot of the issues that are going to QCAT could be dealt with on the ground by empowering these committees to raise their concerns. I think there is further reform on this to be done.


I will quickly touch on the other piece of legislation that deals with residential tenancies. I think there are some great reforms such as being able to transfer bonds. That means a lot to those people. It takes away a stress when moving and finding a new rental, which we know can be very difficult at the moment. It also deals with rent bidding. I will admit that I did make a rental bid once when I was in university. We were three mates who wanted to get an apartment in Toowong right in the heart of things near the Regatta and the RE. We were three young lads—

Mr Mander: I bet you didn't get your bond back.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection of the member for Everton. We did get our bond back. We did a big clean at the end. We were three young lads, so obviously we had to put ourselves ahead of the rest. I note that this practice is being used more and more. We should outlaw rent bidding because it is now going beyond that; it is becoming more and more prevalent. We need to ensure that it does not happen and we continue to keep a cap, by using these measures, on the rental rises over periods of time.

I thank the minister for bringing these two important pieces of legislation to the House. In the grand scheme of things these are two measures in the whole gamut of reform that we are taking in housing. It is important that we address every single need in every single aspect of this, whether it is planning or the reforms regulating these two industries—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time limit for this stage of the bills has expired. I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (12.15 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate. I want to thank everyone in the gallery who has been here for the debate today.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that we are waging a war on landlords, which is absolute nonsense. I want to be clear that we make no apology for the strong, regulatory interventions proposed in these bills. The issues in the private rental and residential park sectors, including the unique features concerned in each, have been carefully considered and a range of regulatory options to address them explored through extensive public consultation. The fact is that those opposite seem to not care about these reforms. For example, the member for Burnett did not even bother to check that he was talking about the correct bills. Instead, he spent his time pontificating about tiny homes, evidently confusing modular housing with manufactured homes. I would also note that he seemingly cannot read the answers to questions on notice, instead making up numbers that seem to suit his narrative. The member for Bonney used his time to make sure everyone in this House knows that he is a NIMBY who has no interest in delivering additional housing if it is in his own electorate. This is the shadow environment minister who does not back housing in his own backyard but is happy to take up swathes of habitat with urban sprawl. However, they both did a better job than the member for Burleigh, who thought it was a better use of his time to tell us just how much he loves dogs.

We already knew that the LNP thought our Homes for Queenslanders plan was too much and now we know that they also think these reforms to make renting fairer have 'tipped the scales too far for renters'. We know this means they have a plan to cut and roll back these protections. They need to tell the one-third of Queensland households that will benefit from these changes which of these reforms they will cut. Will they tear up the rental sector code of conduct, because that is exactly what they did last time? When the shadow housing spokesperson was the housing minister in this state the LNP tore up those important protections. We have seen many times in this House the contempt with which the member for Everton holds renters. That was made clear once again when he repeatedly characterised the reforms we are discussing here today as part of an attempt to demonise landlords. Providing fair and sensible protection for renters, who hold much less power in a tenancy relationship, is not demonising anyone and it is concerning that this is the position of the LNP's housing spokesperson.

Despite the scaremongering from those opposite, the narrative about investment being hampered by reforms that protect renters is just straight-up fiction. In fact, monthly housing investor finance has increased 141 per cent since March 2020. We are taking strong action to stabilise rents, limit the frequency of rent increases, ban rent bidding and cap bonds because this government knows the best way to stabilise rents is to do those protections but also to make sure we increase supply. I find it pretty hypocritical when those opposite come in here and talk about supply but oppose it in their own electorates and then the Greens and the LNP team up and delay the Housing Australia Future Fund, which will build thousands and thousands of social and affordable homes in this state. Both parties routinely rail against additional housing supply in their own communities. The member for South Brisbane asked us to put ourselves in the shoes of renters. Lucky for her I am a renter, which is why I am proud to be a part of a government that is taking action to make renting fairer. I do want to acknowledge, however, that both—

Mr Crandon: You are not a struggling renter though, are you?

Ms SCANLON: If you would listen to my contribution, member for Coomera—

Mr Crandon: You are not exactly struggling.

Ms Boyd: You don't represent Gold Coast renters.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. There are thousands of renters in the member for Coomera's electorate and yet he routinely criticises renters in this state and in this House.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the minister to be personally offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Government members interjected.

Mr Crandon: Excuse me! I am a little bit unwell at the moment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, Member for Coomera!

Mr Crandon: If you think it is a bit funny I am a little bit foggy—

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

Mr CRANDON: My point of order still stands. I ask you to move on it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, the member for Coomera found your comments offensive. Do you withdraw?

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw, but I want to acknowledge, before I was interrupted by the member for Coomera, that both the member for South Brisbane and I are in different positions than the majority of renters and for the purposes of transparency and accountability I want to respond to some claims that the member for South Brisbane made to her community on Facebook yesterday. The member claimed that she moved amendments that she did not. This is another example of the Greens misleading the community and not following through in parliament. The only motion moved by the Greens last night was a procedural motion from the member for Maiwar attempting to delay these reforms that will provide immediate relief for renters.

I will now turn to the manufactured homes bill. The member for Everton has suggested we have not listened to home owners in residential parks in the development of this bill. I think the House will find the following comments made by the Alliance of Manufactured Home Owners during the public hearing at Deception Bay very interesting.

Mr Hart: And a political set-up.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh, who thinks the contributions of older Queenslanders in the parliamentary committee debate was set up.

Mr Hart: No, I am talking about what you are doing now.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, cease your interjections.

Ms SCANLON: What they said was—

I would tell you that on no occasion has the LNP engaged. We have been sending emails to all the LNP and David Crisafulli has refused to engage.

...

Let us call it what it is. He has refused to engage. We have actually written to him in the last month and asked what the LNP's plans are going forward and to date we have not received a response.

That is pretty reflective of almost every other issue that one asks the LNP about. We know it is only a Miles Labor government that will listen to and protect manufactured home owners. I acknowledge all of those home owners who are in the gallery today. There was much commentary from those opposite talking down the importance of the intervention in the bill limiting site rent increases. Manufactured home owners make a significant up-front capital investment in their homes, which are usually impractical to relocate, meaning they have very limited ability to move or downsize. When site rents become unaffordable they generally have to sell their home onsite, but they must continue paying site rent until the sale occurs and cannot leave their home to recover costs. This means that, while the

cost of site rent in a residential park is set by the market, once home owners have entered a residential park they have no bargaining power and cannot respond to large site rent increases by taking their business elsewhere in the same way that a renter can. Residential parks are primarily marketed to older Queenslanders, many of whom experience declining income alongside increased vulnerability as they age. These unique factors mean that robust regulation is needed to ensure consumers in the residential parks market are protected from unfair business practices and provided with reasonable certainty and security of tenure.

We know that those opposite like to consider themselves good at economics, but the concept of a site rent cap seems to be lost on them. These site rent caps are a ceiling and do not replace more favourable terms in individual site agreements. I will repeat that: these site rent caps are a ceiling. We have heard stories of rents rising by up to 30 per cent and that is why we are taking strong action to provide certainty to manufactured home owners. These caps signal this government's willingness to take strong regulatory action when we see vulnerable Queenslanders being taken advantage of.

We also heard horror stories from manufactured home owners of their site rents increasing by up to 30 per cent as a result of market rent reviews. The majority of these home owners are on fixed incomes and have limited ability to absorb such large increases. The member for Lockyer suggested that we should reconsider the ban on market rent reviews. I would like to know whether that is a broader position of the LNP. Is that their plan for the sector? They have told us they think it is okay for park owners to sell these homes as affordable with low site rents only to jack up the prices once home owners have made a significant up-front investment in the purchase of their home and it is difficult for them to move elsewhere. I do not think that is a position that this side of the House holds and that is why we have introduced these reforms.

In conclusion, this is ultimately about us delivering on our Homes for Queenslanders commitment to support Queensland renters by strengthening renters' rights and stabilising rents which enables work to begin on developing a portable bond scheme and a rental sector code of conduct and ensures that our state meets our national cabinet objectives. We are also delivering on our election commitments to further rent law reform and mandatory continuing professional development for real estate professionals. These reforms will provide cost-of-living relief and certainty for owners of manufactured homes and for Queensland renters.

I conclude by acknowledging and thanking all of those who have made submissions to the committee's detailed consideration of these bills and participated in the extensive consultation processes that have informed these bills. I would like to once again particularly acknowledge the manufactured home owners who are in the gallery today who have spent a lot of time reading through many documents to understand the proposed reforms to provide their feedback. I am really pleased that we are able to share in this moment together. I would also like to extend my thanks to the members of the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, in particular the member for Bancroft, the chair, for their thorough examination of the bills and their considered comments that have helped identify improvements to the bill that will be moved as amendments during consideration in detail.

Finally, I want to extend my thanks to the various officers of the department and my ministerial office for their continued hard work in progressing these bills. I also want to extend my thanks to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for their contributions, and obviously the Attorney-General as well, and to the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their efforts to prepare the bills. I am proud to be a part of a government that is making renting fairer for the 30 per cent of Queenslanders who rent in this state. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill**

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms SCANLON (12.28 pm): I move the following amendment—

1

After clause 7

Page 14, after line 28—

insert—

7A Insertion of new s 57AA

After section 57A—

insert—

57AA Offer of residential tenancy—limitation on rent in advance

(1) This section applies if a residential tenancy for premises is advertised or otherwise offered by a lessor or lessor's agent.

(2) A person must not solicit or otherwise invite an offer, or accept an offer, of an amount of rent in advance for the premises that is more than the amount required under section 87(1).

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

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

Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[855\]](#).

Tabled paper: Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [\[856\]](#).

Mr MANDER: This amendment involves clarification around tenants' desires to pay rent in advance. Without this amendment, that would not be possible. This is a classic example of the government not going through proper due process and making sure its legislation is watertight and does not have unintended consequences on the very people it is claiming to benefit. I remind members that one of the major reasons for this bill is the government's oversight last time when the limiting of rent increases to once a year was linked not to the property but to the tenant. We saw the pain that that caused tenants. Here is another example of where it would be to tenants' budgeting advantage to pay in advance. It is only because of this amendment that that will be allowed. This is something that was missed.

Again, this is symbolic of the amendments to this bill. Yesterday, tens of amendments were introduced at the last minute. This morning we received an amendment to the bill regarding due process, proper examination and looking, as I said, at the undue consequences to those this is supposedly trying to benefit. I am very concerned that either before the end of this parliament or in the next parliament we will be back here having to fix things that we missed in the drafting of this bill. The REIQ's submission was very explicit in terms of drafting errors. They were worried about the consequences of those as well.

The minister criticised us by saying that we were demonising landlords and owners of properties. Not one element of this bill would make it easier for a landlord to operate or to have confidence to invest in properties. This is something we need so that people can find a rental property.

Ms SCANLON: I think the member for Everton's contribution reiterated his contempt for renters. He continually refers to REIQ but, I note, never Tenants Queensland, which is very interesting. This is the LNP railing against amendments which will make it fairer for renters. These are fair and balanced changes.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON: The purpose of going through the parliamentary committee process is to identify where technical changes can be made. That is exactly what the amendments are all about—making sure we achieve the intent of these reforms. I note that the member for Everton talked about a previous bill that we introduced in parliament. He did not vote against those reforms; in fact, he did not move

amendments to those reforms. If he was so concerned or thought that there were problems, he could have moved amendments at that point. He could also have moved amendments during this process but, seemingly, has not. I find it lip-service from the member for Everton to say that he is concerned. If he were so concerned, he would move amendments or introduce a private member's bill. We see nothing from the LNP but criticism and a talking down of protections that will protect renters in this state.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8—



Ms SCANLON (12.33 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 8 (Amendment of s 61 (Written agreements required))

Page 15, line 2, 'Section'—

omit, insert—

(1) Section

3 Clause 8 (Amendment of s 61 (Written agreements required))

Page 15, after line 6—

insert—

(2) Section 61—

insert—

(2A) However, subsection (2)(c) does not apply if the lessor is an exempt lessor.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Ms SCANLON (12.34 pm): I move the following amendments—

4 Clause 10 (Insertion of new s 76AA)

Page 15, line 11, 's 76AA'—

omit, insert—

ss 76AA and 76AB

5 Clause 10 (Insertion of new s 76AA)

Page 16, after line 9—

insert—

76AB Offer of rooming accommodation—limitation on rent in advance

(1) This section applies if rooming accommodation for rental premises is advertised or otherwise offered by a provider or provider's agent.

(2) A person must not solicit or otherwise invite an offer, or accept an offer, of an amount of rent in advance for the rental premises that is more than the amount required under section 101(1).

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11—



Ms SCANLON (12.35 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

6 Clause 11 (Amendment of s 77 (Written agreement required))

Page 16, after line 22—

insert—

(2A) However, subsection (2)(c) does not apply if the provider is an exempt provider.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Ms SCANLON (12.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Clause 12 (Insertion of new s 82A)

Page 16, line 27, 'In this division, a lessor'—

omit, insert—

A lessor

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13—



Ms SCANLON (12.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

8 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 87 (Rent in advance))

Page 17, line 23 to page 18, line 4—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 13 omitted.

Clause 14—



Ms SCANLON (12.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

9 Clause 14 (Amendment of s 91 (Rent increases))

Page 18, after line 14—

insert—

(2A) Section 91—

insert—

(3A) However, subsection (3)(c) does not apply if the lessor is an exempt lessor.

(2B) Section 91(4), after 'day stated in the notice'—

insert—

under subsection (3)(b)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clause 16—



Ms SCANLON (12.37 pm): I move the following amendment—

10 Clause 16 (Insertion of new ss 93A and 93B)

Page 20, after line 32—

insert—

(4) This section does not apply in relation to an exempt lessor or an agent of an exempt lessor.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms SCANLON (12.38 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

11 After clause 17

Page 22, after line 1—

insert—

17A Insertion of new s 97A

Before section 98—

insert—

97A Meaning of exempt provider

A provider of rooming accommodation is an **exempt provider** if—

- (a) the provider receives funding for the rooming accommodation under the *Housing Act 2003* if the amount of rent payable for the rooming accommodation is determined by household income; or

Examples—

a community housing provider, a specialist homelessness service

- (b) the provider receives funding for the rooming accommodation that is the subject of a funding declaration under the *Community Services Act 2007* if the amount of rent payable for the rooming accommodation is determined by household income; or

- (c) the provider is the chief executive of the housing department, acting on behalf of the State; or

- (d) the provider is prescribed by regulation to be an exempt provider.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 18—



Ms SCANLON (12.38 pm): I move the following amendment—

12 Clause 18 (Amendment of s 101 (Rent in advance))

Page 22, lines 2 to 11—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 18 omitted.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms SCANLON (12.39 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

13 After clause 18

Page 22, after line 11—

insert—

18A Amendment of s 105 (Rent increases)

- (1) Section 105(2)—

insert—

- (c) the day the rent was last increased for the resident's room.

- (2) Section 105, after subsection (2)—

insert—

(2AA) However, subsection (2)(c) does not apply if the provider is an exempt provider.

- (3) Section 105(2A), after 'day stated in the notice'—

insert—

under subsection (2)(b)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19—



Ms SCANLON (12.39 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.
Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

14 Clause 19 (Amendment of s 105B (Minimum period before rent can be increased))

Page 23, lines 31 to 34—

omit, insert—

(4A) This section does not apply—

(a) to an exempt provider or an agent of an exempt provider; or

(b) to the extent the rent payable under a rooming accommodation agreement is increased under an order of the tribunal under section 105E.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20—



Ms SCANLON (12.40 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.
Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

15 Clause 20 (Insertion of new ss 105C—105E)

Page 24, after line 24—

insert—

(4) This section does not apply in relation to an exempt provider or an agent of an exempt provider.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 23, as read, agreed to.

Clause 24, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 25 to 34, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Dr MacMAHON (12.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

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

Clauses 35 to 40, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Dr MacMAHON (12.47 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.
Leave not granted.

Insertion of new clause—



Dr MacMAHON (12.48 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.
Leave not granted.

Clauses 41 to 46, as read, agreed to.

Clause 47—



Ms SCANLON (12.48 pm): I move the following amendment—

16 Clause 47 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 8)

Page 38, after line 21—

insert—

579A Requirement for lessor to give evidence of rent increase if premises purchased within 12 months of commencement

(1) This section applies if—

(a) premises the subject of a residential tenancy agreement are purchased by the lessor within 12 months after the commencement; and

(b) the lessor does not hold information about the day of the last rent increase for the premises.

- (2) New section 93A(2) does not apply to the lessor or lessor's agent in relation to the premises.
- (3) For subsection (1)(b), the lessor holds information if the lessor, or an agent of the lessor, is in possession or control of the information.

579B Requirement for provider to give evidence of rent increase if rental premises purchased within 12 months of commencement

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) rental premises the subject of a rooming accommodation agreement are purchased by the provider within 12 months after the commencement; and
 - (b) the provider does not hold information about the day of the last rent increase for the resident's room.
- (2) New section 105C(2) does not apply to the provider or provider's agent in relation to the resident's room.
- (3) For subsection (1)(b), the provider holds information if the provider, or an agent of the provider, is in possession or control of the information.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 47, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 48, as read, agreed to.

Clause 49—



Ms SCANLON (12.49 pm): I move the following amendments—

17 Clause 49 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 40, line 13, ', for chapter 2, part 2, division 1,'—
omit.

18 Clause 49 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 40, after line 14—
insert—

exempt provider see section 97A.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 49, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 50—



Ms SCANLON (12.49 pm): I move the following amendments—

19 Clause 50 (Insertion of new ss 57B—57D)

Page 41, lines 6 and 7, 'an exempt'—
omit, insert—

a relevant

20 Clause 50 (Insertion of new ss 57B—57D)

Page 42, line 4—
omit, insert—

relevant lessor means—

21 Clause 50 (Insertion of new ss 57B—57D)

Page 42, lines 21 and 22, 'an exempt lessor'—
omit, insert—

a relevant lessor

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 50, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 51 to 56, as read, agreed to.

Clause 57—



Ms SCANLON (12.50 pm): I move the following amendments—

22 Clause 57 (Amendment of s 166 (Water service charges for premises other than moveable dwelling premises))

Page 54, after line 29—

insert—

(1A) Section 166—

insert—

(8A) This section applies subject to section 166A.

23 Clause 57 (Amendment of s 166 (Water service charges for premises other than moveable dwelling premises))

Page 54, line 31, '(12)'—

omit, insert—

(13)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 57, as amended, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms SCANLON (12.50 pm): I move amendment No. 1 of version C24_0042—

1 After clause 57

Page 54, after line 31—

insert—

57A Insertion of new s 166A

After section 166—

insert—

166A Water service charges for premises other than moveable dwelling premises—charge for partial billing period

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) under section 166, a tenant would otherwise be required to pay an amount for water consumption charges for the premises for a period; and
- (b) the premises are individually metered for the supply of water; and
- (c) the premises are water efficient for the purposes of section 166 during the period; and
- (d) the period includes part, but not all, of a period (the **partial billing period**) specified, or to be specified, in a water consumption charges document.

Examples—

- The agreement takes effect on 1 February, part-way through the period of 1 January to 31 March specified in a water consumption charges document. The partial billing period is 1 February to 31 March.
- The agreement terminates on 1 November, part-way through the period of 1 October to 31 December specified in a water consumption charges document. The partial billing period is 1 October to 1 November.

(2) The tenant may not be required to pay an amount for water consumption charges for the premises for the partial billing period unless—

- (a) a meter reading for the premises is taken at the following time and recorded in a condition report under section 65 or 66—
 - (i) if the partial billing period starts when the agreement takes effect—when the agreement takes effect;
 - (ii) if the partial billing period ends when the agreement is terminated—when the tenant hands over vacant possession of the premises; and
- (b) the amount is calculated based on—
 - (i) a reasonable estimate of the volume of water supplied to the premises during the partial billing period having regard to the meter reading mentioned in paragraph (a); and
 - (ii) the rate used to calculate the water consumption charge stated in the most recent water consumption charges document.

(3) Section 166(6) to (9) does not apply in relation to the water consumption charges document that includes the partial billing period.

(4) In this section—

water consumption charge see section 166(13).

water consumption charges document means a document, issued to the lessor by the relevant water supplier, stating the amount of water consumption charges for the premises that are payable to the supplier.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 58 to 63, as read, agreed to.

Clause 64—



Ms SCANLON (12.51 pm): I move the following amendment—

25 Clause 64 (Replacement of ss 207—209)

Page 58, lines 9 to 11—

omit, insert—

given by the lessor or body corporate.

Note—

For the lessor's approval and conditions, see also section 209.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 64, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 65 and 66, as read, agreed to.

Clause 67—



Ms SCANLON (12.52 pm): I move the following amendment—

26 Clause 67 (Replacement of ss 254—256)

Page 63, lines 27 to 29—

omit, insert—

given by the provider or body corporate.

Note—

For the provider's approval and conditions, see also section 255A.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 67, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 68 to 71, as read, agreed to.

Clause 72—



Ms SCANLON (12.52 pm): I move the following amendment—

27 Clause 72 (Amendment of s 357A (Reletting costs))

Page 69, line 29 to page 70, line 2—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 72, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 73—



Ms SCANLON (12.53 pm): I move the following amendment—

28 Clause 73 (Amendment of s 396A (Reletting costs))

Page 72, lines 1 to 4—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 73, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 74 to 79, as read, agreed to.

Clause 80—



Ms SCANLON (12.53 pm): I move the following amendments—

29 Clause 80 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 2 and ch 9, pt 3, hdg)

Page 76, line 30, 'premises'—
omit, insert—

agreement

30 Clause 80 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 2 and ch 9, pt 3, hdg)

Page 77, line 4, 'premises'—
omit, insert—

agreement

31 Clause 80 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 2 and ch 9, pt 3, hdg)

Page 77, lines 15 to 20—
omit, insert—

resident—destroyed in a secure way within—

- (i) 3 months after a residential tenancy agreement or a rooming accommodation agreement for the tenancy or accommodation for which the applicant applied commences; or
- (ii) a longer period agreed to by the applicant.

32 Clause 80 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 2 and ch 9, pt 3, hdg)

Page 77, line 27, '3 years'—
omit, insert—

7 years

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 80, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 81 to 84, as read, agreed to.

Clause 85—



Ms SCANLON (12.54 pm): I move the following amendment—

33 Clause 85 (Insertion of new ch 14, pt 8, div 3)

Page 81, after line 27—
insert—

585A Maximum amount of rental bond—provision for existing rental bonds

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) before the commencement, a rental bond was paid for a residential tenancy agreement or rooming accommodation agreement; and
 - (b) under section 122 of the Act, the rental bond is taken to be a rental bond for a renewal agreement; and
 - (c) after the commencement, the amount of the rental bond is more than the amount that may be required or accepted under new section 146 for the renewal agreement.
- (2) The tenant or resident may make an application to the authority for payment of the part of the rental bond that is equivalent to the difference between the amount held by the authority and the amount that may be required or accepted under new section 146 (the **excess amount**).
- (3) The application—
 - (a) must be made in the approved form; and
 - (b) may only direct a payment of the excess amount to be made to the contributor for the bond.
- (4) Despite section 124, the authority may pay the excess amount—
 - (a) if there is only 1 contributor—to the contributor; or
 - (b) if there is more than 1 contributor and all contributors have made the application—to each contributor in the way directed in the application.
- (5) The authority must give the lessor, provider or agent notice of the amount of the rental bond held by the authority for the renewal agreement after the excess amount has been refunded to the tenant or resident.

- (6) Chapter 2, part 3, division 3 does not apply to an application made under this section.
- (7) For this section, section 150(4) is taken to include a reference to amounts payable under this section.
- (8) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a person does not commit an offence under new section 146(1) in relation to a rental bond to which this section applies.
- (9) In this section—
renewal agreement see section 122.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 86 to 95, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Ms SCANLON (12.55 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms SCANLON: I move the following amendment—

34

After clause 95

Page 90, after line 2—

insert—

Division 1A Amendment of Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017

95A Act amended

This division amends the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017*.

95B Amendment of s 79 (Application for adjudication)

- (1) Section 79(2)(e)—
omit.
- (2) Section 79(3)—
omit, insert—
- (3) The adjudication application may be accompanied by submissions relevant to the application.
- (3A) The claimant must give the following documents to the respondent within 4 business days after making the adjudication application—
- (a) a copy of the adjudication application;
 - (b) a copy of the submissions, if any, accompanying the application under subsection (3).
- (3) Section 79—
insert—
- (5) In this section—
copy, of an adjudication application, includes a document containing details of the application given to the claimant by the registrar for the purpose of the claimant complying with the claimant's obligation under subsection (4)(a).
- (4) Section 79(3A) to (5)—
renumber as section 79(4) to (6).

95C Amendment of s 83 (Time for making adjudication response)

Section 83(1)(a), (2)(a) and (4)(b)(i), 'a copy of the adjudication application'—

omit, insert—

the documents mentioned in section 79(4)

95D Insertion of new ch 8D

Before chapter 9—

insert—

Chapter 8D Validation provisions for Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024

215C Definitions for chapter

In this chapter—

former, for a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from time to time before the commencement.

registry summary, of an adjudication application, means a document given to the claimant by the registrar that includes at least the following details of the application—

- (a) the name of the claimant;
- (b) the name of the respondent;
- (c) the date the application was made.

215D Validation of non-compliance with former section 79(3)

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
 - (a) a claimant made an adjudication application; and
 - (b) the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3); and
 - (c) the claimant gave the respondent a registry summary of the adjudication application.
- (2) The claimant is taken to have complied with former section 79(3).

215E Validation of adjudication decision made before commencement—registry summary given to respondent

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
 - (a) an adjudicator purportedly made a decision under section 88 (the **relevant decision**) on an adjudication application; and
 - (b) the adjudicator did not have jurisdiction to make the relevant decision only because the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3); and
 - (c) the claimant gave a registry summary of the adjudication application to the respondent.
- (2) Despite the absence of jurisdiction mentioned in subsection (1)(b)—
 - (a) the relevant decision is as valid as it would have been if the claimant had complied with former section 79(3) and the adjudicator had jurisdiction to make the decision; and
 - (b) anything done or purportedly done as a result of, or in reliance on, the relevant decision is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid and lawful as it would have been if, at the time the thing was done, the adjudicator had jurisdiction to make the relevant decision as mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (3) This section applies even if a proceeding relating to the adjudication application has been commenced in a court.

215F Declaration of court made before commencement that adjudication void is of no effect

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, a court in a proceeding—
 - (a) declared that a decision made under section 88 on an adjudication application was void only because the adjudicator did not have jurisdiction to make the decision because the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3); and
 - (b) found that the claimant gave a registry summary of the adjudication application to the respondent.
- (2) The declaration of the court is of no effect.
- (3) Despite the declaration of the court—
 - (a) the decision made under section 88 is as valid as it would have been if the claimant had complied with former section 79(3) and the adjudicator had jurisdiction to make the decision; and
 - (b) anything done or purportedly done as a result of, or in reliance on, the decision made under section 88 is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid and lawful as it would have been if, at the time the thing was done, the adjudicator had jurisdiction to make the decision as mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (4) If the adjudicator decided in the adjudication that the respondent was required to pay an adjudicated amount, for the purposes of section 90, the respondent is taken to have received a copy of the adjudicator's decision on the day that is 30 business days after the commencement.
- (5) If the court made any other order in the proceeding, including, for example, an order as to costs, a party to the proceeding may apply to the court to vary the order.
- (6) The court may hear and decide an application under subsection (5) and make the orders it considers appropriate having regard to the operation of this chapter.

215G Adjudication application must be re-decided if adjudicator decided before commencement that adjudicator did not have jurisdiction

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
 - (a) a claimant made an adjudication application; and

- (b) the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3); and
 - (c) the claimant gave the respondent a registry summary of the adjudication application; and
 - (d) an adjudicator (the **original adjudicator**) was appointed under section 81; and
 - (e) the original adjudicator decided under section 84(2)(a)(i) that the original adjudicator did not have jurisdiction to adjudicate the application only because the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3).
- (2) The decision of the original adjudicator is void and of no effect.
- (3) On the commencement, the registrar is taken to refer the adjudication application to the original adjudicator for a decision.
- (4) The original adjudicator must accept or reject the referral, unless the original adjudicator has a reasonable excuse, within 14 business days after the commencement by notifying the registrar of the acceptance or rejection.
- (5) If the original adjudicator rejects the referral or does not accept it within the period required under subsection (4)—
- (a) the registrar must refer the adjudication application to another adjudicator (the **new adjudicator**) within 4 business days after becoming aware of the rejection or failure; and
 - (b) no fee is payable for referring the adjudication application to the new adjudicator.
- (6) The new adjudicator must accept or reject the referral, unless the new adjudicator has a reasonable excuse, within 4 business days after the referral under subsection (5)(a).
- (7) If the original adjudicator or the new adjudicator accepts the referral—
- (a) the adjudicator is taken to be appointed to decide the adjudication application; and
 - (b) the failure of the claimant to comply with former section 79(3) is taken not to deprive the adjudicator of jurisdiction to decide the adjudication application; and
 - (c) within 4 business days after the appointment, the adjudicator must give the claimant and the respondent a notice stating that—
 - (i) the decision of the original adjudicator mentioned in subsection (1)(e) is void under subsection (2); and
 - (ii) the respondent may give the adjudicator a response to the adjudication application within 15 business days after receiving the notice; and
 - (iii) the adjudicator will decide the adjudication application within 15 business days after the end of the period within which the respondent may give a response under subparagraph (ii); and
 - (d) the adjudicator must decide the adjudication application under section 88 within 15 business days after the end of the period within which the respondent may give a response under subparagraph (ii).
- (8) For the making of a decision on the adjudication application by the original adjudicator or the new adjudicator under this section—
- (a) the adjudicator may ask for further written submissions from either party and must give the other party an opportunity to comment on the submissions; and
 - (b) the time for deciding the adjudication application may be extended under section 86; and
 - (c) sections 89 to 97 apply in relation to the adjudication.
- (9) For subsection (8)(b), section 86 applies as if a reference to section 85(1) were a reference to subsection (7)(d).
- (10) To remove any doubt, it is declared that subsection (8) does not limit the application of this Act to the decision on the adjudication application by the original adjudicator or the new adjudicator under this section.

215H Continuation of adjudication if adjudication not completed before commencement

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
- (a) a claimant made an adjudication application; and
 - (b) the claimant did not give a copy of the adjudication application to the respondent as required under former section 79(3); and
 - (c) the claimant gave the respondent a registry summary of the adjudication application; and
 - (d) an adjudicator was appointed under section 81; and
 - (e) the adjudicator has not decided the adjudication application under section 88.

- (2) The failure of the claimant to comply with former section 79(3) is taken not to deprive the adjudicator of jurisdiction to decide the adjudication application.

Note—

See also section 215D in relation to the failure to comply with former section 79(3).

- (3) The adjudication application must be decided under part 4.

215I No compensation payable by State

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
- (a) the registrar gave a registry summary of an adjudication application to the claimant in the application; and
 - (b) the claimant gave the registry summary to the respondent in the application.
- (2) No liability attaches to the commission, the registrar, a public service employee, or the State, and no compensation is payable by the commission, the registrar, a public service employee, or the State, in relation to—
- (a) the giving of the registry summary by the registrar to the claimant; or
 - (b) anything done or purportedly done as a result of, or in reliance on, the registry summary being given by the registrar to the claimant.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 96 to 123, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Mr HART (12.56 pm): This is a clause about buybacks. In my speech in the second reading debate, I asked if the minister could answer a question about GST on these buyback purchases. The minister did not respond to that question. I would like to put the question again to the minister. My understanding is that when a company buys property from an individual there can be no input credit claimed for that, but when the company has to sell the residence again—and they are a company—they have to collect and pay GST. That means that the transaction increases by 10 per cent. I ask the minister if she has had any conversations at all with the federal government around this particular issue or if, in fact, the minister or the department ever considered that this could be a problem. I note that this did not really come through in the committee report but I have some concerns about that.

Ms SCANLON: The buyback and site rent reduction scheme has been designed obviously to incentivise faster sales and give home owners more certainty about the sale of their manufactured home. Some stakeholders who provided feedback on the consultation regulatory impact statement for the amendments proposed in this bill noted that analysis did not consider the financial impact of GST on the sale of manufactured homes as part of the buyback scheme. The subsequent decision impact analysis statement acknowledged this feedback, noting that GST was not considered in the original analysis and that the impact of the buyback scheme may have been underestimated if GST was applied. In practice though, due to the limited nature of the scheme applying only to vacant homes which were not relocated on to the site and incentives to sell quickly, buybacks under this scheme are expected to be rare.

Additionally, in recognition of the financial impact of the buyback requirements on park owners, the bill also includes very generous extension provisions allowing park owners to delay the buyback of the manufactured home due to financial hardship or market conditions. These factors will significantly mitigate any impact of GST obligations on the buyback of homes under the scheme. The GST impact will be closely monitored, and there is a three-year statutory review of the bill which will allow the buyback scheme to be re-examined if the impact of those tax obligations results in a significantly higher impact on park owners than anticipated. I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 9A)

Page 23, line 18, '7 days'—

omit, insert—

14 days

2 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 9A)

Page 24, line 6, '7 days'—

omit, insert—

14 days

3 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 9A)

Page 24, line 26, '7 days'—
omit, insert—

14 days

4 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 9A)

Page 33, line 19, 'homer'—
omit, insert—

home

5 Clause 12 (Insertion of new pt 9A)

Page 37, line 18, after 'section'—
insert—

62ZB,

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

Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [857].

Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Meaghan Scanlon's amendments [858].

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it being 1 pm, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for consideration of the bills has now expired. The House has been considering the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill. I note that the minister's amendment No. 17 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore will require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 6 to 17, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

6 Clause 22 (Amendment of s 116 (Requirements for application))

Page 44, line 28, after '62ZB'—
insert—

, 62ZC, 62ZD

7 Clause 24 (Insertion of new pt 21, div 5)

Page 49, after line 31—
insert—

(2A) The park owner may increase the site rent using the basis provided under subsection (2) once each year, but not within 1 year after the day the site rent was last increased under this section or, for the first increase under this section, the site agreement.

(2B) Subsection (2A) applies despite any term of the site agreement providing for the intervals at which the site rent may be increased.

8 Clause 27 (Replacement of s 63 (How site rent to be paid))

Page 55, line 2, 'deposit'—
omit, insert—

payment

9 Clause 27 (Replacement of s 63 (How site rent to be paid))

Page 55, line 3, after 'park owner'—
insert—

, including, for example, payment by direct debit

- 10 Clause 27 (Replacement of s 63 (How site rent to be paid))**
Page 55, line 7, 'home owner.'—
omit, insert—
home owner;
- 11 Clause 27 (Replacement of s 63 (How site rent to be paid))**
Page 55, after line 7—
insert—
(g) another way prescribed by regulation.
- 12 Clause 33 (Replacement of pt 5, div 2 (Entering into site agreements))**
Page 75, line 17, 'The'—
omit, insert—
(1) The
- 13 Clause 33 (Replacement of pt 5, div 2 (Entering into site agreements))**
Page 75, line 19, 'are'—
omit, insert—
include
- 14 Clause 33 (Replacement of pt 5, div 2 (Entering into site agreements))**
Page 75, line 21, after 'owner'—
insert—
(the **earlier site agreement**)
- 15 Clause 33 (Replacement of pt 5, div 2 (Entering into site agreements))**
Page 75, line 22, after 'matters'—
insert—
(each a **relevant matter**)
- 16 Clause 33 (Replacement of pt 5, div 2 (Entering into site agreements))**
Page 75, after line 29—
insert—
(2) For subsection (1), if a term of the earlier site agreement in relation to a relevant matter has, before the sale of the manufactured home, been modified by this Act, the term as modified is taken to be the term that applied under the earlier site agreement, before the sale of the manufactured home, in relation to the relevant matter.
Example of the modification by this Act of a term of a site agreement in relation to a relevant matter—
a reduction under section 73 in the utility cost included in the site rent payable for the site
- 17 After clause 33**
Page 79, after line 16—
insert—
33A Amendment of s 34 (Automatic ending of sale agreement)
(1) Section 34(1)(a)—
omit, insert—
(a) in conjunction with the site agreement, a prospective home owner and the seller of a manufactured home positioned on a site in the residential park enter into an agreement (the **sale agreement**) for the sale of the manufactured home to the home owner; and
(2) Section 34(3), (4B), (5) and (5A), 'park owner'—
omit, insert—
seller
(3) Section 34(7), definition *refundable amount*, paragraph (a), 'park owner, or at the park owner's'—
omit, insert—
seller, or at the seller's
(4) Section 34(7), definition *refundable amount*, paragraph (b), after 'if the'—
insert—
seller is the park owner and the
(5) Section 34(7), definition *refund period*, paragraph (a)(i), 'park owner'—
omit, insert—
seller

Question put—That clauses 22 to 52 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 22 to 52 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 35 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as circulated—

35 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997*,'—
insert—

the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017*,

Question put—That the long title of the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.02 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Cyberbullying

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.00 pm): We have seen extensive coverage of the dangers of social media in the last week being led by a *Courier-Mail* campaign, with the Premier releasing a media statement which states—

I've made it clear that social media companies should be held accountable for the damaging content they distribute, promote and refuse to take down.

This week both sides of the House have been offered a workshop on cyberbullying because of the attacks that women have faced, particularly female members of parliament. In the past 24 hours we have seen through the Minister for Women's own social media posts one of the worst—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, resume your seat while I take some advice. Member, my view is that the matters you are raising here relate extremely closely and directly to the matters that today have been referred to the Ethics Committee. I would ask you to move on in your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have sought advice from the Clerk of Parliament with respect to that ruling issued by Mr Speaker this morning. I have been advised that the ruling issued by Mr Speaker this morning was very small. It was in terms of the refusal of the member for Mudgeeraba to withdraw those comments. The rest of the matters—the photos, the minister—have not been referred to the Ethics Committee. It is purely a matter of the member for Mudgeeraba refusing to withdraw those comments as per the Speaker's ruling and not the other matters. That is the advice I have received.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some further advice. I have requested the Clerk to come and give advice.

Thank you for your patience, members. I do appreciate the manner in which the chamber conducted itself while we waited for that advice. I am not going to grant that point of order. Member, you can continue your contribution if it is broadly related to cyberbullying, but you cannot refer to the matters that occurred at various points in the House over the past 24 hours as they pertain to the matters that have been referred to the Ethics Committee.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you would like to reflect on the chair, there are mechanisms.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am asking you to confirm for the House whether that is a ruling under the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is my ruling.

Mr BLEIJIE: Then I give notice that I will move a motion of dissent from your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker, because that is not the advice I received within the past half hour.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine.

Ms CAMM: The Premier released a media statement in which he said—

I've made it clear that social media companies should be held accountable for the damaging content they distribute, promote and refuse to take down.

I ask the Premier whether he is holding his own ministers to account for the damaging content they have distributed, promoted and refused to take down, as there is still content circulating across social media platforms right now by the Minister for Women.

Ms Boyd interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the assistance of the House, member for Pine Rivers. Member for Whitsunday, I have given you very clear advice. I am going to allow you to continue with generalities, but if you continue to refer to those matters that I have directed you not to then I will cease your contribution.

Ms CAMM: I ask the Premier if he holds himself to this standard. This government has confirmed that you get results from toxic, misleading posts, so you may as well keep using them for your own gain and not worry about the impacts on anyone else. I refer the House to current posts posted on the Queensland state Labor Party's Facebook and social media sites. Do not worry about the threats, the abuse or the vitriol that it is inciting, particularly on female members of parliament. Do not worry about the example that it sets when you distort another person's words and pretend to be the one attacked when you are the attacker.

We all have a responsibility to our communities. As female leaders, I think we have a particular platform to share the experience of women and to work to improve women's safety, both in our communities and online. To use this place and that power to victimise another member of parliament is abhorrent, especially when you know that you may be misrepresenting another member's views for your own personal political gain. This week both sides of the House—and in particular females—have been offered a workshop on cyberbullying because of the attacks we have faced at an individual level. This has come about because of the disgusting abuse—and I have reached out to the other side of the House—many have experienced—

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.08 pm): I rise to back in our health minister, who has delivered more paramedics, nurses and doctors to Queensland than ever before. The rubbish claims the health minister has endured by the LNP opposite this week—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, we have a ruling from yourself and the member is directly now putting a positive spin on the health minister. Is it okay for the Labor Party to talk positively about the health minister but not the opposition?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Kawana, I am going to warn you under the standing orders. As I am trying to address you and give a response to your point of order, you are pointing across the chamber and not putting your comments through the chair, so I am going to warn you as per the Speaker's general warning that was given either this morning or yesterday.

I am listening carefully to the contribution from the member for Thuringowa. I will listen carefully to the contribution of every member of this chamber, and I will apply the ruling I have given evenly and in a fair manner. The member for Thuringowa is giving generalised statements at this point. If he goes anywhere near the matters that have occurred in this chamber, in any direction, I will be requesting that he does not do that. If he continues I will sit him down.

Mr HARPER: I certainly will not be. I cop some jibes about my former career, 30 years as a paramedic—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HARPER: Get them out of the way. Seriously, I want to deliver a lesson to the Leader of the Opposition on what actually happens in the back of an ambulance. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that we have heard claims this week of people dying on ramps when in fact they have deteriorated in either the ED or ICU and passed away.

Mr Hart: Be careful.

Mr HARPER: I am very careful.


Mr Hart: Be careful.

Mr HARPER: I take that interjection. I know what happens in the back of an ambulance—I can speak with authority on that—and sometimes, tragically, people deteriorate. Sometimes they die at home, sometimes they pass away in the workplace and sometimes they pass away in transit despite everything that has been thrown at that patient to try to save them. It troubles me greatly when these deaths are used for cheap political pointscoreing. I call it ambulance chasing, and I will define 'ambulance chasing': an ambulance chaser's No. 1 goal is to secure a client for the firm they represent through manipulation and trickery. Employing ambulance-chasing methods is not only unethical but also illegal. I know what happens because of what I did for 30 years and it troubles me greatly when someone's tragic passing is dragged into this place for cheap political pointscoreing, because there are two groups affected—the patient's family because it is brought into this arena and the paramedics themselves.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr HARPER: I say to the Leader of the Opposition—I must have touched a nerve—that this is absolutely disgraceful because the paramedics themselves are also dragged into this. No-one wants to see a patient deteriorate. No-one wants to see a cardiac patient deteriorate in front of them despite their best efforts. No-one wants to see a multi-trauma patient deteriorate in front of them despite their best efforts. That has a direct effect on the hardworking paramedics of this state, and I will defend them every day. Those on the other side are people who have no idea what happens in the back of an ambulance. There is not a paramedic on that side who can talk with real experience. It is disgraceful conduct for the LNP to raise tragedies such as this in this House, and it should cease doing that. It is disgraceful, it affects the families and, above all, it affects the hardworking paramedics who do their best every day in this state.

Callide Power Station; Nanango Electorate, Cancer Care


 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.12 pm): Three years on from the catastrophic explosion of the Callide C power plant, Queenslanders are still waiting for answers on how and why this major incident occurred. In the aftermath of that extraordinary explosion, the Minister for Energy, Minister de Brenni, called on forensic engineer Dr Sean Brady to investigate that explosion in terms of what happened. Three years on we are yet still to see that report or have that report released. Queenslanders are all in the dark about what happened at Callide. Even the unions have said that the government should release the report. It has taken a Federal Court decision to force the Palaszczuk-Miles government to release that secret report. As I said, even one of the unions that installed this Premier in Queensland in the coup is demanding that Labor release that report.

Whistleblowers have told the LNP that a lack of maintenance caused the explosion, which has driven up power prices in Queensland. We know that, when the unions are speaking out and there are major maintenance issues at Callide on this government's watch, this is putting those hard workers at risk. Labor simply does not want to be up-front and honest with the truth. It will say and do anything to cling to power, including fighting to keep the Brady report secret. Queenslanders deserve the answers so that there is not another power plant explosion. In 2023 Queenslanders faced the highest power

bills—three times the national average with a rise of 19.9 per cent—all because the Callide Power Station was offline. I say to the government: release the Brady report. What is it hiding? Why is it not standing up for the workers at Callide and the people of Queensland who are struggling to pay their power bills?

On another issue, I want to talk about cancer care in the South Burnett. Over 1,700 people a year leave South Burnett on a daily basis to get cancer treatment. Unfortunately, the South Burnett lost its specialist cancer care nurse in 2020 and, despite a local petition with more than 1,500 signatures, the role was not reinstated. It was moved to Toowoomba instead. The role was highly valued by our cancer patients, who were very disappointed to lose this specific service which helped guide them through their cancer journey. I, along with Sue—a major advocate from the McGrath Foundation and an all-cancer nurse based in the South Burnett—firmly believe that there is a definite and ongoing need for the provision of a cancer-specific nursing service in the South Burnett. I say again in this chamber: why should regional Queenslanders get sub care when it comes to not just maternity but also cancer care in the bush? The only way to stop this is to show Labor the door in '24.

Victims of Crime, Support

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.15 pm): This week we passed the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—a bill that puts victims first by minimising the need for Queenslanders to repeatedly tell their experience when their perpetrator's custody arrangements change, provides more safeguards for the personal information and security of victims, provides the ability to restrict prisoners' phone call privileges when they are used to breach domestic violence orders or make calls involving violence, coercion, harassment or threats, and gives new powers to the Parole Board that enables it to extend the maximum period of restricting applications for parole after a parole refusal.

The safety of the Queensland community is not negotiable. It will always come first—never last—under the Miles government. These laws will also enshrine a victims of crime voice on the Parole Board, ensuring that victims' lived experiences are always part of decision-making. There has been a victims representative on the Parole Board for years. The member for Burdekin—obviously this is something new to him—may not appreciate the valuable contribution to the Parole Board that victims representatives such as Brett Thompson, the CEO of Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, make and have made over many years—I see he is screwing his face up right now—but we on this side of the House do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair.


Ms BOYD: The LNP is not an ally to victims or victim support groups. It closed DV shelters, it cut funding to Victim Assist Queensland and it cut funding to victim support groups. What is worse is that it effectively gagged victims agencies from speaking up and advocating to government. I note that a number of victims groups have spoken publicly about their experiences and provided suggestions on how victims can be better supported. I truly thank them for their advocacy but note that, under an LNP government, their actions would have resulted in the LNP terminating the funding agreements that they had. The LNP would rather back multinational resource companies than victims of crime and the organisations that represent them. As always, the divide between what those opposite say and what they do is insurmountable.

This side of the House will always hold offenders to account and will always provide opportunities for rehabilitation, but we will make sure that victims are supported and that their voices are heard. In stark contrast, cuts and privatisation are in the LNP's DNA and I fear that that is what it has planned. I have heard from stakeholders right across the state on multiple occasions that the LNP is openly talking about privatising our prisons again. The shadow minister has even been asking me questions on notice about staff vacancies, and it makes me wonder why. I fear that those opposite are already drawing up that list of cuts, and they should come clean to Queenslanders. The shadow police minister has already belled the cat—community safety for them is only a weapon they use for their own political purpose.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough and member for Gympie, you will stop your quarrelling across the chamber.

Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.19 pm): The brains trust in the Labor Party has come up with a plan to allegedly make it faster to go south of Caloundra while making it slower to go north. I want to quote an interesting statement and then put into context where it comes from. It is in regard to the Mooloolah River Interchange which was due to create extra crossings across the Mooloolah River between Caloundra and Maroochydore. The statement says that the MRI is to—

... address safety and congestion issues that are forecast to increase due to regional population growth and development. It is also the key to unlocking significant public transport projects on the Sunshine Coast and is the trigger for major infrastructure transformation in the region.

That statement was edited out of the minister's final response to me when I questioned why the Mooloolah River Interchange had been taken off QTRIP and the starting date had been removed from QTRIP. By rolling over to the federal government's cuts and then removing their own funding from the Mooloolah River Interchange, the state government has left us with a diabolical situation where it is a congestion issue, it is a blackspot and one of the most dangerous interchanges on the coast and it will be a tourniquet for travel from the north to the south, from the east to the west, and vice versa.

The statement that I quoted was cut from the minister's response, and I got it under RTI. The government's answer to all of this—the congestion, the blackspots and the fact that public transport will not be able to move between Maroochydore and Caloundra any faster because there are no extra river crossings and buses will be stuck in traffic—is not to fix the problem but to edit it out of their final response to me. I table the following: the minister's response to my letter; the RTI document showing some of the edits from the department of transport; and the additional edits, which were the other elements, where we do not know between the minister's office and the department who in fact cut them out because I only got one letter back under RTI.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade Project, RTI [\[859\]](#).


Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange Upgrade Project, additional edits [\[860\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 February 2024, from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Bart Mellish, to the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, regarding the Sunshine Motorway, Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) Upgrade project [\[861\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 January 2024, from the member for Maroochydore, Ms Fiona Simpson MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Bart Mellish, regarding the Mooloolah River Interchange [\[862\]](#).

Regardless of who dodged up the response to remove reference to safety, congestion and improving public transport on the coast, simply editing a letter and failing to answer how they are going to fix the problem does not cut it. Labor have come up with a transport solution that makes it worse for the whole of the Sunshine Coast. Unless they put the Mooloolah River Interchange back into the program, we will have gridlock and people will not be able to get to Caloundra and Maroochydore and vice versa without risking their lives and being stuck in traffic. We need to see an answer from this government. That is another letter that needs to be tabled.

Mundingburra Electorate

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise to speak about the progress made across the seat of Mundingburra—yes, I am delivering for the people of Mundingburra. As a first-term state member, I am proud to say that I have delivered a lot in my seat of Mundingburra and, yes, there is always more to do. Since being elected on 31 October 2020, I have delivered the following.

In health, we have opened the paediatric cardiac unit. At the time, it had 52 young people who had been identified as patients. Since the opening of the paediatric cardiac unit we now have over 300 young people who have been identified with very important cardiac health issues. We have also delivered on the paediatric emergency department, which is very exciting. This will keep young people away from the adults during very trying times. We have the new blood clot unit, the stroke unit, which is a first on the east coast in regional Australia. It is a great investment for the people of North Queensland.


We have a new pharmacy unit for compound drugs used for the treatment of breast cancer and more. Previously, patients had to travel to Brisbane for this treatment. We now keep families together in the region, which is very important. A new world-class \$17 million hybrid theatre is currently under construction. This is a world-class facility for our world-class health staff at the Townsville University Hospital. I thank the doctors and nurses for the excellent work they do. They deserve the best. There is a new \$540 million expansion at the Townsville University Hospital, with 143 new beds, four new operating theatres and a new rooftop helipad for QGAir and other emergency helicopters.

In education, there is a new state-of-the-art school hall for the Townsville Community Learning Centre. This is a facility for our young people who have special needs. We also have \$17 million for new state-of-the-art school rooms with advance training equipment to help the educators give the young people the best possible start in life. Construction will start soon for the new school hall at William Ross State High School. This is a \$13.5 million investment to give them their first school hall.

I also want to speak about the new four-lane duplication of Stuart Drive. This is a \$96 million investment. Those opposite only committed \$5 million for that project during the election. We committed \$96 million to build four lanes. Furthermore, we committed to four-laning Bowen Road Bridge, which is a nearly \$200 million investment in our people in the Townsville region. We have invested in driver safety and improved active transport for our young people to get to and from school and sporting facilities. We have another \$5 million active transport corridor between Wulguru and the Fairfield shopping centre, which is critical for the safety of our young people in that area. I thank all of the departments involved.

(Time expired)

Beef Week; Agriculture Industry, Exports


 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.25 pm): A record attendance of 119,324 helped make Beef Week an outstanding success. It was three per cent higher than the 115,866 in 2021. There were 35.5 tonnes of beef consumed and 1,600 head of prime cattle netted almost \$4 million. More than 3,800 students participated in the school program and another 1,200 also visited. Beef Week was a drawcard for 35 countries and more than 600 international delegates, and 60 per cent of the viewers of the newly launched Beef TV tuned in from overseas, with the biggest audiences coming from Indonesia, the Philippines and Venezuela.

I have attended Beef Week since 1991, and as a grazier I am immensely proud that it has grown into a major event on the calendar. The LNP has committed \$4.5 million to help cover costs to stage the next Beef Week in 2027. While the government copied our commitment the next day, it is disappointing that they refused to copy our support of agriculture. A conga line of Labor politicians turned up trying to cloak themselves in the success of an industry which they clearly despise. Many were role playing, donning akubras, thinking they would blend in. They were wolves in sheep's clothing. Just as the gates were closing, federal Labor banned the live sheep export trade. They were there knowing their antifarming agenda was about to decimate a livestock industry. It was a cowardly and duplicitous action.

Minister Furner was there with his federal colleague Senator Watts. There is no way he did not know. The National Farmers' Federation, Wool Producers Australia, Sheep Producers Australia, Cattle Australia, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council and AgForce were scathing about federal Labor's abandonment of the industry and called it a clear alignment of Labor with the antifarming activist bodies. Since that announcement, the minister has said nothing. Hypocrisy has no limits. The minister remains a central player in the Queensland Labor factional cheer squad which undermines livestock industries.

The deafening silence shows that nothing has changed from when the Gillard government smashed the live cattle export trade in 2011. The minister was a senator then and he stood by as his Queensland Labor senator and factional mate Joe Ludwig decimated the live cattle trade. It cost the beef industry billions. The Australian taxpayers owe billions from a class action. It was purely designed to appeal to animal welfare activists. That catastrophic decision sent many primary producers broke, some lost properties and, sadly, others contemplated suicide, and some are still recovering. The minister said nothing then and says nothing now. This is clearly the first nail in the coffin from Labor's agenda to totally stop any live exports from Australia.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.28 pm): May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month—a month aimed at raising awareness of domestic, family and sexual violence, of coercive control and of the support services available, and it is an opportunity to send a clear message that violence in our communities will not be tolerated. The only issue is that the perpetrators of such violence are not listening. Already this year, one woman has been killed every four days—almost twice as many as this time last year, and it is only May. I send my heartfelt condolences to the families of those women—families who will forever carry the grief and trauma of their loss. I acknowledge too that men are victims of domestic and family violence, but this is predominantly a gender-based crime and we should never shy away from calling that out. I will not. It is a national shame.


While October each year is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, the two are too often indelibly linked. Both relate to power, to dominance, to anger, to shame and, undoubtedly, to trauma, and my comments here today relate to both. Almost one in four Queensland women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. In Australia, one in six women report that they have been physically or sexually abused before the age of 15. I note the use of the word 'report'. An estimated 70 per cent do not report so the real figure is even more sobering.

The fact is that girls and women continue to grow up in 2024 in this country lucky if gender-based violence does not touch their lives in some way. I was not one of the lucky ones; my mother wasn't, my cousin wasn't, my childhood neighbour wasn't, my childhood friend wasn't—she did not survive it—and my neighbour right now isn't.

It is not through a lack of goodwill. It is not through a lack of generations of girls and women rallying exhaustively for change, for equality and for respect. It is not through a lack of investment. Our government alone has invested more than \$1.75 billion towards ending domestic, family and sexual violence and keeping women safe. It is fundamentally because of a lack of respect for girls and for women. That is what ultimately is at the heart of all gender-based violence, and that ultimately is something that men must address. So much of our focus is still about educating young women from the moment they are born that, because of their gender, they are more likely to be a target of violence. Constant vigilance is, frankly, exhausting.

This month, I acknowledge every girl or woman who is a survivor of domestic, family or sexual violence and those who sadly did not survive. I acknowledge the services, including Northside Connect in my own community, who dedicate their lives to supporting those who experience violence and fight for change. I acknowledge brave bystanders and frontline services who render help, and I acknowledge every parent who raises their sons to respect and honour women.

National Volunteers Week


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.31 pm): This week is National Volunteers Week. On behalf of the LNP and as the shadow minister for volunteers, it is a great week to say thank you to all the Queensland volunteers. This parliament was also the location for the launch of the 2024 State of Volunteering Report. The report estimates that 64 per cent of Queenslanders, aged 15 years and over, volunteered between July 2022 and July 2023. The value of volunteering to the Queensland community is estimated to be \$117 billion. That is greater than the nominal gross value of Queensland's largest industry—mining. The cost to replace the labour that volunteers contribute is estimated to be \$13 billion per year in Queensland.

Volunteers are in our service clubs, such as Rotary, Lions, Apex, Zonta, our P&Cs, our agricultural shows—the member for Ipswich West is one of those volunteers for the Ipswich Show Society—Angel Flight, Meals on Wheels, Queensland Country Women's Association, surf lifesavers who were here at parliament this week, rural fire brigades—and I know the members for Theodore and Scenic Rim are very close to their rural fire brigades—Marine Rescue, SES and RSLs. There is a long list of volunteer organisations and, unfortunately, time does not permit me to name them all. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our communities. Their contributions do not go overlooked or undervalued by the LNP. We will empower our volunteers and community organisations to continue their vital work.

Supporting volunteers is a priority for the LNP because it is a priority for Queenslanders. Contrast this with the Albanese Labor government who are trying their hardest to tax volunteers. Any not-for-profit organisation that has a charitable purpose and is not registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is not able to be classified under any of the categories put forward for tax exemption, may not have their tax exemption status. There are volunteer organisations, classified as having a charitable purpose, who cannot seek exemption under any category and are therefore taxable. That is right—volunteer organisations may have to pay income tax to the Albanese Labor government.

It has been brought to my attention that there may be many hundreds of organisations that will fall into this category. To avoid paying income tax, many of these volunteer organisations will have to register with the ACNC, make the necessary constitutional changes and then will be subject to ongoing reporting requirements. We have no problem with charity accountability, but there needs to be a simple and straightforward process for our volunteers. Under Labor, federally, our volunteers are actually having to do a lot more paperwork or they are going to have to pay taxation. It is only the LNP that values our volunteers in Queensland.

National Volunteers Week

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): What an absolute delight it is to follow on from the member for Warrego because I was going to talk about how amazing all of the volunteers are in the Redlands. That was a disgraceful contribution because there is not a member in this chamber who does not highly value the contributions of our amazing volunteers here in Queensland. Honestly, member for Warrego! Trying to politicise the hard work of our volunteers is absolutely disgraceful. It is always politics over people in this chamber—always.


Our volunteers are incredibly amazing, particularly in the Redlands. I firstly wanted to touch on the fact that Wednesday was Wear Orange Wednesday in honour of our amazing SES units. In the Redlands, we have one of the most highly awarded units. We have some absolutely amazing volunteers. Alex Johnson, Alexandra Bains, Sidrah Harcourt, Tim Willis and Anne-Marie Bennett are some of the highly awarded SES volunteers we have out in the Redlands. I give an absolutely huge shout-out to them for everything they do. I know how hard they work in the Redlands and I know how hard they have worked to support other areas in Queensland in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Jasper and all of the disasters that have occurred.

When we talk about volunteers, there is such a diverse range. The theme for this year is 'Something for Everyone'. There is absolutely something for everyone to contribute towards when it comes to volunteers.

Our rural firefighters are absolutely incredible. In the Redlands we have five brigades, our VMR, Coast Guard, our wildlife rescuers, Coastcare, Bushcare, Meals on Wheels, and all of our P&Cs that work so hard in our community to create stronger school communities. We have Night Ninjas, who do an absolutely fantastic job in supporting homeless in our community. Our Redlands branch of the Queensland Cancer Council held their Biggest Morning Tea, raising over \$10,000. They do an absolutely fantastic job. The Donald Simpson Centre helps our seniors, and I am really proud that the Miles Labor government is supporting them with \$500,000 to assist them to deliver all that great support for our seniors community. We have our residents' associations, our Chambers of Commerce, our Men's Sheds, Zonta, Soroptimist, the Red Rose Foundation, Rotary, Lions, CWA, Surf Life Saving Queensland and our RSLs. When you think about the full gamut of where people can volunteer, there is absolutely something for everyone.

I know every member in this chamber deeply values the contribution volunteers make to our communities every single day of the week. To every volunteer, right the way across Queensland, on behalf of all members of this chamber—all members of this chamber—I say happy National Volunteers Week. Thank you for everything you contribute to our community.

Ayr Fire and Rescue Station

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.37 pm): It is now more than six months since I raised with the minister concerns relating to the staffing model at the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station. These concerns were raised on the back of other concerns relating to that facility—namely, the effects of PFAS on staff in the community, training and the replacement of an 18-year-old appliance and the need to replace the current 65-year-old station. Unfortunately, six months later, nothing has changed under the watch of this minister, who likes to talk the talk but has not delivered for my community. Like many similar stations in regional Queensland, the Ayr station operates with both full-time and auxiliary firefighters. Like many similar stations, staff from the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station respond to incidents not only in Ayr and surrounding towns but also along a substantial stretch of the Bruce Highway.


When the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station transitioned from a 24-hour staff model to the current format, the community was promised a suitable response in their time of need, and staff were promised they would be supported. I am pleased to advise that the community has received a suitable response, but that is only because of the sacrifices of the full-time staff at that facility. Since the transition away from the 24-hour staffing model, the number of auxiliary firefighters at the Ayr station has significantly reduced, similar to what we have seen in other locations.

It is a fact that in the last two financial years, on only one occasion has a full crew of four auxiliary firefighters been available—just once out of 318 calls for service. From those 318 calls for service, there were no auxiliary firefighters available to respond on 79 occasions.

Let's be clear: this situation is not the fault of the staff or the current auxiliary firefighters. Responsibility for the current situation sits at the feet of this Labor government. This government's failure to act means full-time staff have been on call virtually 24/7. Not only does that mean that these staff have been forced to put their lives on hold; it also means they have been unable to access their leave entitlements and it means increased risk to both staff and community members due to fatigue.

On behalf of the community, I would like to thank the full-time staff for their dedication and sacrifice and, on behalf of the community, I call on this government to end the ignorance and take action as a matter of urgency. Let's not forget for one moment: these are our emergency responders. These are the people we call in times of need. There is no more welcome sight than their red truck coming to respond to an emergency call for service. The least we can do is provide our emergency responders with the resources and staff that they deserve.


Liberal National Party, Policies

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (2.40 pm): One LNP frontbencher will not be allowed out without supervision anymore and we can all guess who that is, can't we? It is the member for Ninderry! We have all read the police union magazine and now it has finally been laid clear. It is as plain as the nose on your face that, when the LNP talk about youth crime, they do not care about victims—they do not care one little bit. All they do is politicise victims for their own political gain. We see their disgraceful attitude: 'We were hoping to pick up a number of seats off the back of crime and we did not pick up any of the seats we wanted on crime.' How cynical is that? We hear story after story about how all they care about is whether it will win them the election. We know that the member for Ninderry was responsible for that scary and embarrassing proposal for a curfew trial for Cairns and Townsville, which at the last election was described as a cheap shot aimed at poor people. Amnesty International warned that it could breach the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is clear, even when they lecture us about youth crime, that all they care about is political pointscoreing.

For the past six or eight months, I have been wondering—and every journalist has been asking—why there isn't any detail in their youth crime policy. I have thought that maybe they just do not understand it or maybe they have not thought of it yet. One would think that the shadow police minister would have some idea about what some of the slogans are. We know they have three slogans that, apparently, will solve the whole of the youth crime problem. It will be just like magic. In fact, almost straight away it will turn around. As soon as they get into government they are going to magic it all away with their three slogans.

I have been asking for more detail on their plans. They would pay respect to victims by telling us what they are going to do. Can they let us know what they will do to turn around the lives of victims who have been so impacted? It does not matter whether it was a heinous crime like homicide or whether your house was broken into, you are forever impacted in some way. They owe it to victims to be deeply serious about what they will do. What did the shadow police minister—who will be the police minister if they are elected—say about rolled gold early intervention? Members may remember that that is one of their slogans. When asked what rolled gold early intervention is he said, 'I don't know.'

Small and Family Businesses

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.43 pm): Labor has abandoned Queensland's small and family businesses. You would not believe that it is Small Business Month because Labor turn their backs on small business every month of the year, so there is nothing special about May. Around one million Queenslanders are employed by small businesses, yet they are constantly an afterthought for this state government. As I travel the state to listen to business owners and community members, I hear their frustration at Labor's lip-service to small business. Recently I spoke to one tradie who summed it up pretty well. He said, 'It seems like the state government's Small Business Strategy is for us to get the scraps off the table of the big boys.' The challenges that Queensland's small and family businesses are facing at the moment have not been recognised by this state government. The impacts of crime and skyrocketing power prices are both problems of this state government's own making.


Thousands of small and family businesses are in distress. Many have desperately turned to the Small Business Financial Counselling Service for advice on how to keep their heads above water, but the service itself is now in distress. The southern Queensland team of just eight counsellors is working at 111 per cent of capacity. Those professional and dedicated counsellors are a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of small businesses. Labor treats that critical service with zero respect. Right now, staff are

asking if they will have a job on 1 July. They are unable to take on new clients because they do not know if they will still be around after their funding runs out on 30 June this year. How are staff expected to plan for the future and what about the small businesses that count on them? We know that federal Labor already cut funding to that critical service last year. I call on the state government to immediately commit to extending funding to the Small Business Financial Counselling Service.

The impact of natural disasters is still being felt by small businesses, particularly in the north. Last week in Kuranda I heard from one tourism operator who has been closed for five months now. They have no income, just bills. They have had to spend thousands of dollars, which they do not have, on an accountant to help them apply for a Tourism Exceptional Assistance Grant. The application process has been so drawn out and convoluted that they are still waiting. They are waiting to find out if help is coming while they sink further into the red. They have been told that a small amount of their costs might be met but it will not be enough. The uncertainty is killing many small businesses in the north.

I ask: where is the small business strategy? In January last year, the government ran a small business survey, at great cost, to develop a strategy. They said we would have a strategy by the back end of last year but we are still waiting. Remember, colleagues: it is Small Business Month. The government put on a lovely event last week. They are all big fans of making it look like they care while small businesses suffer in silence. It is time to show Labor the door in '24.

SES Volunteers; Rudder, Ms M


 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.46 pm): I rise to acknowledge the state's volunteers. As mentioned by the member for Redlands, there are many different things that we can volunteer for. I acknowledge that yesterday was Wear Orange Wednesday and I want to thank all of our great SES volunteers across the nation and, indeed, the state. I will specifically talk about the Sunshine Coast.

The electorate of Nicklin is uniquely placed in that its constituents support two SES units—Noosa and the Sunshine Coast. Known as SES sheds, local SES groups are located at Cooroy, out west at Kenilworth, at Maleny and at Nambour. They have been around for nearly 40 years. Constituents of the Nicklin electorate make up nearly a third of all of the volunteers in the Noosa and the Sunshine Coast units—107 out of a total of 340. They respond to local, regional, intrastate and even interstate emergencies by performing storm damage operations and search-and-rescue services by land, air and waterways. Our local volunteers have a wide breath of experience and backgrounds. Many have families, work full- or part-time or study. They do a fantastic job and not just in times of need. Whenever we have an event like Anzac Day or school fetes, it is always the SES volunteers who marshal traffic and clean up. They are fantastic.

I take this opportunity to talk about one of those volunteers. Meg Rudder is a local who epitomises the SES community spirit. Meg has served the community as an SES member for more than 26 years. She has been the group leader at the Nambour and districts shed for over 12 years. She has been there in times of flood and fire and during the clean-up after tropical cyclones Yasi and Larry. Meg now faces one of the greatest challenges of her life, and we are looking to the community to help return that support.

Tragically Meg has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. While she is fighting it with everything she has, she is unable to take care of some of the things that would help with day-to-day life. Meg's home needs repairs and a call-out to the community is being made to help fix heavy water damage and make bathroom repairs. Those repairs are needed to bring Meg's home back to a livable standard. I ask everyone in the community to get behind Meg. If you can contribute, Meg's closest friends have established a GoFundMe page. I will post the link to my social media.

Traeger Electorate, Roads

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.49 pm): I would like to talk about the Queensland government's propensity for tunnel vision. When I talk about tunnels, I mean road and rail tunnels. Brisbane is the Australian capital for tunnels, with 22 kilometres of tunnels—although much less than Sydney—costing over \$14 billion. In this House we debate the separate states in terms of the inequities and how many rural and remote areas are frozen in time. In terms of access and the roads in our electorates, there is a lot of dirt roads and unsealed roads. Burketown and Doomadgee have been cut off two years in a row for three or four months at a time. There are also grocery shortages and phones can be down for a week or two. They are the sorts of issues we are dealing with. Journalists asked the other day, 'Do you have public transport problems in North Queensland?' I suppose that is a problem.' I said, 'We'd

love to have a public transport problem. We don't have public transport.' We have all these terrible problems and we come down here and every time we blink there is a new tunnel or a footbridge being built here.

I came across a Ken Henry quote from 2013. Ken Henry has had a very creditable career as under treasurer and with NAB. He said—

Governments are making decisions based on short-term political benefit rather than looking long-term at what's in the national interest.


Too much tunnelling

... Australia spent too much money on "extreme solutions" such as underground road tunnels to minimise community opposition to infrastructure projects and because projects were not planned far enough in advance ...

It would be understandable if tunnels were for a new port access to deliver something for all of Queensland, but a lot of them are for pedestrian traffic convenience, such as this new bridge across the river. It will get people to work 10 minutes earlier. That is good for people in Brisbane, but it does not do much for anyone outside of that area.

The things we talk about, such as the Ootann Road, do not really affect a lot of people. Not a lot of passengers will get to school earlier on the Ootann Road, but CSIRO's TraNSIT modelling listed this road as having the highest return on investment in the roads model. How much attention do honourable members think the Ootann Road gets in this place for the 80 to 90 kilometres that needs sealing? Like I said the other day, Cape York is completely undeveloped. If that were done, they would be able to pull triple road trains out of there and make the cattle industry viable, bringing them to markets and escaping the Kuranda Range. However, we never talk about Ootann Road because we do not worry about how industry is going to pay for all these things. We focus on the short-term things. On Kuranda road, which the member for Hill is always talking about, in Cairns there is one stoppage a week. It takes an hour and 20 minutes to travel down there. A two-kilometre tunnel—at the most—would take 40 minutes off that trip. Then they could take B-doubles into the Cairns port. That is how we should build Queensland and build industry in this place.

Lovelace, Ms N OAM

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.52 pm): Last week I had the honour of attending the funeral of Norma Lovelace OAM. I have spoken before in the parliament about Norma because she gave so much to Queensland having lived across the length and breadth of Queensland during her life. I thank the Oxley CWA, especially Bronwyn and Sally, for helping to furnish some of the facts for this speech because so much of what she achieved was pre the internet.

Norma was born in rural Victoria. She was an only child who really loved sport, especially tennis when she was little. She also became a keen golfer, along with her husband, John, as she came into her later years. One of her claims to fame in the golfing space was working with a young Karrie Webb.


Norma and her young family—she had two daughters: Wendy, who is a disability rights advocate in her own right, and Karen—lived in many regional communities throughout Queensland. I understand she joined the CWA in a small town near Dalby many years ago. As I said, she was a proud mum to Wendy and Karen. When her girls grew up and settled in Brisbane, Norma and her husband, John, settled in Brisbane, too, where they joined our local Oxley CWA. What a boon she was. Norma served in many roles for the CWA, including as the archivist at a state level for around 10 years. As a result, if people google 'Queensland CWA' they will often find Norma quoted because she was a natural researcher and a keeper of stories.

She was a sought after guest speaker and in 2012 she was awarded her OAM. She was awarded the Queensland Country Women's Association Country Woman of the Year in 1988 and she sat on the board for the associated Country Women's Association from 2004 until 2010. Under Norma's watchful eye and alongside a wonderful cohort of women, the Oxley CWA was hugely successful in my community, hosting regular jam sales as well as Christmas cake competitions and Easter hot cross bun competitions for which local politicians would fall over themselves to be the taste testers.

Beyond all of the amazing community work that Norma did, friends always say that Norma was also a really fun person to spend time with. Not for Norma were the boring cups of tea or coffee that I like to drink. Norma's favourite treat was a lime spider, which she would always order because it was her celebratory drink of choice.

On behalf of my community and many people across Queensland who knew Norma in her long and very special life, I offer our heartfelt condolences to John and his family. Vale, Norma Lovelace.

Resources Industry


 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.55 pm): We have heard the government today crowing about mining royalties. While the government is planning to lock in coal royalties, which we will be debating soon and which still fall short, what about the rest of the mining sector? What about gas? Nothing! Gas companies and the rest of the mining industry are laughing all the way to the bank in Queensland. While the fossil fuel sector have put on a bit of a show for the public pretending how tough Labor is on big fossil fuel corporations, the truth is that in the back rooms, the gas companies and the rest of the resources sector have shook the Treasurer's hand and said, 'Thank you very much.' Behind closed doors it is as cosy as ever.

Last year fossil fuel companies gave Labor \$863,000 in political donations. Labor continues to take corporate donations and continues to open up new coal and gas projects, fuelling global emissions and fuelling climate change all the while getting less for Queenslanders. In the last decade mining companies have paid just nine per cent in royalties on \$634 billion in exports. Our gas companies, which are 96 per cent foreign owned, are making billions while Queenslanders are getting very little. The Greens Fair Share Plan would put a stop to Labor and Liberal's new coal and gas projects, phase out fossil fuels and make sure mining companies are genuinely paying their fair share. By increasing royalties for all resources to a flat 35 per cent, we could raise an extra \$61 billion in the next four years to fund things that Queenslanders desperately need.

What could we do with that money? That would take some of this money out of the pockets of Labor and the LNP's corporate donors and instead give it to Queenslanders. On top of thousands of new jobs in renewables, green steel and battery manufacturing, we could be getting more for every Queenslanders no matter where they live. In a wealthy state like Queensland, everyone should be able to lead a good life. We would be able to fund the essential infrastructure our community needs.

In my electorate of South Brisbane the government has not been able to deliver some bike lanes that were promised in 2020. It has not been able to deliver the Riverwalk completion that was promised in 2020 or a pedestrian crossing to West End State School that was promised in 2021. We could properly fund state schools, which remain systemically underfunded by this government. Our schools are underfunded and getting more and more crowded. Where are the plans for new schools in growth areas? The government plans to add tens of thousands of new residents to Woolloongabba and Kangaroo Point but there are no plans for new schools at this stage. East Brisbane State School still remains at risk from whatever the government decides to do about the Gabba in the future. We could have free public transport and tens of thousands of new public homes for Queenslanders.

Miles Labor Government, Achievements

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.58 pm): I stand today to talk about the achievements of the Miles Labor government and the vision that the Premier had in relation to the delivery of the satellite hospitals throughout Queensland. These satellite hospitals will be delivering the essential healthcare services and facilities for Queensland. The open day at the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital was a resounding success. Hundreds of local residents toured the new \$65.4 million facility where they appreciated the state-of-the-art equipment in place ready to take the pressure off the emergency departments and increased health services available on the south side. The Eight Miles Plains Satellite Hospital will take the pressure off the QEII Hospital emergency department.


After some consultation with the local elders and traditional owners, the official name for the satellite hospital is now Maroo-goodji-ba. The name means place of calm, peace and tranquillity, which is very apt for this great facility. Not only will the new satellite hospital deliver high-quality healthcare services; more than 100 healthcare workers have been recruited to staff the new satellite hospital including doctors, nurses, administration officers, allied health practitioners and operational staff. This is a boost to local jobs and provides further benefit to the local area.

Anna Smith, a mother whose children play with the local Indians Baseball team, told me at the open day how she is very pleased the satellite hospital will be available to service the local community for treating non-life-threatening injuries. Anna explained that one of her daughters had a recent injury and she would have welcomed the opportunity to have the injury assessed and treated at a local satellite hospital. Anna was very impressed with the level of care that would be available for the local community and with the layout of the satellite hospital. It was clear to her that this is a facility designed to provide first-class health care to my electorate and surrounding electorates. As a mother, Anna prioritises the health of her children. She knows how valuable it is for her children to be able to have

any injuries treated in a prompt and caring manner. It will not only be minor injuries that are able to be treated at the satellite hospital; there will also be a range of appointment-based specialist and outpatient services available.

(Time expired)

National Volunteer Week; Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.01 pm): This week is National Volunteer Week. I want to pay tribute to all of the wonderful volunteers on the Sunshine Coast, particularly those volunteers in all of the wonderful community organisations that we have in the Kawana electorate, particularly as times are tough at the moment for many Queenslanders and for those on the Sunshine Coast doing it tough. I thank and pay tribute to all of the wonderful volunteers in our church groups, our Salvos, St Vinnies and other groups like Gateway Care. I also want to pay tribute to other community groups that in the last few weeks have held great fundraisers on the Sunshine Coast. Bloomhill Cancer Care had their Bloomin' Good Walk, raising \$30,630. I congratulate organisers David, Joe and Tessa for the wonderful job they have done. They kicked it off at the Kawana Surf Club. They ran or walked a few kilometres and raised over \$30,000 for their first Bloomin' Good Walk.


Just last week I was at the Bloomhill Wellness Centre in the electorate of Buderim raising money for the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge with their long lunch. They raised over \$50,000 for rescue animals on the Sunshine Coast. We say #adoptdontshop. To Penny, the team and all of the volunteers at the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge, I say thank you for looking after the cats, dogs and other animals at the animal refuge.

I then went to the endED charity race day. I thank Mark and Gay Forbes—wonderful Sunshine Coast residents, who, through their own family history of eating disorders, started endED. At this charity day they raised over \$46,000 for the wonderful programs they have in place to end eating disorders. I also saw Ashton Wood, another great Sunshine Coast local and founder of DV Safe Phone, which I know members of parliament support. Thank you, Ashton. In Volunteer Week it is great to see volunteers and community organisations supporting each other.

Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club had their annual dinner with the Kawana Waters RSL Sub-Branch. It is the only RSL sub-branch and lifesaving club in Australia that are co-located. They do a wonderful job saving lives. To the Currimundi Catchment Care Group—Tony, Fergus and all of the team—thank you very much for your focus on the environment.

This morning in relation to the health crisis in Queensland I asked the Minister for Health about the worst ambulance ramping on record, Queenslanders dying waiting in ambulances on hospital ramps, mums not being able to give birth where or when they want to and maternity units regularly on bypass, releasing hospital data late on a Saturday and kids having to wait months for medical treatment. I called for Premier Steven Miles to sack Minister Fentiman because I believe she is the worst health minister Queensland has ever had and I again call on the Premier to sack the disgraceful health minister.

National Volunteer Week; Lytton Electorate

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.04 pm): Today I want to speak about Volunteer Week, and I also want to acknowledge the great work of all of our frontline workers, our paramedics and our doctors in our hospitals who are doing a great job. I particularly want to acknowledge the speech made earlier today by the member for Thuringowa, who gave a very good overview of what it is actually like to be a paramedic. Rather than constantly bashing them, which is what the LNP does, we heard firsthand what it is like. I want to take a moment to acknowledge all of the volunteers across Queensland, particularly in my electorate.


We have a great weekend ahead. Tomorrow I am hosting the Volunteers in Policing with our local police officers. In our electorate we have lots of organisations, such as Vinnies, that do volunteer work. On Sunday the Bayside Community Fund, which is another organisation that supports all volunteers in the area, is hosting Pups in the Park. It will be a great opportunity for people to come down from 10 o'clock on Sunday to Elanora Park to watch some dogs dancing. You name it, dogs can do just about anything!

Today I want to acknowledge that we live in a beautiful place. It is vibrant, diverse and inclusive. It is tolerant of differences; it is respectful and kind hearted. The conscious way we as humans interact with one another—the thoughts that enter our minds, the emotions that pour from our hearts—are all thoughts and emotions that ultimately control the words that knowingly come out of our mouths, and words are extremely important. They express our consciousness. One of the most important words in our language is ‘sorry.’ ‘Sorry’ can mean sympathy or compassion for someone’s misfortune. ‘Sorry’ can also mean a deep regret. In light of National Sorry Day coming up on the weekend, I would like to say sorry. It takes courage and leadership to say the word ‘sorry’. It also takes courage and leadership to forgive.

When our fellow Queenslander Kevin Rudd said sorry in federal parliament all those years ago, it was an important step on the path of reconciliation for all Australians. I would suggest that the vast majority of Australians are incredibly regretful for what happened to our Indigenous communities over many shameful decades. The vast majority of Australians feel a deep sense of compassion for the tens of thousands of victims of our stolen generations, and we are deeply sorry. We remember, we acknowledge and we deeply regret the disgraceful mistreatment of First Nations children who were forcibly removed from their mothers’ arms, their family homes and their communities. That policy can never be justified. It was beyond cruel. It was evil. I am truly, deeply sorry. Tomorrow morning I will be joining with baysiders and members of Quandamooka country as we come together on this important day to pay our respects and say sorry.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.07 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Cost of Living and Economics Committee report on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill by 2 August 2024; the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report on the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 2 August 2024; the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report on the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill by 2 August 2024; the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Criminal Justice Legislation (Sexual Violence and Other Matters) Amendment Bill by 2 August 2024; and the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report on the Trusts Bill by 2 August 2024.

The committee has also resolved, at the request of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, to extend the reporting date for the inquiry into the Queensland Community Safety Bill from 14 June 2024 to 2 August 2024.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 11 June 2024.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 17 April (see p. 1053).

Second Reading

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 17 April 2024, declared urgent and referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee. I note that the committee tabled its report on the bill on 17 May 2024. The committee's report made two recommendations. I table a copy of the government's response to that report.

Tabled paper: Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, government response [\[863\]](#).

I thank the chair, the member for Bancroft, and all members of the committee for their prompt consideration of the bill. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the organisations and individuals who made submissions in relation to the bill. The passage of this bill in facilitating the establishment of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and its board is an important next step in delivering a successful 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Miles government has taken every step to ensure Queensland is ready to put on a spectacular games, one that leaves a lasting legacy in communities right across the state with around half of our venues outside Brisbane—venues such as Barlow Park in Cairns, Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville and Wyaralong Dam in the Scenic Rim, just to name a few. Our more than \$90 million Big Build is already delivering in our regions, with over half of the investment in regional Queensland. Already, we have achieved so much more than any other host city this far out from an opening ceremony.

We still have eight years to go and already our government has: established the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee; signed the historic \$7.1 billion investment agreement with the Commonwealth; started the procurement process for \$560 million in works on the Chandler sports precinct and three Sunshine Coast venues which will collectively support more than 1,000 local jobs—and how great was it to make this announcement last Friday at the Sunshine Coast Stadium which will receive almost \$150 million in upgrades; released Elevate 2042, a 20-year legacy strategy to make our region better sooner together through sport; invested \$100 million in our Go for Gold schools program where schools can receive new and upgraded sporting infrastructure and equipment—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education, the member for Bulimba. Further, we have: launched You for 2032, Australia's largest ever athlete talent identification program; secured \$2.75 billion from the Albanese government towards direct Sunshine Coast rail, an overall \$5.5 billion investment in transforming South-East Queensland; established our Q2032 Procurement Strategy to help Queensland businesses right across the state get match fit to win government contracts worth an estimated \$180 billion in the lead-up to the games; and established the Games Legacy Committee, of which I chaired a meeting earlier this month, which plays an important role in advising on statewide legacy opportunities. All of these achievements are remarkable, even more so when considering that they are eight years before we hold the games. I remind the House that Sydney 2000 had a master plan only five years before the games.

In just over two months, the eyes of the world will be on Paris. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be broadcast to more than 200 nations and territories and reach billions of people. It will bring into closer focus our future opportunity as an Olympic and Paralympic host. The games always grab the attention of our sport loving state. We will be captivated by the performances of our athletes in Paris, including homegrown products such as discus thrower Matt Denny from Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast kayaker Elise Wood and Brisbane water polo star Abby Andrews. Who amongst us cannot wait to see the fabulous Matildas in Cairns and Queensland's own Mary Fowler a vital part of the squad? If I were a child again, I would certainly be buying the Mary Fowler Barbie doll. I would be lining up wherever they were selling, because it looks fantastic.

Mr McCallum: Just buy one anyway.

Ms GRACE: I will take that interjection; I might buy one anyway. Then there is former Queensland schoolgirl Torrie Lewis, recently crowned as Australia's faster sprinter ever, who will line up with the women's relay team and hopefully also gain an individual athlete's berth. Our support will continue through to the Paralympics shortly after where we will look to cheer on our local swimmers such as Ben Hance, Lakeisha Patterson and Alexa Leary. How inspirational it will be for our young athletes of the future to see their heroes performing on the world stage. For these athletes, I think this will be inspirational to see.

Back here in Queensland, the 2032 games will provide a generational opportunity to transform our state culturally, economically, socially and environmentally. They will deliver more economic activity, more jobs and plenty of legacy infrastructure to benefit Queenslanders in the coming decades.

As mentioned earlier, on the Sunshine Coast more than \$300 million in new and upgraded venues will be completed years before the games, providing vital community infrastructure for a fast growing area. Let's not forget future, new and upgraded venues to come in Cairns, the Scenic Rim, Moreton Bay, the Gold Coast and Redlands, just to name a few.

To put on a spectacular games, we know we need to make sure we have all the right people at the table taking a collaborative and cooperative approach. Now is the right time to establish an independent delivery authority that can ensure venues and villages are delivered in time for the games, all while maximising the legacy and benefits. The Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority is the right model to do this. The authority will build on the extensive work undertaken since being awarded the games in 2021. It will have a high level of independence and operate at arm's length from government. The authority will have control over its funds, have operational and financial independence and function within a flexible structure.

Our proposed delivery authority is similar to the ones adopted for the highly successful Sydney 2000 and London 2012 games. We have listened to stakeholders' advice that this is the model we should emulate for our games. Importantly, the authority's board will be truly independent. This is because the bill enshrines directly into legislation the requirement for a selection panel comprised of chief executives from the nine games delivery partners. That panel will choose by majority vote who will be on the board. This recommendation is then provided to the government to ratify and formally appoint the board.

As all members of the House would be aware, such appointments need to go through formal government processes and I want to be clear: this process will only occur after the panel has made its recommendations. As far as I am aware, this will be the first time that a selection panel for a board will be written directly into Queensland legislation. While unprecedented, it ensures without doubt that the board will be independent. We support this independence and we are making it happen. The authority will be taking forward the significant work already undertaken on venues to be used during the games. This includes key projects such as the new state-of-the-art Brisbane Arena within Roma Street Parklands and the upgrades to QSAC, Suncorp Stadium and the Gabba. The authority will also deliver the significant program of community sporting infrastructure right across Queensland through the Minor Venues program funded jointly with the Commonwealth to be used by generations to come.

I turn now to the two recommendations made in the committee's report. The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee members on both sides of the House for their support. The committee's second recommendation is that the government consider amending clause 12 of the bill to include the Gold Coast mayor as a member of the organising committee board. I thank the committee for this recommendation. During drafting of the original Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, the federal and Queensland governments agreed that local governments should have an additional representative above what is required under the Olympic host contract. It was considered appropriate for the Lord Mayor to make his nomination on behalf of local governments due to Brisbane City Council being the local government host signatory to the Olympic host contract and the Lord Mayor being the chair of Council of Mayors South East Queensland. However, our government recognises the special role of the Gold Coast in delivering a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After Brisbane, the Gold Coast will be the next most significant council during the games, providing six competition venues that will host 12 events and a village that will host 2,600 athletes. Additionally, the Gold Coast hosted a successful Commonwealth Games in 2018 and we recognise that there is an opportunity for this unique experience to be leveraged by the organising committee to deliver a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032. It is this experience and enthusiasm that I know Mayor Tate will bring to the table. He has been a champion for the 2032 games from day one. He knows the value the event will bring to the region and the legacy benefits that will flow. For these reasons, we accept the committee's second recommendation and I welcome Mayor Tate.

I note that the members for Lockyer and Burleigh made a statement of reservation to the committee's report. The members raised concerns with clause 27—section 60(1)(c)—of the bill that gives the authority the ability to delegate its functions to any appropriately qualified person. They say that there is no requirement as to who constitutes a qualified person. I thank them for raising the issue; however, that is incorrect. This is because the Acts Interpretation Act defines exactly what this means: 'having the qualifications, experience or standing appropriate to perform the function or exercise the power'. In fact, this delegation power is more limited than the legislation for the London 2012 delivery

authority, which simply said 'any other person'. The Acts Interpretation Act comes in and defines the qualifications they need. I thank the members for raising it. I am glad I have been able to correct the record.

The members also questioned whether the delegation could be made to a person outside of government and whether any oversight arrangements will be in place. I can confirm that the provision as drafted would not preclude the authority from delegating a function to a person outside of government. This may be required in some circumstances where the authority works in close partnership with private sector providers to implement value-for-money and timely delivery approaches. This could, for example, include a delivery partner model, which was used by London's Olympic delivery authority and more recently for major infrastructure projects in New South Wales. The importance of being able to effectively use a delivery partner model was highlighted by the Sport Venue Review panel and also in Laing O'Rourke's public submission on the bill, and we would not want to unnecessarily limit this from happening. In other cases, it could be identified through mutual agreement that a local government, government owned corporation or other entity at arm's length from the state is best positioned to deliver a specific venue on behalf of the authority.

The members can rest assured that there are a number of limitations and safeguards to ensure appropriate use of the delegations power. A delegation can be revoked at any time and is generally subject to set conditions. Also, a delegation does not relieve the delegator of their obligation to ensure a function or power is properly performed or exercised. That is, the authority will remain ultimately responsible. The minister will have the power to issue a ministerial direction to the authority regarding a delegation if necessary, and the authority must comply with this.

The members for Lockyer and Burleigh also—again, unfortunately incorrectly—were suggesting that this bill seeks to avoid the right-to-information system. I think I need to point out now that the act as it currently stands was passed with bipartisan support in 2021. These same supposed issues were prosecuted back then, and our response is exactly the same. The bill makes absolutely no change to the RTI Act or to the way in which it is applied. To be clear, the authority will not be exempt from the RTI Act. The authority will be in the same position as any other agency with whom the organising committee has shared information in carrying out its functions. The exclusions in section 13A of schedule 1 of the RTI Act will continue to apply only to documents created or received by the organising committee in carrying out its functions, as distinct from the authority carrying out its functions. Further, the exclusion only applies to the extent a document contains information not already in the public domain that was communicated in confidence by or for relevant Olympics bodies. This limits the exclusion to specific information rather than the documents in their entirety. These provisions were requested to be included by the international and Australian Olympic committees when the bill was originally debated in 2021. This was to provide these entities, particularly the International Olympic Committee, with the certainty that the corporation can protect the confidentiality of certain commercial, financial and operational information such as sponsorship agreements. Of course, it is the government's expectation that other information held by the authority is proactively released where it is in the public interest to do so and in accordance with the Olympic Host Contract.

The members for Lockyer and Burleigh raised a couple of other matters including the authority's power to direct entities to provide transport infrastructure and judicial review of land planning decisions. I refer the members to my department's response to public submissions, available on the committee's webpage, which addressed these matters at length. It would be better for them to read those because it is a comprehensive response.

I would now like to speak to the three amendments I intend to move during consideration in detail. One is to add the Gold Coast mayor as a director of the organising committee board, in line with the committee's recommendation. The other two are minor drafting amendments. A copy of the amendments has been circulated to members.

The first drafting amendment relates to the drafting of section 53AM, which deals with the authority's requirement to prepare a games coordination plan. Following the introduction of the bill, Brisbane City Council noted that the authority, when making the games coordination plan, may unintentionally impose a commitment on a games delivery partner that is inconsistent with obligations under the Olympic Host Contract or any relevant agreement as defined in the bill. By removing the words 'take reasonable steps to' from clause 20—section 53AM(4)(b)—of the bill, the amendment will make it absolutely clear that the authority cannot impose an obligation on any games delivery partner that is materially different from the host contract or any agreement that allowed the state to enter into the host contract. I had a discussion with the mayor in relation to this. I concurred, and we are more

than happy to remove those words. This amendment will hold the authority to a stricter standard in creating the games coordination plan and will ensure the plan aligns with the Olympic Host Contract and associated agreements.

The second drafting amendment is again minor and relates to section 63 of the bill, which deals with the interim chief executive officer. Once established, it is important that the authority is able to continue progressing the significant work already underway on venues to be used during the games. This is why the bill provides for the appointment of an interim CEO for a maximum of 12 months or until the board of the authority appoints a CEO. I am advised that current drafting of the bill results in some doubt about whether the interim CEO has sufficient power to enter into substantive contracts or arrangements such as significant procurement contracts for venues. The proposed amendment consists of a minor wording change to ensure the interim CEO will have the power to enter into any arrangement, just as the permanent CEO will be able to and as originally intended.

I again thank the committee for its prompt consideration of the bill. I also thank all of the organisations and individuals who made submissions. The Miles government has always said that the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is not just about four weeks of sport. It is also about creating jobs in new industries, creating healthy lifestyles, encouraging sports participation and capitalising on the uplift in tourism and trade across the state. It is also about building the best value for money community sport infrastructure to create lasting benefits at a grassroots level under the IOC's New Norm. This next decade is going to be massive for Brisbane and the whole of Queensland, backed by our over \$90 billion Big Build over the next four years alone—part of the biggest decade of infrastructure investment in our state's history.

In 2032 we will see Queensland and all its regions lifted up on the world stage. We will showcase all that our amazing state has to offer, from the reef to the outback, from the country to the city, and how can I leave out our beautiful beaches—the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and right up the coastline, particularly the beautiful waters in the Torres Strait. How beautiful are they?

Ms Pease: What about Wynnum?


Ms GRACE: Do you want me to add others as well? I am more than happy to take interjections.

Ms Pease: Wynnum, Nudgee, Wellington Point.

Ms GRACE: Wellington Point—the whole lot.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Okay, enough everybody. I know we have some of the best electorates in the world. I am sure that those who come to Queensland for the Olympic and Paralympic Games are going to benefit from the many beautiful areas that we have. As a government we want to ensure that we get this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity right, and this legislation will help us do exactly that. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.30 pm): So 1,037 days ago Brisbane was awarded the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr Tantari: Wasn't that great!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: 'Wasn't that great news!' Yes, I remember. I remember the Labor Party being excited, with streamers flowing. I ask the honourable member: what has happened since? It will be nearly three years in July and the Labor Party has done nothing other than cause chaos and confusion and, I suspect, turned a lot of Queenslanders off the Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is the problem we now have. Queenslanders are questioning the Olympic and Paralympic Games, not because they do not support the sporting stars and the future sporting stars that we are going to see but because the Labor Party have bungled this so badly and it could have all been avoided.

Mr Bailey: Sunshine Coast direct line.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the former minister. I am going to get to the Sunshine Coast rail; do not worry about that. Before I do, let me paint the picture of 1,037 days ago when Brisbane was awarded the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Labor government—Annastacia Palaszczuk was the premier at the time and the then deputy premier, who incidentally was the minister for Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure, is now Premier Miles—said 1,037 days ago that this was all going to be great, that there would be generational infrastructure like we have never seen in Queensland before—road and rail. For 1,037 days they talked about red carpets, the glitz, the glamour, the partying, the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony, not about road, rail and generational infrastructure that Queenslanders have missed out on, I might say, from the Labor Party. The Labor

Party have been in office for nearly 10 years and they have been neglecting the infrastructure needed for the growing state. Now, four months before an election, they blame migration for all of the issues, not the fact that the Labor Party have been in power for the last nine years or for 30 out of the past 35 years. They now blame everybody else.

On 21 July 2021—nearly three years ago—the Olympic and Paralympic Games were awarded. We have not seen an infrastructure plan, a road plan or a rail plan. All we have seen is chaos. Minister Grace just says, ‘Don’t worry. We’ve got plenty of time. Sydney only had five years.’ That was not the point of having been awarded the Olympic and Paralympic Games so early on. There was meant to be a long runway so the rush for infrastructure like we have seen in other jurisdictions around the world that have held the Olympic and Paralympic Games does not happen. It was so that we do not see the budget blowouts because of ill planning or no planning. That was meant to be avoided with the long runway. I recall former minister Hinchliffe at the time at a Legacy function I was at talking about how long this great runway was and how much work they were going to do. They did nothing.

The opposition had been calling for an independent delivery coordination authority since the start. I can recall countless times when I stood with the Leader of the Opposition at a press conference and said, ‘There needs to be an independent body, a coordination body, for the infrastructure because it is not going to happen under the Labor Party plan.’ The Labor Party defended their plan at the time. They said it was the best governance structure going around. When we raised these issues, what did Premier Miles, who was the deputy premier at the time, say? In a joint press release the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office issued on 14 March 2023—over a year ago—Mr Miles, who was deputy premier at the time, was quoted as saying: ‘We don’t need another bureaucracy.’ This is in response to why the government brought all the governance arrangements internally and had not set up a separate independent body. Mr Miles, who was the deputy premier at the time, said—

We don’t need another bureaucracy, the Queensland Government leads the delivery of roads, hospitals, schools and sporting infrastructure across the state, it makes sense to build Games infrastructure too.

What is it today? Does it not make sense for the state to build the roads and rail infrastructure or are they admitting they got it wrong three years ago by not establishing this body that should have been set up at the outset?

There was an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 18 March 2023—again, a year ago—with the headline ‘London 2012 chief slams Palaszczuk’s Olympic Games power grab’. These were comments made by Sir David Higgins, who was the chief executive who, I might add, delivered the London Olympics \$1 billion under budget and the infrastructure one year earlier. He expressed alarm at the governance structure that the then premier and the Labor Party had put in place and said, ‘It’s not going to work.’ Over a year ago the experts, the industry and the opposition were telling Labor that their governance structure was not going to work.

Mr Lister: What did the government do about it?

Mr BLEIJIE: What did the government do about it? I take the interjection. The government—

Mr Mander: Sacked the premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to the sacking of the premier. The government paid Deloitte \$717,000 for them to come up with a report to show that the way the governance structure was arranged by the Labor government was the best structure. The Labor government, having announced it, having been criticised for it, thought, ‘No. Let’s pay Deloitte \$717,000.’ Who was the independent person on Deloitte looking at this particular issue? It was a former Labor minister. Rachel Nolan, a former Labor minister, was appointed the independent officer helping Deloitte produce and procure a report to tell them to do something they had already done and spent money on and decided to do. They spent the \$717,000, and Rachel Nolan was involved in that.

As I said, Minister Miles at the time was responsible for infrastructure. In this article on 18 March he defended the proposals and the structure. Do members know what he said? This is Minister Miles as the deputy premier and minister responsible for the infrastructure of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Minister Miles said, ‘This is a great model.’ Now we are debating a different model which the opposition have always held to be a better model—an independent coordination office to deliver the infrastructure required for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The government refused to do it. For 1,037 days they said, ‘No. The Labor Party knows better than every expert, every stakeholder and the opposition.’ They have been proved wrong and the opposition has been proved right today with the debate of this bill.

We are three years down nearly. What has Queensland got to show for it? Honourable members, hands up if you have this new generational rail project in your electorate? Hands up if your electorates have grassroots sports, if all the money is being spent in your electorates for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, if there are new road projects across the state that we have not seen that were promised for generational infrastructure? No, there is nothing—absolutely nothing.

I want to congratulate the South-East Queensland regional mayors who put this on the table early on. It was Graham Quirk and the South-East Queensland regional mayors, when the Annastacia Palaszczuk Labor government did not want the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland, who pushed it.

The LNP supported it at the time because we did see the value in a 2032 games finally delivering the infrastructure across Queensland, including rural and outback Queensland, that the Labor Party has not been able to deliver in the past 10 years. That is why we have always supported the independent coordination delivery authority. As I said, the Labor Party opposed it.

When we look at road and rail infrastructure we see the neglect of the Labor Party over the years. Yesterday in this parliament we had a debate about traffic congestion. Whether you are in North Queensland, the outback or South-East Queensland, everywhere there is congestion and a lack of maintenance on roads because in the last 10 years the Labor Party government, particularly under ministers for transport and main roads, neglected to provide the proper road and rail infrastructure we need.

Part of the Olympic and Paralympic bid was connectivity between regions. The Labor Party talks about the Sunshine Coast direct line, but it is cut from Kawana and Maroochydore. The plan and the funding is only available to Caloundra. How can you have connectivity between the regions when the whole project is not being delivered?

Mr Bailey: It's called 'direct'.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the former minister. How can it be direct to Maroochydore if the thing is not being built?

Mr Bailey: Direct to Caloundra.

Mr BLEIJIE: Oh, direct to Caloundra! I take the interjection. There it is: only to Caloundra. That is it! If the minister has been to the Sunshine Coast he ought to know that on any given day of the week Caloundra Road is a car park. A Sunshine Coast direct rail line with a stop-and-go park-and-ride will create additional congestion on Caloundra Road. The Labor government has no public transport plan to get people from the Caloundra train station to Kawana—where Olympic and Paralympic events will be held—and to Maroochydore, where in fact there is to be an athletes' village. The Maroochy town centre is the centre of the Sunshine Coast. The Labor party has no plan to deliver the Sunshine Coast rail line—which is a heavy passenger rail line from Beerwah to Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore—before the 2032 games. That is shameful. The Sunshine Coast has waited far too long for the Labor Party to deliver that project.

Only the LNP will deliver the full Sunshine Coast rail line from Beerwah to Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore—not the Labor Party. Only the LNP has the plans in place to deliver the full Sunshine Coast direct rail line to Maroochydore, which was always promised. I grew up on the Sunshine Coast. I have lived there for most of my life. I am now 42 and for more than half of my life the Labor Party has been promising the Sunshine Coast direct rail line. They have not been able to deliver it, despite the fact that they have been in power for 30 of the past 35 years. The Labor Party has neglected the people of the Sunshine Coast.

The Labor Party has neglected other areas of Queensland in terms of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. There are regions in Queensland that have not had one dollar of expenditure announced for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032. How can honourable members go to their electorates and say—particularly from the government's spin—that this is going to benefit every region across Queensland whether you are in the Far North, the south, west or east? People cannot see that. Unfortunately, in Queensland now there are political parties calling for the whole thing to be scrapped, and that is because the Labor Party has not taken Queenslanders on the journey. It is going to be a big task for the current government or a future government to turn the tide of sentiment on the Olympic and Paralympic Games and truly bring people on the journey.

We in the Liberal National Party believe that all of Queensland can benefit, but we believe you have to invest in grassroots sport. Young students in the Southern Downs, Darling Downs or Longreach need appropriate facilities or tracks to learn to run, ride or swim. That is what we should be looking at

in terms of legacy. Delivering those sorts of grassroots projects to all areas in Queensland is what legacy is about—giving opportunities to every young Queenslander to participate, not just those from one area of Queensland. That is what the Labor Party has been doing for the past 1,037 days.

We have seen chaos and budget blowouts before budgets have even been given. Brisbane Live was a \$2.5 billion commitment from the federal government. They decided to announce that it would be built above a railway station without any thought as to how difficult that would be to do that. Who was the minister for transport and main roads responsible for railways at the time of that announcement? I wonder. It could have been the member for Miller. The government decided on a location for Brisbane Live, which was above a railway station. At the time every stakeholder and engineer asked, 'How on earth will this happen? How will you shut down the rail system and build an arena in time for the 2032 games?' Just before Premier Miles became the Premier, he told a media outlet that they were looking at alternative locations because they had realised that it could not be delivered above the railway station. They are already looking for alternatives. They made an announcement, they realised it was a bad announcement and it could not go where it was going to go, and now they are looking for alternate locations.

Then we had the Gabba. A billion dollars was announced. The Auditor-General confirmed in estimates that he could only see the announcement through a press release. There was no business case. There were no studies done. It was literally the former premier and her infrastructure minister, who happens to be the Premier now, who decided they were going to spend a billion dollars on the Gabba. They were going to knock it down for a billion dollars. Then they said, 'It's going to cost \$2.7 billion,' so we went from a billion dollars to \$2.7 billion. When Minister Miles, who was responsible for infrastructure at the time, became Premier he decided that he needed a review, so he had Graham Quirk conduct the review. The Premier then heard that the independent review was going to recommend something the government was not going to support, so he decided to seek the advice of Mike Kaiser—because Mike Kaiser was his director-general in infrastructure and had given the original advice to knock down the Gabba—and knock it down. On Monday morning we heard announced the recommendations of the Graham Quirk review; by that afternoon, those recommendations were killed off.

Again, the government did not do a business case for any of those stadia—nothing. People are getting frustrated because of the lack of information from the government. They have not released any of the information. They have not released any of the financial requirements, the deals or the budget allocation. They have not released the business case because I do not think they did a business case on what they were planning to do with the Gabba. Then we had the recent announcement: 'No, we're not going to knock down the Gabba and we're not proceeding with Victoria Park'. That is despite their review recommending it.

I will put on the record, like I have a thousand times before, that the Liberal National Party never supported new stadiums where there have been no business cases, and for all of these there are no business cases. I have stood up at press conference after press conference and made speech after speech to say, 'This government has done no business cases on any of these stadiums or plans,' and still they have not. Under Premier Miles and the new minister who has taken on this role we now have another announcement: they are going to spend a bit of money on Suncorp; they are going to spend a bit of money for the Gabba. They are going to spend a heck of a lot of money on QSAC—I think \$1.6 billion—but no-one knows what it will look like. I have asked stakeholders involved in the Gabba and Suncorp, 'How much money are you getting and what does the upgrade look like?' The government has not worked it out yet. If they have not worked it out yet then we have ruled it out.

Ms Grace: No, you haven't.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection.

Ms Grace: And because there's no business case.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection.

Ms Grace: No, you haven't.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: We have—

Ms Grace: No, you haven't. Take the interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for—

Ms Grace: He took the interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand.

Ms Grace: Thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had cautioned you earlier, member for McConnel, and you kept interjecting anyway, as did the member for Logan. Member for Kawana, you have the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will read from a press statement we issued in response to the government where the Leader of the Opposition said—

I want Queenslanders to know there is a better way.

The government has wasted 1,000 days. He continued—

There is time to get this right.

If elected in October, the LNP will immediately appoint an Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority to conduct an exhaustive review of the Olympics and Paralympics.

The Authority will be required to deliver options within the following very clear scope:

1. Prioritise roads and rail infrastructure necessary for the Games.
2. Use existing venues.
3. Achieve this with a funding envelope that is no greater than what is currently on the table.
4. Present legacy options for regional Queensland.

He goes on further in our press statement—

That means not building new stadiums like the Victoria Park proposal, but instead outlining options with viable transport connections.

I took the minister's interjection and I am clearly stating the facts as outlined in a press release we issued in response to the government's chaos. The LNP has always supported an independent infrastructure coordination authority. It should have been done at the start. The government's bill today will set up a quasi-independent infrastructure delivery authority—the Labor Party again copying LNP policy.

The amendments that I circulated earlier in the day reflect two things, and one is that the independent infrastructure coordination delivery authority must include at least one person from regional Queensland, and that is outside of South-East Queensland. Would members believe that this bill that we are debating today says that the coordination authority will have seven members but no specification to ensure regional, rural and outback Queensland is represented on this board? I will move an amendment in the consideration in detail stage that ensures at least one—it could be more, and we hope there is—of the seven members is from outside South-East Queensland. Those living outside South-East Queensland need to be taken on this journey to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The second amendment is that the independent authority that we set up should conduct a 100-day review. My amendment states—

- (1) Within 100 days after the commencement, the authority must review—
 - (a) the sites and facilities prescribed, or proposed to be prescribed, under section 5A as venues or villages for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
 - (b) all other infrastructure required for the games, including, for example, roads and other public transport infrastructure.

I am doing that because the Labor government has completely neglected that. The amendment continues—

- (3) The authority must carry out the review on the basis of the following principles—
 - (a) that roads and other public transport infrastructure should be prioritised if the infrastructure will deliver legacy benefits;
 - (b) that use of existing venues for the games must be maximised;
 - (c) that all games-related infrastructure is to be delivered within budget allocations agreed between the State and the Commonwealth;
 - (d) that games-related infrastructure should deliver legacy benefits for all of Queensland, including regional areas.

Those are two amendments that I will be moving later in this debate: one, that the board consists of at least one representative—one person—from outside of South-East Queensland; and, two, the board has to conduct a review. Over the last 1,037 days we have seen chaos and no action from the Labor government with respect to any of the infrastructure, and we have also seen community groups not being properly consulted on sporting infrastructure.

I will give an example from my own electorate, and this week in question time the minister answered a question about this. She visited the Sunshine Coast last week. She came to my electorate but did not tell me that she was going to visit. That is cool; that is fine. The minister was standing on one oval at the Sunshine Coast Stadium with the council and the member for Caloundra while I was on another oval doing a press conference at the same time, and who did I have with me at my press conference? I had representatives from one of Kawana's Rugby League clubs who are going to be displaced because the government is building the Kawana indoor centre and getting rid of the green space and the ovals. My local footy club is being completely disregarded and told, 'You're not welcome in Kawana. You have to go to a facility which could be, during peak-hour times, over 20 or 30 minutes away.' Where in this are grassroots sports taken on the journey? Yes, basketball and other indoor sports will have great facilities with the \$131 million indoor centre, and I am not opposed to it. However, I simply ask the minister and the council to look for an alternative location on the Sunshine Coast. At the moment the plans that have been put in place were foisted upon the new council. It was basically handed this from the former council and just told to proceed. I believe it should have been reviewed and looked at, because there are serious concerns about where that Kawana Rugby League—

Ms Grace: So more delays.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The minister has yelled out, 'More delays,' but half an hour ago the minister said, 'We've got plenty of time.' She said that Sydney only had five years. We have more than five years, so if there is plenty of time, Minister, there would have been a few months to review this decision properly.

I make the point again that while Minister Grace was on one field at the Kawana Sports Precinct I was on the other field with representatives of grassroots community sports—grown men nearly crying—because the footy club that they have been involved in for 35 years in Kawana is being kicked out so that a big indoor centre can be built over the top of the sporting fields. This centre could go somewhere else on the Sunshine Coast and we could save the Kawana Dolphins, which have 600 players in juniors and seniors. Do members know what is really disgraceful and really hurtful as a local member of parliament? The member for Caloundra, Mr Hunt, came into my electorate and announced so excitedly the building of this indoor centre which would displace Kawana Rugby League. Imagine if I went into his electorate and stood on one of his sporting fields and talked about how exciting it would be if the Caloundra Sharks were to be turfed out of their home ground and forced to move without any proper consultation. It is disgusting for him to come into my electorate and happily talk about that.


People and families use those ovals. Kids play on those ovals. We have a youth crime crisis. Kids need to be able to participate and engage in community sports, but if where they need to play is too far away there is a real risk that they will not be able to engage. There is a real risk whether this Kawana Rugby League club will survive if it is forced out of its home ground. If it is forced to move elsewhere, we have to ensure it gets every support it can. The priority should be to review that facility to ensure we look at all of the alternatives rather than telling a local community grassroots sporting group that has been there for 35 years that it is not welcome in Kawana. As the member for Kawana, I say that Kawana Rugby League is welcome in Kawana. Kawana Rugby League should stay in Kawana, and we will do everything we can to make sure it stays where it is and can grow its club to the more than 600 members and players it has currently.

In the election in October we are asking the people of Queensland to give the LNP 100 days to fix what the Labor Party has bungled in over 1,000 days. Give us 100 days to get this back on track. Give us 100 days with a proper independent coordination authority with the sole focus on generational infrastructure to truly show Queensland, including regional Queensland, that they can benefit from these games, whether it is road, rail, sporting infrastructure, sporting facilities or grassroots community supports in all electorates across Queensland. That way this will deliver a proper legacy. We have to take people with us on the journey, but at the moment under the chaos and crisis of the Labor Party there are many Queenslanders who are being turned off the Olympic and Paralympic Games because of the mayhem the Labor Party has created.

It is going to be a titanic shift to turn around the sentiment on this, but I believe we can do it. However, we will not be able to do it with the Labor Party in charge, and that is why I say to the people of Queensland to give us 100 days after the October election to fix what the Labor Party has bungled for 1,037 days. We could then have a proper legacy in Queensland—a legacy that all Queenslanders could be proud of, whether you are at the Far North, the cape, the gulf, Currumbin, Western Queensland or eastern Queensland. Everywhere in Queensland should benefit, but they are not going to. I encourage all honourable members to support the LNP amendments to make sure at least one of these

board members is from outside South-East Queensland and to make sure this body conducts a 100-day review on all of the things I have discussed today. I say to the people of Queensland: show Labor the door in October 2024 so we can sort this mess out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Bancroft, I would like to caution the member for Mundingburra. Some of your interjections and comments were disorderly.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.00 pm): It is interesting following the member for Kawana. I remember in 2012 when they asked for a chance to review and fix things, but we then had the Campbell Newman train race through Queensland and buyers' regret was almost immediate once they did get in. I say to Queenslanders: heed our warning, do not trust what the LNP would do if they ever got into government.

I rise to commend the bill to the House. Our committee reviewed the bill and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on it. I believe every Queenslanders is proud that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held here in 2032. Queenslanders are keen to see it be a success and Queenslanders want to showcase their state to the rest of the world; there is no doubt about that. Everyone we talk to in Queensland is very engaged about the Olympics. As I said in the foreword of the report, everyone has a firm opinion on how the Olympics should be run—taxidriviers talk to me about the Gabba, retired engineers tell me how we can build roads and local members of parliament are keen to see legacy items for their electorates. Everyone supports it, and everyone has opinions on what should be done.

In terms of the member for Kawana's amendments, we are currently hearing people say, 'I want this named as a legacy,' 'I want that as a legacy,' 'I want this as a legacy.' This bill makes it really clear that legacy will be at the centre of every action of this new authority and the organising committee. It is too easy to say we want to make a legacy here, there and everywhere. It is embedded as a principle at the centre of everything we do and that is an important point to remember about this bill. Clause 53AE(a) says that legacy will be at the centre of everything this authority does. That is the best way to deal with it, instead of exhaustively listing all the things that should be legacy items.

The bill establishes two bodies and this is a very similar structure to what was used in Sydney in 2000 and London in 2012. One of the best ways I have heard this being described is when Dr de Bruyn said at one of our hearings to think of it as the committee putting on the play and the authority being responsible for setting up the stage for that play. I think that is a very good way to envisage how the structure will work. The authority will set up the stage for the Olympics. They will have the financial independence and the flexibility to set up that stage.

What a great way to start setting up that stage with the announcement the other day of \$500 million going into those first venues that will support 1,000 jobs. This is for the Sunshine Coast Stadium, which we are excited about in Moreton Bay because it is close by, and also the Chandler indoor stadium. That is \$300 million worth of work going into the Sunshine Coast which is a great boost to that economy. Tenders for a quarter of that \$1.87 billion program of minor venues will be going out within the next few months or year. The member for Kawana has talked down our progress but I believe we are well ahead, and in just a few months we will be able to see exactly what progress we have made on that.


I have talked about the legacy, and we have heard about the issue of transport as well. This bill says that a transport and mobility plan will be finished within 18 months. That plan will identify actions that need to be taken, it will prioritise what needs to be done and it will integrate all of these initiatives into the current existing system. To get that plan, you need approval of all nine Olympic partners. What we have there is a great way forward to properly identify what we need and plan how we do it. We know how long it can take for transport programs, but we know that the more planning you do at the front the better it will be and it will save delays at the end.

Another part of this bill is that a games coordination plan will be drawn up by the authority within 12 months, I think. A lot of issues were raised by submitters—such as an emergency response and security. Those things will be addressed in the games coordination plan. A lot of people brought up a variety of smaller issues related to their areas—'What about this? What about that?' We need to look to the games coordination plan to see many of those issues addressed, and I think many Queenslanders will be happy when that comes out to see how their issues are being included in this coordination plan. That plan identifies what needs to be done by the government, which are the obligations, and how and when that is due, which is the allocation and coordination of all of those elements.

One issue the committee talked about was the planning. The authority is going to use the planning networks that already exist in Queensland. Planning networks are there to get this job done. As a last resort, as an exception, there will be reserve powers but it was made very clear that they will be used sparingly and only as a last resort.

Finally, the committee talked about the board, and there is a lot in this bill about the board. We heard how the panel will put forward a list of names to the minister, so the panel plays a large role in choosing who will be on that board. No elected officials will be on that board. The bill talked a lot about how that bill will be constituted. The nine games partners will have their representatives on there, mainly CEOs from council. There will be a lot of them on that panel to choose that board.

Finally, we have talked about legacy but there is one part of legacy that I see in my sports clubs that we have not talked about, and that is the legacy for those junior athletes. In the Redcliffe Hockey Club, I see the juniors looking up to Hannah Cullum-Sanders, Jordan Bliss and Josh Blakey, who are all Australian representatives. These young athletes look up to these ones and think, 'I want to be like them. I want to represent my country. I want to wear the green and gold in my home town in 2032.' I remind members that that is a legacy that we do not talk about and maybe we do not see enough of, but never underestimate the example these senior athletes are setting to inspire those junior athletes to train harder and become the best they can so they can wear the green and gold in 2032 in their home town. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to talk about the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024. The objectives of this bill are to deliver an authority that will—

- deliver venues in time for the ... Games and within budget allocations, including managing effects on users of venues during their development;
- monitor and ensure the delivery of villages in time for the games; and
- co-ordinate and integrate the planning and delivery of State, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the host contract.

If only we thought to put in an independent review body 1,000 days ago when the LNP started to talk about the fact that we needed an independent body to control all of these venues and make sure they got built on time. We know this government is not very good at building things on time or on budget, or in fact getting anything built at all. We only have to look at a few dams for that.

Apparently, the old Palaszczuk government had decided to put the infrastructure authority into the Department of State Development. At the time we said that that was not a good idea and that they needed to have an independent authority. Now we have a new Miles government, apparently. The minister in charge of the department was part of the old Miles government, apparently. It looks like the same guy, but this is a new Miles government and apparently we are going to see things done in a new and enthusiastic way. Does that mean we will get things built on time and on budget? I doubt it, but we can hope, can't we? We can really hope for that.

The committee received 18 submissions and we held one public meeting, which one group attended. Unfortunately, there were issues that LNP members wanted to talk to the Information Commissioner about. We would have liked to have talked to the Information Commissioner to find out what her issues were with the RTI process. She put in a submission and we read about that, but unfortunately we did not get to talk to her before the report was tabled. The committee held a private meeting on Monday around the Olympic Games. Because it was a private meeting I cannot talk about it, but we did hold a private meeting. To reiterate, the report was tabled on 17 May and we held a private meeting about the Olympics on 20 May.

I listened to the minister's speech, which was very interesting because the majority of the minister's contribution was about the LNP statement written by the member for Lockyer and I in which we raised several issues. I am glad that the minister was able to explain a couple of those issues. I take on board what the minister said about the qualified person being in another act. Obviously, the committee is briefed by a committee that looks at fundamental legislative processes. We do that every time we investigate a bill. We were briefed on these things. I am glad the minister was able to qualify that. Fundamental legislative principles are about the oversight of the parliament and whether they are being negated by legislation within the bills we are looking at; whether the government is negating those fundamental legislative principles. We receive briefs pretty well all the time that say one thing or another, but the committee report always says, 'We are satisfied with that.'

As I have said many times in this House, committee reports—that come out of my committee, anyway—are reports of the chair and not necessarily reflective of everything that all members on the committee might say. The member for Lockyer and I had some concerns around the delegated power.

The minister said that the delegation will include conditions that the minister puts on that. However, that is not the parliament; it is the minister. The whole reason we look at the fundamental legislative principles is to see if they are being breached in any way.

I want to go back to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner was quite worried that transparency and accountability would be affected by exemptions in the RTI rules that are granted to documents that will be put together by the new authority. The minister is completely right: there has not been a great change here as they were always exempt under the government department. However, that does not make it right. At the end of the day, documents created by the authority will be exempt from the RTI process, and that travels with that document. It is not limited to the authority itself. If the authority creates a document that is exempt from the RTI process because of this bill, and because of previous bills, and that then travels to, say, a local government or another authority, or something like that, then it will still be exempt. That authority could not respond to an RTI application and just say, 'These are exempt documents.' At the end of the day that would create quite a grey patch in that, once the authority creates a document, it will get its stamp that says it is exempt from the RTI process.

I would imagine, as with cabinet documents, that pretty much everything that goes through this authority will get an RTI stamp: 'We created this, therefore it is exempt.' If it is sent to any other institution, it will still be exempt. Is that transparent and accountable? I do not think it is. I think that is a big glaring hole. Basically, what the Information Commissioner is saying in her submission to the committee is: 'There is a hole here on accountability and transparency.' She has a genuine concern about that. It would have been advantageous for the committee to have been able to clarify that with the Information Commissioner, but unfortunately she was not at the public meeting that we held, so there is no public record of what the Information Commissioner told the committee—

Mr Smith: Go out in a blaze of glory.

Mr HART: I am being very careful here, member for Bundaberg, as you might notice. You might notice I am being very careful with what I say and—

Mr Smith: Go all in.

Mr McDonald: If it was public, there would be a transcript.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. If the Information Commissioner had attended a public meeting, there would be a transcript of that. Private meetings do not have transcripts. Unfortunately, the concerns that the Information Commissioner has around transparency and accountability have not been ventilated in a public forum, apart from the submission that she made.

Again, I was quite chuffed that the minister answered all of the questions that the member for Lockyer and I put forward in our statement of reservation and really skimmed over the committee report, which obviously is written by the chair of the committee. Transparency and accountability—


Ms Boyd: Oh!

Mr HART: I know the member for Pine Rivers does not agree that the general public should have access to any information that her government puts forward, but—

Ms BOYD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw. He is verballing me.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, the member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr HART: I withdraw. I am quite surprised that I managed to get through nearly 10 minutes without somebody over there objecting. They do not like transparency and accountability. We have to show Labor the door in October '24.

 **Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.18 pm):** In the spirit of athleticism and the games, the member for Burleigh reminds me of a marathon runner when, at about 500 metres before the finish line, their leg goes out on them and they start crawling their way to the finish line, or maybe it is the gymnast who psyched himself up and ran head-on into the vaulting horse. I think *The Twelfth Man* described him as Rick Diznek at the time—

Mr Hinchliffe: Watch *Wide World of Sports*.

Mr SMITH: You can never get enough of *Wide World of Sports*. I do thank the member for Burleigh for that stellar contribution in which he stumbled towards the finish line. He needed some support from the member for Pine Rivers, though. She is always a good teammate.

Mr Kelly: A Bradbury moment.


Mr SMITH: A Bradbury moment. I am not one to talk about Bradbury moments, let me tell you!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SMITH: Of course, I will bring back decorum, as I am known to do. The member for Kawana talked about his concerns about the sort of legacy the games will actually produce. He said he has not seen any value in Queensland getting the games as of yet. The member for Kawana should remind himself that we have established strategies such as Go for Gold. Right across Queensland, more than 600 schools, I think it is, have already received funding for sporting equipment and we know larger facilities will be built following round 2 funding. I believe there will be up to \$500,000 or more to ensure our schools have the facilities so that their young students can become future athletes. I think that is a great legacy that has already been set by the Miles government.

Our You for 2032 program is encouraging young athletes up and down the state to achieve their dreams of perhaps one day becoming an Olympian in their own home state, which is fantastic. Q2032 allows businesses to get set to tender for future games projects. I attended a hearing in Bundaberg where a lot of different businesses were keen to engage in the process. They realise that their business can be a part of the legacy for the games in 2032 and, of course, well beyond. Even if they do not engage in a contract related to the Olympics, it introduces them to the tender process and gives them an understanding of how to tender for government projects, which, of course, is a good thing.

After securing the Olympics, its legacy is already well and truly underway. This bill will make sure we go further in terms of setting up the authorities to deliver the venues that are needed for the games and ensure the villages are ready in times for the games. Of course, the Olympics is about the whole of Queensland and I am very keen to see Bundaberg play a role. Bundaberg played a role in the Sydney Olympic Games when the Australian rowing team based themselves in Bundaberg in preparation for the games and we were very excited about that. We have the infrastructure to provide for some of the smaller nations that will compete at the Olympics. Maybe they will come to Bundaberg. Who knows: maybe we can even have some cricket games on iconic Salter Oval. Lots of good will come from Queensland achieving the games and, of course, from this bill. In saying that, I won't do a Rick Disneck. I'll just say that I support this bill and sit down.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.21 pm): The KAP wholeheartedly rejects the notion of holding the Olympics given the costs involved. Having said that, we still recognise the intent of the bill. I will try to address this from that angle and what I think should be an extended charter for the committee to brutally assess viability in terms of affordability for the state. Something that baffles me about this event, particularly for regional MPs, is the lack of consideration given to the impact it will have not just on the budget but also on the labour and other resources that will be required to build infrastructure such as sporting stadiums. To make all that happen, there will be a vortex for construction effort in this state for the next 10 years.

My word, that is important for a regional MP from an electorate that is as disadvantaged as Traeger. As I have said before, when I looked at the electorate posters that were put up at the regional sitting of parliament in Cairns, Traeger was the only one that had a projected population growth of minus 0.9 per cent. We talk about decrepit roads. For two years in a row, Burketown and Doomadgee were cut off for three or four months because there are no bridges. The Gilbert River bridge is only a single lane yet it is on a major national highway. In Mount Isa, the renal unit has only 10 chairs and Alice Springs, which has a similar footprint, has 60 chairs. It looks like downtown Mumbai inside our renal unit in Mount Isa. It is very difficult to understand why there is no money for those things but we can find money to have an Olympics event.

As a regional MP, one thing that really frustrates me is to hear numbers such as \$5 billion thrown around initially. We become so accustomed to governments saying, 'We'll just put this number out there at the start.' If I recall correctly, when I first came into this place, when the LNP were in government, the Cross River Rail tunnel was talked about as a \$2 billion or \$3 billion investment and now the cost is north of \$7 billion. That happens with everything I see in this place.

If we look at past Olympics Games, Sydney 2000 was the last one to come in at under \$10 billion. That was 24 years ago and we know it is indexed forward. Those games cost \$8.1 billion. The Athens games cost was \$18.7 billion and some say contributed to the crippling debt crisis they are still burdened by. Beijing was \$52 billion in 2008; London was \$13.3 billion in 2012; Rio was \$13 billion in 2016; and Tokyo was \$35 billion. If we average that out and adjust it for inflation, it is an average of \$26 billion for the past five games so let's say that \$20 billion might be a fair estimate.

This committee might say, 'Let's just use the Commonwealth Games athletics stadium. It's a perfectly beautiful new stadium and we can use that.' If the discussion is around using what we have already built, I would say that there are some beautiful stadiums and, by the standards I am accustomed to, there is some beautiful infrastructure down here that could be utilised. If that is the discussion then that is great. However, you are talking about doubling down on this stuff. You are talking about building more rail, beefing up the road network, beefing up accommodation and beefing up sports stadiums down here.

I love sports. I could rattle off facts and figures from the LA Olympics, which I watched as a kid. I saw Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, Dean Lucas and John Sieben. It was wonderful. That is great and we can be emotional and sentimental about that, but there is a cost attached to it. My grandkids will be paying for this stuff. To pay for it you need industries and businesses, in the regional areas as well as Brisbane, to be paying taxes. At the moment they are crying about the heavy burden of electricity prices, emissions targets and renewables. They are feeling the heavy burden of insurance costs, which we are not addressing. They are feeling the heavy burden of depleted infrastructure and failing road and rail networks, certainly up to Mount Isa, but we are not fixing any of that.


The idea seems to be: 'Let's not focus on that because we have really big infrastructure projects centred on a sports event that we need to conduct in the south-east corner'. How do members think it will go down with people who are paying taxes and are burdened with the cost of living that we are here discussing how to better manage the creation of a big sports event for some to enjoy? I grant you that the infrastructure would be built anyway. However, is the most mature way to select and prioritise infrastructure and decide where stadiums are to be built in this state by trying to coordinate it with a sports event? Is that the best way to prioritise where our spending goes? I do not think so.

For once, could a little bit of consideration be given to Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns? They do not have to have the best street networks or the best public transport, but let's make sure that the industries there have decent road networks so that they can still function and make money for us—at the very least. For us, it is not about getting to work faster or having better convenience in our passenger cars. Just give us the tools, the industry, the bridges and the roads to make more money for you to squander down here. At least just give us that. But no; we cannot even have that. We are down here talking about how to better coordinate sinking money into a sports event to be held in the south-east.

I do not want to hear about what a great opportunity this is for kids in the regions. The reality is that I am not sure that Cathy Freeman, who spent time in Hughenden, would be identified now. Last year, finally, let's say after a 20- to 30-year period, it was Mount Isa's turn to host the state soccer carnival. The north-west did not have anyone on the panel that voted for where the carnival would be held. Everyone said, 'Mount Isa does not have the facilities anyway and it's too hard, so let's have it in Rockhampton.' We do not have any events out there anymore for kids to participate in. If they do go away, you have to find two teachers with a first aid certificate as well as parents who are willing to make the 20-hour drive to Brisbane or the 10-hour drive to Townsville to catch an event. They are not resourced well enough. There is no extra money sitting there for teachers. Some of the buses just do not go and kids are not making sporting events. They have watered down the eligibility for kids in remote north-west areas to make it. There is less support and less sport going on out there anyway so the opportunities to participate in something like this have diminished.

It is sort of rubbing it in our face when the government says, 'You could have some kids in it.' Yes, we could and that would be fantastic. However, if the government is not spending the money now, if it is not pouring money back into here so there is less likelihood of fixing those problems, it is a bit of a slap in the face to say, 'You can carry the torch through Mount Isa or the kids can get involved.' I do not buy it. That is a cheap sell on what is a really serious issue. It is going to be a serious burden on our state that our kids and grandkids are going to be paying for. It is wonderful to make announcements like this and it might be politically popular, but I think the government should be careful about this. I do not think it is as popular as they think, even in Brisbane. People can do the maths. They can see it for what it is. I think the government should proceed with caution.

Yes, it is good if the government is planning to have transparency and a regional MP on there. However, we will disagree about it. The KAP is wholeheartedly against this whole thing.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.30 pm): After that contribution, 'We'll all be rooned,' said Hanrahan, I am pleased to make a contribution that provides a bit of positivity and forward thinking. I want to congratulate the minister on bringing the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill to the House and highlight what a great step forward this is in terms of establishing a games venue and legacy delivery authority, particularly with the board to be appointed

by the nine delivery partners. The thing we in this House and the Queensland government need to appreciate is that we are not doing this by ourselves and we never have been. This great, extraordinary opportunity that we have before us in hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is one that has been achieved through people working together. It is vitally important that we keep that progress of working together one step at a time, and this is yet another one of those steps. This chamber and the Queensland government have not been doing this alone.

As we have heard from other contributions already, the concept of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games was one that did come from local government and there was a bit of ambition about that. I do note that while we see local government being a very key and important delivery partner and a contributor, their primary contribution is not about where the money is coming from. That is why it is important that both the Queensland government and the Australian government—and I want to acknowledge and appreciate both the former government and the current government which have committed to contributing to the costs of venues and other facilities that are required for the hosting of the games in 2032—have stepped up into that program. It is equally important—and we need to appreciate—that this is a process of engagement and working with those other delivery partners including the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia. They are all partners in this process as well. That is why having a board for this new authority that will be appointed by the nine delivery partners together is vitally important.


I want to acknowledge that so much has already been achieved in terms of setting up and laying the groundwork for the amazing legacy from this huge opportunity. They have been mentioned before by some speakers in the form of You for 2032, a huge program of engagement and support for our amazing talent to give them the best opportunity to be on that right pathway. Some of that might come in the form of young people in particular being identified and put on the path of sports they might not have considered before or might not have had exposure or access to. That is quite an exciting process that is continuing; it has moved into its second phase of activity.

As was mentioned earlier, there has also been the Q2032 procurement process and a way of educating and supporting particularly small and medium sized enterprises in Queensland to know how they can be on the right step and be prepared for the requirements of procurement for delivery of these huge events and the facilities that go with them. There is also Elevate 2042, which is the legacy commitment that we have made to the world through extensive and ongoing engagement with a whole range of those stakeholders and with a legacy committee that I had the pleasure of establishing while I was minister. I want to acknowledge the continued chairing of Minister Grace who is seeing that good team continue to communicate the importance of that legacy commitment.

This all comes down to how important it is to have the right things in place—the right thinking, the right engagement and the teamwork to deliver on those venues, the villages and transport plans that are so important. All of these will ultimately contribute to an amazing legacy. It is not just about a few weeks of sport in 2032—a few weeks starting in July for the Olympic Games and a few weeks starting in September for the Paralympics. It is about what this will deliver beyond 2032 or, indeed, in the lead-up to 2032. That is why I am most excited about what we are already seeing with the facilities that were announced recently by the minister and others on the Sunshine Coast, including the announcements around the tenders being let for the Chandler project, which will all deliver great community facilities.

I have heard speakers in this debate decry a significant indoor sports facility at Kawana on the Sunshine Coast. I know firsthand from the basketball community on the Sunshine Coast about the desperate need for extra court space. The reality is that is the story right across the whole of the state. The facilities that will be delivered with those big community boxes that are part of the story in terms of the delivery of venues are all about delivering what communities need now. It is not about a few weeks of sport in 2032; it is about community need here and now. We can deliver that so effectively and deliver great outcomes by working in this collaborative way to deliver those opportunities. That is what has allowed us to bring the federal government funds to bear. I would hope to see through this process maybe more support from local government as well. Maybe they can contribute a bit more than what they have been willing to do so far.

I want to commend the minister on her work in bringing this bill forward. I want to commend the bill to the House. We should turn our back on the Hanrahans we have heard talking down this huge opportunity. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as the minister has said. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024. Right from the very beginning when the Olympics was mooted the opposition has supported Brisbane hosting the 2032 games. There is much that I agree with the member for Sandgate about in terms of the unbelievable opportunity this has for our city, our state and our country if it is done well. I remember the origins of this, and I think the member for Sandgate referred to it. It was the south-east council of mayors—and it is ironic they are here at the moment; we are about to go to a reception—which raised this possibility. Their major motivation in doing that was to improve the transport networks across South-East Queensland. We have heard anecdotally that when this was first mooted to then premier Anastacia Palaszczuk her response was, ‘The Olympics will happen over my dead body.’ She had no enthusiasm for it whatsoever. Obviously after a period of time she realised, as did other members of the government, that there was some political advantage in supporting the Olympics. That is eventually what happened.

I have looked at the date of when we were awarded the Olympics. It was 10 June 2021. We are two or three weeks away from it being three years since—

Mr Crandon: The day before the budget.

Mr MANDER: The day before the budget; I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. It has been nearly three years and it is only now that a bill has come to parliament to put together an Olympic coordination authority. I would suggest that the main reason this has happened is because of the pressure the opposition has put on the government.

Mr Powell: It was our policy idea.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. Once again the opposition is governing from opposition with good policy which the government, after relentless pressure from the opposition, has yielded to and now recognises as good policy.

Mr Healy: You’re making it up.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the minister, that guy in Cairns. We are not making it up. It is the truth. Is it any wonder the member for Traeger got up and talked about how in his area they are against the Olympics? This mob has poisoned the sentiment. The public sentiment was there. I challenge the Minister for Tourism and Sport to take a straw poll in Cairns. At the moment they would say, ‘Stuff the Olympics. We do not want to see it.’ They would say that because they have seen the chaotic process that has got us to this place. For many people, even in Brisbane, while I will not say they do not want the Olympics, the goodwill that was there has disappeared.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I will pause you there. It has been brought to my attention that you have used an unparliamentary word and I ask that you please withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. We have an issue at the moment because the government has been afraid to make decisions. They are worried about political ramifications. That is a very sad situation to be in. I am a sports lover. I want the Olympics to happen. The opposition supports the Olympics, but we want it done well. We have to build public confidence back again. Is it any wonder that the public lost confidence when I believe they have been misled by this government? This government said, ‘This is not going to cost us any money. In fact, 85 per cent of the facilities are already in place.’ They forgot to mention that that included the Gabba. Then we had those wonderful series of press conferences and announcements about the Gabba. When the Auditor-General was asked a question in a committee process about whether he was aware of the business case for the \$1 billion, he said, ‘Look, I believe it was in a press release.’

Mr Whiting: We corrected him!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. You corrected him alright: you said, ‘Sorry, no, it is \$2.7 billion. It was not \$1 billion, we made a mistake, it was \$2.7 billion.’ Then the Quirk review came back and said it was \$3.3 billion. Decisions being made without any proper business case has soured public sentiment.

Mr McDonald: Inconsistent.


Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. There is indecision, uncertainty and no business case. That is why we have been calling for an Olympic coordination authority made up of people who have the know-how, the expertise and the commercial acumen to make the right decisions and get things done.

It is important that we have legacy, in particular for our sporting organisations. Yes, there are the transport legacies and commercial opportunities as we go forward, but the Olympics is about world-class sport. I have had sporting organisations lining up wanting to know what will be the legacy

for their sport. These are sports that we all know well, that excel in the Olympic arena and internationally. Whether it is tennis, hockey, basketball, gymnastics, football or whether it is Rugby or swimming, they are all looking for legacy. Many of their facilities just do not cut it at the moment. They will not accept temporary facilities such as bringing in a hockey pitch to the middle of Ballymore.

The sport that gives us the most gold medals is swimming. They want some sort of legacy. It is not just here in Brisbane; it is also in the regions. That is very important. I remember growing up and going to an Olympic swimming pool in Brisbane as a result of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. They recognised then that the whole country should benefit from the Olympics held in Melbourne. We have to change sentiment in the regions. Go past Noosa and it is very difficult to get people excited about the Olympics. It is important that the whole state sees what benefit this will bring.

This coordination authority is important—in fact, it is vital. We will support it. The deputy opposition leader has some amendments that we think will improve the bill. I encourage all members to consider and support those amendments. We want to make sure that this Olympics is not just for Brisbane, not just for South-East Queensland but for the whole state. If it is done well this will be one of the greatest events that this city will ever host. It is imperative that we get it right eight years out from the opening ceremony, wherever that may be.

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (4.47 pm): I want to begin by thanking Magnus Edwards, a ranger from Innisfail, whom I recently had a meeting with. He wanted to know how speeches worked so I said, ‘You can have a look at this one. We are talking about something very important.’

Before I talk about the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill, I want to pick up on a couple of points that the member for Everton made in his contribution. I think it would be fair to say, and I have said it before to a number of people, that there have been two Olympic Games in my lifetime that were never politicised. They were Moscow and Beijing. I encourage people to look at the reasons behind that.

The fact that the Brisbane games are being politicised comes as no surprise to a lot of people. What is concerning is the damage that is being done to the brand. The member for Everton has touched on that point and he has contributed to it with misinformation and the way those opposite have conducted themselves. We will not go down that road. We were the ones who secured the Olympic and Paralympic Games and we are years ahead of Sydney. The enthusiasm in those essential areas is well and truly in place. What we need to be doing is what we are doing. We are setting up the appropriate legal infrastructure to ensure that we depoliticise it, we get it happening and we get it moving. That is what people want to see, that is what the IOC have been asking for and that is what we are doing in setting this up. I am more than confident, unlike some of those opposite, that we will provide a first-class Olympic Games and that this state will reap significant benefits. I have absolutely no doubt we will.

The bill establishes the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and its board to ensure that Queensland is ready to host a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and that the benefits of the games are maximised. This is one of the key components. In my contribution I shall focus on how the bill can support outcomes for regional Queensland. I heard the member for Traeger touch on this. In my part of the world, we are talking about moving Meals on Wheels because of the refurbishment of Barlow Park. People are beyond very excited. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are forecast not just to bring benefits to Queensland’s south-east corner but to Queensland’s regions in terms of the infrastructure, economic development and social benefits of hosting these world-class and vitally important Olympic and Paralympic Games. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will utilise some of Queensland’s excellent existing regional infrastructure and will also provide Queensland the opportunity to upgrade other regional venues to prepare them to host both Olympic and Paralympic events.

In Cairns, Barlow Park will receive major upgrades to sporting and spectator facilities in preparation for event hosting duties. This work will include an upgrade to the existing stadium. We are very excited to see an increase in seating capacity to 5,000, improved sustainability features as well as improved amenities not just for athletes but for the public. If this occurs before the Olympics, this will provide the foundation to cater for other events. We know how important events are to our economy. We will start to reap the benefits—not just in Cairns but in other areas—well and truly before the Olympic Games.

In preparation to host the Olympic football preliminaries, upgrades to Sunshine Coast Stadium will create more seating and improve facilities for athletes and officials. Multipurpose community spaces and universal amenities will provide access for people of all abilities. I remind people that it is not just

the Olympics; it is also the Paralympic Games. The new Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre will be a sustainable, modern facility suitable for a range of indoor sports and, most importantly, community uses. Co-located with the upgraded Sunshine Coast Stadium within the Kawana sports precinct, the centre will have 11 courts and multifunction areas that can be used for basketball, netball, volleyball, good old and fast growing pickleball, Futsal and badminton. It is earmarked to host an Olympic basketball competition.

In addition, the benefits brought about by the infrastructure showcasing Olympic competition throughout Queensland's regions will provide a catalyst for Queenslanders from across the state, and this is so important. You for 2032, the nation's largest ever talent search program, is well and truly underway and is being delivered by the Queensland Academy of Sport. It has tested over 1,000 regional athletes. They are going all over the state. I understand from the member for Traeger that they are going to Mount Isa. I have seen them in Cairns and in other regions. This is where the work begins—now. Unlike those opposite who might not be familiar with the details, these are the facts and we are working towards them. You for 2032 complements existing sporting pathways, ensuring aspiring Queensland athletes from the Torres Strait to the Darling Downs have an opportunity to showcase their talents. This is vitally important because, without recognising those students, we cannot even get them into programs. We have a very well funded QAS which can identify those students, rally around them and give them the appropriate supports.


We know what mega events can do for our state. We have to look only at the events in Brisbane last weekend. I refer to the nearly \$50 million generated over a number of sporting events, whether you were at Doomben watching the races or watching a wide range of Rugby League games. Events are absolutely fundamental to our economy. In 2023 we hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup. This saw an economic benefit for Queensland of over \$100 million. Seriously, this is significant. These are big numbers. These are huge opportunities for our city and our state. As the world's largest event, the games are expected to bring a windfall of over \$8 billion for Queensland across our state. This includes an estimated uplift in international tourism and trade, resulting in economic benefits of \$4.6 billion or around 91,000 full-time-equivalent jobs per year.

If we look at what happened after the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games—taking into account the tragic event of September 11 that put a significant dent in visitation numbers—we see the exposure Australia received. Queensland did quite well, particularly areas such as the Great Barrier Reef or the Whitsundays. Those areas capitalised on that. There were lots of international tourists who came out here, did a couple of days at the Olympics and then they went travelling.

Earlier this week I was in Melbourne at the Australian Tourism Exchange meeting with operators. They are putting packages together to start selling. Airlines are looking at Brisbane. For the first time, in the middle of next year we will have three direct flights coming from San Francisco, Dallas and Los Angeles in the US. The foundation stones are already being built. As I said, international visitors are significant. Over 50 per cent are expected to travel around the state after visiting Brisbane.

With the games broadcast to an international audience of three billion people, all eyes will be on Queensland, our regional cities and our beautiful backdrops. I know that once people see our beautiful hills in Cairns at that time of year and see the backdrops of our other regions they will sell themselves. Our state absolutely sells itself. This is an unrivalled opportunity to showcase what our state has to offer.

The amendments in this bill will build on the extensive work this government has already undertaken to ensure the 2032 games deliver benefits for all Queenslanders and we provide the best Olympic and Paralympic Games we can expect.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise to make a small contribution on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024. I am glad I have just followed the member for Cairns. Being the sports minister as well, he will probably understand what I am about to say. I remember the announcement a little over 1,000 days ago. I was actually here in Brisbane on some committee work and I saw the fireworks at South Bank. Everybody was excited. The majority of people in regional Queensland were excited as well. They were saying, 'Okay, we got the Olympics; that is good.' There was a small minority that were totally against the Olympics because they thought money would be sucked down into South-East Queensland, but the majority of Queenslanders were excited about the Olympics. Given Labor's failure over the last 1,000 days and more, their going backward and forward and their mixed messages: 'We are going to tear down the Gabba. We are going to rebuild the Gabba. No. We will get Graham Quirk to do a review,'—and even before Graham Quirk finished the review, Mike Kaiser said we are going to use QEII Stadium—we now have a majority of

regional Queenslanders questioning whether we should have the Olympics. We have a crime crisis, a health crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis. We also have roads out my way such as the Capricorn Highway which is in a very bad state and the Dawson Highway and Peak Downs Highway that are deteriorating. People are asking, 'Why are we spending money on the Olympics?'

Here is the issue: I support the Olympics and think they will be a fantastic event for Queensland. I am so proud that our capital city, Brisbane, is holding those Olympics and that South-East Queensland has the infrastructure to hold the Olympics, but we have lost a majority of regional Queenslanders because of the 1,000 days of inaction and doing nothing. Former Queensland premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's title included 'Minister for Olympics and Paralympics' and the new Premier does not want that title anywhere near him. Has the Labor Party done some polls to suggest that the Olympics is on the nose: 'Let's not go near it. Let's not mention the Olympics?'

Mr Skelton: What are we doing then?

Mr MILLAR: That is a good interjection: what have you done? You have done nothing.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Direct your comments through the chair, member.

Mr MILLAR: The government has been given this long timeframe to start planning for the Olympics and has wasted over 1,000 days. How much money has been wasted with nothing to show for it? It is typical of this government—doing absolutely nothing but spending money at the same time. They have spent money on the Olympics, but not a hole has been dug and not a plan has been put in place. When Steven Miles became Premier he wanted a review. Before the review was finished he already had his director-general, Mike Kaiser, say that we were going to use QEII. I participated in sport at QEII—not very well. I think I came last in the 400 metres. I was better at playing Rugby than I was at running. Back in around 1988, QEII was a reasonably good stadium. I remember when the Broncos had the falling-out with the Lang Park Trust, Super League came in and they moved to QEII. I remember going to Broncos games there. It was incredibly hard to get out there. Some buses went out there. I remember that it took about an hour and a half to get out of the car park. The government says that we will have an Olympics stadium at QEII. How will people get there? Cross River Rail will run from the Gabba into the city and out towards the Ekka. There is a great link there, but the stadium is going to be at QEII. No wonder people are so frustrated at what is going on here.

I would like the government to take note of the amendment proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that at least one director must live in a regional area. This will give some faith back to people who have lost faith in this government delivering the Olympics. We need someone who has legacy for regional Queensland in mind.

Mr Stevens: Lachie Millar.

Mr MILLAR: No, I do not think it should be me. We could have the clay shooting out at Blackall. We could even introduce a new sport, because at an Olympic Games you can always introduce a new sport. They had BMX come in. I think we should give bull riding a crack out at Longreach. Someone also mentioned fencing. I have a different angle on fencing: let's do wild dog fencing out in Western Queensland. That is a legacy we can all get behind!

I listened to the member for Traeger's contribution to this debate. I understand his frustration. I think even government members from regional Queensland—the member for Mackay and those from North Queensland—have seen an increase in the number of people asking, 'Why are we having the Olympics? What's in it for us?' I am sure the member for Mundingburra has heard that. People are getting frustrated. We want things fixed up in our backyard first.


The Olympics will be a generational triumph for all of Queensland. I will support it. I will always support the Olympics. I think it presents a great opportunity to support not only South-East Queensland but also regional Queensland. We need to have a plan now for regional Queensland to try to build up for the games. In tourism, especially outback tourism, the spotlight will be on Queensland. Every country in the world will be focused on the Olympics—behind their country's team in their sport of choice. The Olympics provides an opportunity to boost tourism. People from all over the world will be coming to Queensland. The payback for us to support Brisbane as an Olympic venue is a bit of that tourism dollar into Outback Queensland—out to Longreach and Winton and into other areas around Western Queensland and up to Mount Isa and other places.

I support the Olympics, but what is frustrating for me is that not a day goes by that people do not stop me to ask, 'What's going on with the Olympics? Is it worthwhile?' Then I have to convince them that this will be a good thing for all of us—that it is not about South-East Queensland but about all of us and we will have some benefit from this.

The Labor Party let it all go. They have had a thousand days to convince people that this is a worthwhile process, but they are losing people left, right and centre. They have to get back on track. The best way to do that is to support the amendment proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that at least one director must live in a regional area. That way we can give a voice to regional Queensland. It is a good idea. Government members should not just knock it out because it has come from the opposition. Why don't those opposite try to do something to connect the Olympics back to regional Queensland and support this amendment? That would show that they are serious, that they want to do this. Yes, they have made a mistake—they are a thousand days behind—but they can correct this. This would give some confidence to the people of regional Queensland. I am more than happy for the member for Mundingburra to be the representative, as long as we have a regional representative.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I am more than happy for the member for Townsville to be the representative. At least have a representative from regional Queensland. Get this back on track. Stop mucking around and do it right.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.06 pm): The hide of those opposite in this debate! At least the member for Traeger was out and out against the Olympic Games from the start, as the Greens have been. Time and time again we have heard opposition members say, 'We support the Olympic Games but'. That is what they are doing: going back to their local communities and bagging it, day in and day out. We have lived through this before. They did it with the Commonwealth Games. It was the Labor government that delivered the Commonwealth Games on time and under budget. Do members know what those opposite did when they had three short years in government? They tried to get out of the Commonwealth Games. They hated it. They tried everything. We had to clean up their mess. We delivered the Commonwealth Games and the public transport legacy on the Gold Coast. The Commonwealth Games were a smashing success, and we will do it again with these Olympic Games.

The member for Kawana talked about legacy and about the whole state benefiting from the Olympic Games. They are already. The Go for Gold grants are going out to schools across Queensland—already building sports infrastructure for our growing Olympians and Paralympians. I am very excited. I can see my seven-year-old son competing in the Paralympic Games in 2032. I hope he will. He is a fantastic swimmer, like I am. I hope he keeps going.

We hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1982. After that, I competed year after year in the Chandler pool—a legacy item. The Chandler pool is now 40 years old. Next month it will host the national championships for another year. It will be 50 years old when the Olympic Games comes around. That is a legacy item—50 years of sports infrastructure that is doing the job.

The member for Everton gave a bit of an insight into how they are consulting with sporting groups. The explanatory notes to the member for Kawana's amendments talk about delivering all of the venues 'within the existing budget envelope', but then he talked about how swimming and hockey will get a new venue under the LNP.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the Minister for Sport. The shadow minister has let the cat out of the bag. He has said one thing to the sporting groups, but the explanatory notes circulated by him talk about the 'existing budget envelope'. You cannot trust a word the LNP says about the Olympic Games.

We are going to have a fantastic Olympic Games, especially on the east side of Brisbane and in the Redlands. We have the shooting range at Belmont on Old Cleveland Road. That will be a fantastic facility that, again, was utilised during the Commonwealth Games. Chandler, again, was utilised during the Commonwealth Games. The Queensland Labor government built the Anna Meares Velodrome on time and under budget. We already have the runs on the board; they do not. It is a fantastic facility that we are going to utilise again for the Brisbane Olympics.

Further out from Chandler, a decision has been made to have the white water rafting at Birkdale. I note that the new council voted on that last week to endorse it six votes to five. I know it is a sensitive issue because it is a sensitive site in my electorate. We have two state heritage-listed areas out there. One is the World War II receiving station where the first messages of the end of World War II were received by MacArthur. It is a state heritage site. On the same site we also have Willards Farm, which is a homestead that is very much a picture of what Redlands used to be over a hundred years ago, plus

there are the sensitivities of the bushland. That is what I asked the department about as a committee member. Because of the bushland, I asked whether this legislation bypassed the EPBC Act. They confirmed that it does not in that regard.

It is important that all of these processes are followed. I commend this bill. It will mean that this board is so independent. It also covers off on public transport and transport plans, particularly out my way in the Redlands. As I have said, there will be plenty of sporting activity based along Old Cleveland Road. We will definitely need to have a plan of how we will be transporting people from the city out to all of those locations.

I think the member for Everton talked about how the Olympic Games is just sport. The Olympic Games is not just about sport. I was an impressionable teenager when the Sydney Olympics were on, but I can remember Midnight Oil performing 'Beds are Burning' when the 'sorry' debate was happening. They contributed a great deal to that debate in 2000, to put pressure on the then prime minister, John Howard, to say sorry to the stolen generations—which he did not do. It took a Labor government to come in in 2007 under Kevin Rudd to say sorry.

That transformative performance lent weight to the community to say, 'This is on the world stage, so we need to ensure we are getting the message across that we treat our First Nations people with the respect they deserve.' In terms of a cultural protest like that, we know there have been so many more cultural protests at the Olympic Games, so it is not just about sport. It is a chance to not only transform minds and ideas but also transform our local community. That is why it is so important to get this right. If you are going to support it, support it. Do not go back to your electorates and say that you support it and then come in here and bag it. We need to get on with it.

As I said at the start of my contribution, we have done it before. We delivered a world-class Commonwealth Games. We built transformative public transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast. I have no doubt that we will do it again for the Olympic Games. I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak on this bill. It has been nearly three years since it was announced that Brisbane and South-East Queensland had won the right to host the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics. Only now are we seeing a bill before the House for an independent venue and delivery authority. That delivery authority now has another 18 months to come up with a critical transport infrastructure plan. What a pack of headless chooks this government is! It has been an absolute mess. They have wasted three years and now they need another 18 months to work out what the transport plan needs to be. This probably explains why they completely dropped the ball or in fact—

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the member used unparliamentary language and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice on that. No, it is not on the list. Member for Maroochydore, you have the call.

Mr O'Connor: Say it again.

Ms SIMPSON: This government is running around like a pack of headless chooks. Apparently I upset some of the chooks opposite because they had three years to get cracking. We are only now seeing this bill before the parliament to create an independent delivery authority, and the delivery authority will have another 18 months to come up with a critical transport infrastructure plan. This explains perhaps why they created a gap between the transport announcement of rail to Caloundra—they said, 'This was the solution for the Olympic venues on the Sunshine Coast'—and not checking the maps to realise that they were just a little bit short. Mind the gap, because there is a heck of a gap! In fact, it is about 20 kilometres short of where the athletes' village will be at Maroochydore. I table both a public transport map as well as one for vehicular traffic.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting map of distance and travel time from Caloundra Bus Exchange to Maroochydore Station by car [\[864\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting map of distance and travel time from Caloundra Bus Exchange to Maroochydore Station by train [\[865\]](#).

It takes about an hour by bus currently—and that is already a problem with the lack of infrastructure—and about 40 minutes by car, but it is 20 kilometres north to the athletes' village, which will be at Maroochydore. It is also short of where the marathon and walking race will be at Alexandra Headland; the road cycling—the mountain bike race will be further to the north but north of the Mooloolah River; and the kiteboarding, which will be off Alexandra Headland.

Somehow the government did not do their planning and they failed to come up with a plan to address the gap. Worse than that, they have dropped a critical infrastructure project which would have not all but partly addressed that with at least faster buses. They will not even get faster buses because they dropped the Mooloolah River Interchange, a project which internal documents of this government said would 'unlock significant public transport projects on the Sunshine Coast' and would provide a 'trigger for major infrastructure transformation of the region'. They have cut that project. They failed to notice that there was a gap between rail to Caloundra and getting people to all of the venues to the north, let alone to the venues in my colleague the member for Kawana's electorate, such as the Sunshine Coast Stadium. I will table some maps for that as well which show that that is about 10 kilometres short from Caloundra and that there is also a gap in the transport infrastructure to get people there.

Tabled paper: Documents, undated, depicting travel time between Sunshine Coast Stadium and Caloundra Bus Interchange Stop, by bus and by car [\[866\]](#).

I want to talk about the Mooloolah River Interchange being dropped. We will not get faster buses if we do not build extra river crossings. This government has dithered for three years with regard to Olympic planning and then has completely mucked up the transport infrastructure planning. They are only getting around to it now, yet they have dropped projects that are critical to enabling public transport connection between where the athletes and the public will be staying and multiple venues on the Sunshine Coast.

My colleague the member for Kawana has well outlined some of the concerns around the lack of good planning for venues which mean that local sports groups in his area such as the Kawana Rugby League, which he is well representing and fighting for, have no clear plan about how they will be supported when they are forced out of their location. We have seen the lack of planning, the chaos and the distress that this has caused people.


We want to see the Olympic and Paralympics create a true legacy for all of Queensland. Get it right! Do it right! Create a legacy of transport that is well planned, not mucked up like we have already seen. We want to see a legacy of venues that are well planned, unlike the embarrassing debacle and flip-flop over the Gabba stadium by the then premier and the then infrastructure minister, now Premier Miles. How many billions is it today?

Those opposite really cannot manage money. They cannot be trusted. It is time that we saw not only transparency with the business cases released but also true planning that creates a legacy for South-East Queensland, as was originally planned. South-East Queensland mayors came up with a plan for rail to Maroochydore which we support. They need to come up with a plan for all of Queensland with legacy, the right venues, the right pipeline of community and local venues to ensure everyone gets a benefit, but they need to do it right. We have seen no evidence from this government to date that they understand that.

I want to speak to the amendments that the member for Kawana tabled. I hope the debate is not gagged and that there is an opportunity to debate them. A lot of members do have a right to speak on these amendments, but this government does not like to hear from people who represent all of Queensland. We would like to see at least one member of this authority come from regional Queensland. It is vitally important for their voices to be heard and for the benefits to be embedded for all of Queensland. The member for Kawana's amendments would also require the authority to carry out a review of all Olympic and Paralympic Games venues and necessary infrastructure, prioritising the road and public transport infrastructure needed for the games that will deliver legacy benefits; maximise the use of existing venues; deliver all venues within the existing budget envelope agreed to between the Queensland government and the Australian government; and deliver an infrastructure legacy for all parts of Queensland.

I believe they are outstanding amendments. They are necessary amendments. We have been consistent in calling for an independent coordinating authority to ensure there is accountability and a plan to get this going, but we have not seen a willingness from this government to do that. You can understand why there is concern across many parts of Queensland, where they are hurting because of this government's failure to listen, failure to act and failure to address the cost-of-living crisis, the crime crisis, the housing crisis and the health crisis. This government has lost its way. We are committed to ensuring the Olympic and Paralympic Games do in fact serve all of Queensland and that the legacy is one of not only infrastructure that serves today's and tomorrow's needs but will also be solid infrastructure that is done well, that has cost benefits and that has some professionalism around the way these projects are rolled out and delivered so that all Queenslanders will benefit not only from the quality of what is built and what is delivered but also from knowing there has not been a fundamental

waste of money which could have been spent on things far more important. That is why I stand behind my colleague's amendments. That is why we say, 'Get it right. Do it right. Stop mucking around.' This government has dropped the ball on transport infrastructure and made it worse. It is time for action and the right priorities.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.23 pm): Well, hasn't all that talk about headless chooks put the cat amongst the pigeons!

Government members interjected.


Mr RUSSO: You should never listen to your colleagues; they will always lead you astray.

I rise to speak to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024. The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report No. 9, 57th Parliament, *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill*, tabled in this Assembly on 17 May 2024, recommended that the bill be passed. The bill amends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and its board.

It is proposed that the main functions of the authority will be to deliver venues in time for the games and within budget allocations, including managing effects on users of the venues during their development; monitor and ensure the delivery of villages in time for the games; and coordinate and integrate the planning and delivery of state, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the host contract. The proposed authority will have a board of directors to ensure the authority performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way. The board will have the capacity to establish committees and commissions of an advisory nature. The authority may employ a chief executive officer and other staff. Alternatively, other government agencies may also agree to make the services of officers or employees available to the authority.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games continue to be an issue of intense interest to Queenslanders, and I have found that members of my community, like many Queenslanders across the state, have passionately held views on both the Olympics in general as well as a special interest in potential upgrades to the Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre, QSAC, in Nathan, which is in my electorate. It was interesting to learn the committee had a similar experience, with stakeholders seemingly holding a range of firmly held opinions on how to run the event. The committee found, nevertheless, that the array of stakeholders who made a submission to their inquiry were content to contain their contributions to their written submissions. They had little desire to repeat their comments in hearings before the committee.

Along with establishing the authority, the bill also includes setting out the key functions for the authority, including their remit to create legacy plans or long-term benefits that will serve Queensland and Queenslanders before, during and long after 2032. These legacies could be sporting, social, environmental, urban or economic benefits and they could also be in tangible or intangible forms. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak to a bill to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority. We are really pleased that an independent authority will now exist. It is something that should have existed years ago, but the authority has been vested with some pretty serious powers alongside elements of this bill that will continue to cut everyday Queenslanders out of decision-making. Let us see where the lack of transparency and lack of consultation has got us so far.

Up until just a few months ago the government was planning on demolishing the Gabba stadium, taking a local school with it. This went against the advice of the IOC and other organisations. All of this was done with no consultation with the community, no conversations with families at East Brisbane State School, the players at the local soccer club whose clubhouse was going to be bulldozed, nor the apartment building residents who were about to lose access to one of the only bits of green space in the area. It was only because these people spoke up and ran a huge community campaign that the government backed down from this absurd plan. All of this uncertainty and the waste of public funds might have been avoided if the government had listened to the community from the beginning. An authority itself will not be the answer as long as Olympics planning continues to be run in the dark. I would have thought that the Gabba debacle would have taught the government the lesson that you ignore everyday people at their peril. There are elements of this bill that show the government is not really interested in what communities think, particularly with the powers vested around planning and land acquisitions.

I want to touch briefly on the Host City Contract. The authority will have the power to coordinate and integrate the planning and delivery of state, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the host contract. The host contract consists of a number of different documents, some of which are public and some of which are not. The published documents include the generic operational requirements document and a principals' contract, but the Host City Contract also includes documents agreed to by the IOC and the government like the games delivery plan and candidature commitments. From what I can tell from the questions we have been asking, the full list of these documents has not yet been made public, so we are looking at legislation that refers to documents that the public has not yet seen. I would be very happy to be corrected on this, but from what I can understand we do not yet have the full Host City Contract in front of us for public scrutiny.

There are also ongoing concerns about transparency and right to information. The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 baked in a lack of transparency. We pushed at the time to ensure that the Right to Information Act would cover all documents between the organising committee, the AOC and the IOC, but this blanket exemption was unjustified. These RTI exemptions raise serious questions regarding the expected conduct of the organising committee and concerns with how this will flow on for the authority. The Office of the Information Commissioner commented on this veil of secrecy, which will continue to blanket the Olympics planning processes and may also impact this new authority, saying—

Given the close relationship between the authority and the corporation, more documents would potentially be subject to this exclusion.

That means that more Olympics decision-making will be shielded from access to right to information. It seems that the government is willing to abrogate established democratic principles of responsible, democratic governance for the Olympics and, as a result, we have no way of knowing how decisions are being made, what deals are being made or which stakeholders are benefitting in the background.

Given the lack of transparency, it is crucial that the government does not gift control of the authority to people who will not be thinking about the long-term benefits for Queenslanders. Part of this bill gives the authority the capacity to override local planning rules in order to push through Olympic developments. This includes being able to put in place priority development areas and the capacity for the authority to acquire land. The explanatory notes state that this is—

... necessary for the authority to be able to use streamlined development processes where an existing process would threaten the timely delivery of a venue or village.

The bill requires the authority to consult with the Coordinator-General but states that—

The Minister and the authority are not required to consult any other person, including an owner of the land, before the Minister recommends the making of the regulation.

This bill justifies these extraordinary powers on the basis that the state government has binding obligations under the Host City Contract that need to be complied with. A tool like a priority development area that overrides local planning rules and cuts everyday people out of decision-making will be used to push through large, often very controversial developments and used to push through Olympics venues, with the main criteria being whether or not we are able to meet our requirements under the Host City Contract which has not been made public. We are being told to just trust that these powers will be vested in this authority for the purpose of building Olympics venues and meeting the requirements of the Host City Contract as opposed to what Queenslanders actually need in the best interests of everyday people.

I want to touch on the cost. The budget for the Olympic Games has already ballooned by billions of dollars. On top of budget blowouts, as we know, the majority of Olympic Games are money-losing ventures. The Olympics by and large are not a generator of economic activity but a sinkhole of public funds. Research has found that, for mega events like the Olympics or the World Cup, in most cases costs exceed revenue and they have a negative financial value. Queenslanders have already paid millions of dollars for the planning of venues that are not even going ahead now. Queenslanders have already paid nearly \$3 million for a failed plan to relocate East Brisbane State School to Coorparoo and also about \$4 million on a consultancy. Where has this money gone and what benefit has there been for Queenslanders?


People have talked about long-term legacy, as if the Olympics is the only way we can deliver the kind of basic infrastructure that we need in Queensland. The government could just get on with building the public transport and the public housing that we need. This could be a vehicle to deliver a world-class public transport system, vibrant public spaces, investment in community sports facilities and livable,

affordable housing, but there is no real indication that these things will be delivered, particularly when we know now that decision-making is being built around what is in a Host City Contract that we do not know the details of.

We know that the Olympics has a negative effect on housing security in many Olympic host cities, and this is well documented. Brisbane, without significant government investment, will not be immune to these impacts. Documented impacts from other host cities include the displacement of people for Olympics infrastructure and gentrification. In Paris students have been kicked out of student accommodation so that it can be used for Olympics accommodation. Upward pressure has been placed on the cost of rent and the cost of houses, homes are being turned into short-term accommodation and Olympics villages being privatised and not turned into genuine affordable accommodation afterwards. Without action now, these Olympic Games will fuel the existing housing crisis even further. The games will push up the cost of rent even further and we will see people kicked out of their homes in moves towards gentrification that are solely for the Olympic Games.

It is also worth thinking about the composition of this authority. A number of people have talked about how there would be a benefit in making sure that there is representation from regional areas, but one of the key missing factors at the moment is the ability for everyday Queenslanders to have a say in how billions and billions of dollars of public money will be used for the Olympics which may not necessarily be for the long-term good of Queensland.

We know that there have been a number of amazing former athletes and experienced sports administrators involved in decision-making so far, but we also have a whole range of very wealthy elites with very poor track records who are at the head of Olympics decision-making. I have criticised Andrew Liveris in the past. He has a history of using company funds to throw lavish parties and using the company's private jet. He was personally held liable for thousands of dollars of misused funds, and this is whom we have at the top of Olympics decision-making in a system that shields decisions from right-to-information requests. Where is the benefit for Queenslanders?

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.36 pm): I support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill and of course I support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032. It was very interesting listening to the contribution from the member for South Brisbane. Apparently there is no indication that we are doing anything in relation to public transport. I do not know, but has the member missed that large hole in the ground called the Cross River Rail, a fair chunk of which is in her electorate? I would have thought that that would give a pretty clear indication of our commitment to public transport. I would also say that that project was initiated and paid for in full by the Palaszczuk Labor government and now the Miles Labor government well before the Olympics were bid for and won by the state of Queensland. That demonstrates that the statements being put forward by the member are completely false and ridiculous. This is a government that is committed to building social housing, public transport, hospitals, schools and all of the other infrastructure that Queensland needs, and we can do it because we own our electricity-generating assets and because we have progressive coal royalties.

I also want to correct something else that the member said. She talked about the lack of consultation with the local soccer club. I find that very interesting, because the Kangaroo Point Rovers actually approached me. They had approached their local member to talk about the Olympics and the potential benefits from the Olympics, but guess what? They said that every time they approached their local member all she wanted to do was talk about how terrible the Olympics were and talk the Olympics down and say that she did not want to be a part of it and tried to engage them in a protest against the Olympics. However, the Kangaroo Point Rovers are part of the Olympic sporting movement, so they support the Olympics and they want to get the best outcome for their club. They want a good legacy out of this. They got sick of approaching their local member, so they went to their member next door—me—and I took them to meet the sports minister, who was also the legacy minister at the time, and that would be documented in his ministerial diary and so very easy to prove. I certainly am a great supporter of the Olympics, as are the Kangaroo Point Rovers, and they are not the only sporting club, business or community group that has come to see me.

I am really excited about the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am so excited that I am wearing my Olympics tie, but I am not channelling my inner Ted here.

Mr Lister: Table the tie.


Mr KELLY: I am not tabling the tie. I got this tie as a gift from the Australian Olympic Committee for my role in setting up the Parliamentary Friends of the Olympics and Paralympics Movement. This group is a cross-parliamentary group that has seen wide participation by all MPs at various events we have held over the last few years. I hope, in the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics and the parliamentary friends group, we can find a lot of common ground in relation to the games.

I am really sad to read the statement of reservation from the member for Traeger and hear his contribution here tonight. These games will be a massive boost for our entire state. Anywhere that counts tourism as an important part of the local economy should see the inherent value in the way these games will put our state on the map. I have spoken before about the legacy of Expo 88 and I can see some of those benefits still playing out today in my electorate decades and decades after that event. We will see even greater benefits coming from the Olympics. It strikes me as odd that regional members are down on these games. If I am asked to name two of my greatest Olympians, the two people who spring to my mind are Cathy Freeman and Anna Meares, both from regional Queensland. I would have thought all Queensland MPs would get behind the Olympics and Paralympics.

This bill establishes the mechanisms that will greatly assist in managing the games in a manner that gets politics out of it. I support it because the people in my community support the games and want to see them succeed. Our community knows that if the games succeed Queensland succeeds and our entire nation succeeds. We are pleased that some of these events are on our doorstep. Regardless of wherever these events are going to be held, our community supports the games. Whenever I go to local sporting or community events and I meet people, they are so excited about the boost these games are going to bring to sport in Queensland. We saw the amazing uplift in women's football after the success of the Matildas last year. Our clubs are bursting at the seams with young women wanting to play sport. We can see the Olympics and Paralympics doing that for all sports in Queensland—whether they are Olympic sports or not. All boats will rise on the back of the Olympics and Paralympics.

Last weekend in this city we hosted various events: the Women's State of Origin, which I had the pleasure of going to; the Magic Round, and I also had the pleasure of going to two of those games; Paniyiri; the Doomben 10,000; and the Macklemore concert, which I did not actually get to. It is just six years since we hosted arguably one of the most successful Commonwealth Games, and I note the minister's announcement about the involvement of Mayor Tom Tate in this process. I think that is very welcome because he is a great supporter of the Commonwealth Games and I know he is a great supporter of the Olympics and the Paralympics. All of these events show that Brisbane, South-East Queensland and Queensland are more than capable of hosting major events, and of course we have no problem in anticipating and moving towards hosting the world's No. 1 event. As I have said, the public transport infrastructure is already well on its way to being ready. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is tackling the housing issues, and this will encourage not just construction in the housing sector but construction across the board which will be beneficial for the hotels and other accommodation we need to build.

In just over two months, Paris will be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games opening ceremonies, and I have no doubt the majority of the members of this House will enjoy those games, and I cannot wait. I know that in 2032 when the opening ceremony for these games commences whoever is in this House at the time will be doing their best to get themselves a ticket. I have no doubt that the KAP members will be there. Whether it is here in South-East Queensland or in North Queensland, they will be at events. The member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar will be there. They might have a protest T-shirt on but they will be there, I can guarantee it. They will love it. The LNP will be enjoying the hospitality, no doubt, and Labor will be there. Our entire state will stand with pride when the Olympic torch is lit in our state, and we will stand with pride when the Paralympians show us what real triumph looks like. Let us stop the nonsense. Let us get on with it. Let us work together to deliver the best Olympic and Paralympic Games. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.43 pm): I think we all have some fond memories of the Olympics no matter where we come from. I come from a sporting family and I can say that the Olympics has always been of importance to us. I think all of Australia can remember those words, 'And the winner is Sydney.' The winner was Brisbane over 1,000 days ago. On 10 June 2021, over 1,000 days ago, Brisbane was announced. That is almost four years ago. The organising committee said in their pitches for the games that we would have an independent delivery authority and the LNP has been proclaiming that all the way along. Finally, over 1,000 days later, we are now seeing a delivery authority. It is not exactly what we suggested but it is pretty close but we have missed that 1,000 days.

I was pleased to be on the committee that inquired into this bill to ensure that the games delivery authority had some autonomy but was also sensibly overseen. Those concerns were shared by the Information Commissioner in an article in the *Courier-Mail* a short time ago. It would have been nice if the committee were able to see the Information Commissioner in a public hearing and if the transcript of that could have been included in the determination and the debate before the House today. Unfortunately, that was not the case. The Information Commissioner had some very real concerns about the issues around the right to information exemptions. I believe there are sufficient exemptions under the existing right to information legislation that there did not need to be anymore exemptions given. That was my personal view and I am pleased the minister has been able to outline a few of those issues.

The fact is that, at the end of the day, we should not even be here debating this 1,000 days after this was announced. This independent delivery authority should have been delivered within 100 days of the announcement or shortly thereafter so that some sensible plans could have been put in place to consider all of these issues.

I want to pay tribute to my deputy leader, the member for Kawana, for the amendments that he has foreshadowed. It is very important that an independent review is done of all of the venues and issues we have seen today. When the announcement was made, most of us shared in the spirit of positivity to see that. I have not lost that spirit of positivity and I hope the games will be delivered on time and on budget and with some sensible legacy items. However, because we have seen inconsistency and indecisiveness from the government in the handling of this, they have made it a political football.

This started as a very exciting announcement that included all of the councils of South-East Queensland driving the project. I pay tribute again to former lord mayor Graham Quirk and Lord Mayor Adrian Schinner, who has continued that legacy. It was the Council of Mayors (SEQ) back in 2015 and 2016 that set about developing a feasibility study into the games and all of the benefits that would come from it. The community of South-East Queensland got on board with the games because of the opportunity of connectivity and some of the infrastructure legacies that could have been there. All of the councils and mayors of South-East Queensland were very excited at the opportunity of bringing forward the federal funding that could have been spent on infrastructure in the next 10 years; they were excited to see some extra transport delivered sooner. That is still a hope I have: that we can fight for and ensure that those legacy items are delivered.

It is not just transport that we will be celebrating. As we all know, the Olympics is mostly about sport but there are also other cultural and commercial opportunities that the whole of Queensland and Australia will be able to embrace. I recognise the 20-year tourism strategy that has been suggested by our leadership, with 10 years leading up to the games and 10 years after. Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of those years because of the delays, but hopefully we will see a sensible tourism strategy delivered in the future.

I have had a lot of representations from different groups about the opportunities from the Olympics. One of those representations was about the accessibility of venues across South-East Queensland. It is quite astounding that many facilities across South-East Queensland and Queensland are not accessibility friendly now considering we are going to be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in a few years. Some sensible things have been suggested, and we look forward to continuing to advocate for some of those accessibility solutions.


I was pleased to be able to join with my fellow colleague the member for Burleigh in our statement of reservation in relation to the fundamental legislative principles that were raised. We put those forward because there were some genuine concerns. We look forward to a response from the department as this bill is delivered and some changes are made to ensure that areas of review are consistent and well ventilated in the public arena and not just done behind closed doors.

I recognise and welcome the input from the Council of Mayors South-East Queensland and the nine legacy partners in picking a board of seven. I recognise that part of the difficulties that have been experienced with the Olympics is the politics that came into play right at the start when Council of Mayors South-East Queensland were driving the process and then, all of a sudden, the Premier, who did not want the games back in 2018, decided it was a good idea and then excluded a lot of local government representation from the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, and there were a couple of appointments made. I welcome the amendments that will see Mayor Tom Tate included in the steering committee. That is a good step forward.

I do think that our amendment for a regional representative to be appointed to the board would be a very sound driver and would bring control to some of the legacy opportunities for the whole of Queensland. I recognise the member for Traeger's contribution and statement of reservation. I feel for those communities that feel completely separated from South-East Queensland and do not see the benefits and legacies that the games can deliver. If we can get our tourism strategies right and can see legacy opportunities delivered right across the state of Queensland, then we too will have the spirit of excitement and celebration that was felt when Sydney was announced as an Olympic host and, in June 2021, when Brisbane was announced as the host city for the 2032 games. That was a crowning glory for CoMSEQ and the vision they set out to deliver so many years ago.

As I said before, 1,000 days after those announcements were made we should be celebrating a pathway of success in tourism opportunities and commercial opportunities. We should be seeing land unlocked to address the housing crisis. As many Queenslanders are saying—and this is of importance to them: 'We can't pay the bills and we don't feel safe.' When you cannot pay the bills and you do not feel safe, it is hard to be inspired by an Olympic Games that is far removed from your everyday reality.


I can see the benefit that the games will bring in Queensland and I can see the benefits that will apply to transport connectivity across the sporting and cultural areas, as well as tourism and commercial opportunities. It should be something that we all support and it should be something that will be delivered in a positive fashion, on time and on budget. However, it seems so far removed from the current operation of this state by this Labor government which is going from the cost-of-living crisis to the crime crisis to the housing crisis. We should be getting on with the delivery of exciting opportunities for Queensland because there are plenty of people out there who are inspired by the opportunity to come to Queensland if they are just given the chance.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise proudly to support this bill. I thank the minister for progressing it. The establishment of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority is an exciting and significant next step to what I believe will be a brilliant Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032. The role of the authority will relate not to just one given venue. This is a holistic approach across our city, across our region and, indeed, across our state. I think it provides a good workable structure and oversight. I also think it contains a robust approach to appointments, and I commend the minister for that.

The legacy, though, goes beyond the official Olympic venues. As we have seen, for example with the Women's World Cup, unofficial venues also receive benefits. In my area, for example, City Football hosted the Matildas for training before their game at Suncorp. Many venues across Brisbane will host delegations from other countries beforehand, for training or for practice games. You can name the Burringbar Park which is home to the Wolves of Kedron Wavell Hockey Club, the hockey centre on the south side and even the Northside Wizards basketball centre in Zillmere, which is a really high-class venue. Although not an Olympic venue as such, it is one to which other delegations will definitely want to come to train. How great it will be for our young sports men and women, boys and girls, to see world-class athletes train before they see them at the actual games.

Before my time runs out, I want to give a quick shout-out to one AOC staff member. People would describe him as looking rather like me except stretched out to be six foot seven. My brother, Dom, as I said in my first speech, is a senior officer at the AOC in Sydney. As I said in my speech, my entire family and I are so proud of what he does, what he contributes and his hard work.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Stafford, my apologies. Please resume your seat. 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. G GRACE** (McConnell—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.55 pm), in reply: I firstly want to thank all members for their contributions to the debate this afternoon. I say at the outset that when Steven Miles became Premier, he promised two things: that there would be a 60-day review and that an independent games delivery authority would be set up. With this bill, both commitments have now been achieved. When he became Premier he said that we would do this and today we are debating this authority bill. As I said earlier today, the passage of this bill will be an important step in delivering a spectacular Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games that will leave a lasting legacy in communities right across the state, while following the IOC's new norms of the games fitting the place, and not the place fitting the games.

No matter where one lives—whether it is in Far North Queensland, out west, in Central Queensland, in any town or place—if anyone in this House does not have the vision to see what the Olympic and Paralympic Games can deliver for this state then they have no vision at all, in my view.

For someone to say we do not need them, that it is a waste and that they cannot understand what being an Olympic and Paralympic city brings to this state—I am sorry, but they do not deserve to hold any position on this side of the House because they would have no vision for this state going forward. I say that with all sincerity.

Mr Langbroek: Which of your members are you referring to?

Ms GRACE: The games are projected to inject an additional \$4.6 billion in international tourism and trade. I will take that interjection from the member for Surfers Paradise. I say that sincerely. When you have no vision and you cannot understand what something is going to deliver to this state then obviously, forget it. You do not deserve to be on the government benches.

The games are projected to inject an additional \$4.6 billion through international tourism and trade. The games will be broadcast into over 200 countries. Imagine a soccer game being broadcast out of Townsville or Cairns or one of the many regional centres. The whole world—billions of people—will be seeing beautiful Queensland. It is incredible that members opposite cannot see that. There could not be a better worldwide advertisement for Queensland, including, of course, regional Queensland, than hosting the games.

I would like to reiterate how much we have already achieved because it was like listening to a broken record in here. Someone wrote the speech, they all picked it up and said the same thing over and over again. There was no individual thought or spontaneity. The speech was written and, one after another, they got up and said the same broken-record stuff. There are eight years till the games. I have outlined extensively what has occurred. What nonsense it is to come in here, time and time again, and try to mislead the House and convince people that nothing has been done. I will go through some of the more important things that we have done.

In 2021, our government established the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Committee with bipartisan support. Oh! They forgot about that. That committee has been meeting. 'Oh, that's right. Yes, I do remember now that you did that.' We negotiated and signed an historic \$7.1 billion investment agreement with the Commonwealth. That does not happen overnight. They could say, 'Oh, that's right. You locked in the funding before you proceeded with some of the venues. That's a really good step forward.' Of course, they say that nothing has been done. We started the procurement process for \$560 million worth of works on the Chandler sports precinct and three Sunshine Coast venues, which collectively will support more than 1,000 local jobs.

Project validation reports—the business cases that they speak about—do not happen overnight. The Sunshine Coast Council undertook years of extensive consultations in that area. It went on for ages. They consulted widely. At the last minute, who jumps out of the barracks? The member for Kawana! He said, 'I don't want the indoor sports centre in my electorate. Put it somewhere else.' Can you imagine anyone on this side of the House, whose area was to receive roughly \$300 million worth of sports investment, turning their back on that and saying, 'Put it somewhere else'? It is absolutely unbelievable. He said that knowing that the council had held a public meeting. They had been consulting and they had held a public meeting. He said that knowing that the public meeting went ahead and that guarantees were made to the sporting club about their ability to thrive. It is unbelievable how people get up in this House and mislead.

In a press release, Councillor Burns said—

Council will continue to work with the Kawana Dolphins junior and senior rugby league clubs to ensure their move is a successful one.

They had been talking and consulting with them the whole time. He continued—

With the proposed relocation of the Kawana Dolphins to Meridan Fields I do believe that with council's support, the club can thrive.

They had already identified new fields for the club. That is what the press release quoted the local councillor as saying. I believe the member for Kawana was actually next door to where we were having an event but I did not hear any spontaneous applause from that side; I only heard it on our side. The press release quotes the councillor as saying—

At the moment, there are only two fields at Kawana Sports Precinct. The Kawana Dolphins' relocation to Meridan Fields will provide the club with six fields and improved on and off field infrastructure.

Knowing that, the member still wanted it to be built somewhere else. The project validation report—the business case that they insist on—said it was not able to be built where they wanted it to be built. That is exactly what it said. The press release further quotes the councillor as saying—

The club can move towards being based at a much improved, first-class community sporting facility.

That is what the council is promising, but what do we hear from the member for Kawana? Names! All he talks about is names. He wants to rename the rail line the Elizabeth line. He wants to rename the satellite hospitals. Those are the big issues that the member for Kawana always talks about. We are about to build the wonderful Sunshine Coast rail network for \$5.5 billion. If he has his way, maybe he can call it the Duke of Edinburgh line or something like that. I think it was Tony Abbott who gave the Duke a knighthood; can you believe it? That is what people in the Liberal Party do.

Knowing all of that, still they come in here whingeing and whining and saying that it should be built somewhere else. If they have the opportunity, they should stand up in this House and say that that is exactly what they will do. We will let the people of Kawana know exactly what is in store for that club and how they will be more than looked after in relation to the location of the sports centre. I thank those who have a bit more vision than the glass-half-empty member for Kawana.

When it comes to delivering for the Sunshine Coast, we are going to invest nearly \$300 million. The project validation report was the business case that we went on. We are looking forward to the project. President Andrew Liveris, from the OCOG, went out of his way to be there. We were all there announcing the project. Mayor Natoli spoke about how much this investment means. She spoke about it being the largest ever investment in community sporting infrastructure that the region has ever seen. What do we hear from those opposite? They are still whingeing and whining. There is never-ending whingeing and whining. It is like a broken record. I cannot believe that we are still hearing this when we know that the sports club will be looked after. The mayor said—

We'll see our vision for positive Games legacy come to fruition sooner and be enjoyed by our community for longer.

That community will have access to those sporting venues five years ahead of the games. They will be magnificent facilities, but what do I hear from those opposite? Nothing but whingeing and whining! We don't hear that from the member for Caloundra or the member for Nicklin. They are very appreciative and they know what it will do for their community. I am sure that constituents of the member for Caloundra will be using those sporting facilities with no problems. Even if they have to drive for 10 or 20 minutes to get there, I am sure that they will use them.

We are making sure that the delivery authority operates properly. I understand that the member for Kawana has circulated some amendments. I have a copy of them and I thank him for that. None of these amendment are required and we will not be supporting them. The first amendment seeks to ensure that the authority delivers legacy and benefits for all of Queensland, including regional areas. The authority is already required to do that. The bill says 'Queensland'. What do they think Queensland is? Queensland is Queensland. It means all of Queensland. Not for one minute are we suggesting that we have to define 'Queensland'. Queensland is Queensland.

The bill states that the main purpose of the act is to establish the authority to ensure that Queensland is ready to host the games and that legacy and benefits are maximised for Queensland. It is the whole of Queensland and, yes, member for Traeger, even Mount Isa. For this side of the House, Queensland includes regional Queensland. If those opposite do not think so then we can spell out. Let's put it in. We are already focused on regional Queensland. I will remind members of the venues. We will have venues at Barlow Park in Cairns. We will be extending that stadium and increasing capacity by 5,000. In Townsville we will have a new stadium where the preliminary soccer matches will be held. We will have indoor sports centres at Moreton Bay, Logan, the Wyaralong Flat Water Centre in the Scenic Rim and I could go on.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I hear all of their interjections. They think that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will solve every one of their problems. Every single problem will be resolved with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. If they think that then they are in la-la land. What a fantasy! We are talking about real business here. We are talking about delivering the venues that we need for the IOC and AOC, to deliver the best games in 2032. In response to all this furphy and nonsense from those opposite I say: get a reality check because none of it will happen.

The bill provides diversity in the selection panel, which is extensive. It has a number of CEOs from the various councils. It talks about having diversity on the board. We are not going to support an amendment that says that at least one of the directors of the authority board must live in a regional area. What if we have an absolutely excellent candidate for the authority who comes from regional Queensland but is currently living in Brisbane? Under this amendment they would be ruled out. I do not want to rule anyone in or out. I want the best people and, hand on heart, I would earnestly support a

regional person being on the authority board. However, I am not going to insist in the legislation that they live in regional Queensland, particularly if they are in Brisbane for whatever reason but have fantastic regional credentials. We are not supporting that amendment.

Equally, I want to see representation from a range of different people such as First Nations, regional representatives and people from a multicultural background—I would love to see more—but we need the best people on this authority to deliver a big program of work. Given the size, ultimately we have to ensure that the board functions and Queensland's readiness to host the games is paramount.

Then there is the proposal to hold another 100-day review. We have just had a 60-day review. We heard about the new norm and the use of existing venues—we have been there and we have accepted 27 of the recommendations. The only significant one that we have not accepted is the proposal for a new \$3.4 billion stadium at Victoria Park. If I did not know better, I would think that this amendment is the 'Victoria Park stadium amendment'. Those opposite think that in 100 days they are going to have a business case for every single one of these major events, when the consultation and the process takes an amount of time to carry out. If they think they are going to get them in 100 days and make no decisions without a business case, once again they are misleading the people of Queensland. I can tell them it just cannot happen. In my view, this is the 'Victoria Park amendment', 'Give us 100 days and we're going to build the stadium in Victoria Park.' On this side of the House we are going to use existing venues. They will be upgraded. They will be perfect for the games—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Theodore.

Ms GRACE:—and they will deliver an outstanding experience for those athletes with legacy. We reject another 100 days of—

Mr Boothman interjected.

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

Ms GRACE: We want the delivery authority to get on with the job. Even the Brisbane Lord Mayor supports the authority and says—

Mr Millar interjected.

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

Ms GRACE:—that they should be getting on with the job. That is exactly what we are going to do. We do not accept this. Would those opposite pause the tenders and everything that is going out on the Sunshine Coast? Maybe they would, but we are not going to have any part of that. We want to get on with the job. Speaker after speaker from the other side of the House talks about lost time and then all they want to do is waste more time.

Mr Hart: It has been a thousand days.

Ms GRACE: They are like a broken record: wasted time, wasted three years. I have been through a series of things. We are building infrastructure in schools for the Olympics. We are out there searching for athletes for the Olympics. It is extraordinary what we have been doing, yet those opposite mislead the House time and time again. Once again, they want to delay it. During this debate I would have loved to hear just one positive thing from those opposite about the Olympic and Paralympic Games—just one positive thing about what it means for Queensland, what it means for creating jobs in new industries, creating healthy lifestyles—

Dr Rowan interjected.

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

Ms GRACE:—and capitalising on the uplift in tourism and trade across the state. Honestly, the interjections coming from those opposite are absolute nonsense. They cannot for one second settle down and debate a serious delivery authority that they are going to support. They cannot stop themselves—

Mr Hart: Stop whingeing and whining and get on with it.

Ms GRACE:—from the nonsense and whining interjections, particularly the member for Burleigh. This is about Queensland taking its rightful place on the world stage and showcasing our amazing state to the world. The independent delivery authority will build on the extensive work this government has done so far, ensuring venues and villages are delivered in time for the games. We have a truly exciting

eight years ahead on the road to the biggest event in Queensland's history and I know on this side of the House we cannot wait. We will deliver an outstanding 2032 games. As the Premier promised when he became Premier, we are putting the trust in an independent delivery authority. This bill delivers the best model for that. They can get on with their job, they can be appointed, we can have the CEO and we will deliver those venues. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): It being six o'clock, the member for Kawana is now no longer warned. However, the members for Theodore, Gregory and Moggill remain on a warning.

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

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12—



Ms GRACE (6.21 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 12 (Amendment of s 17 (Composition))

Page 10, after line 26—

insert—

(1A) Section 17(1)—

insert—

(m) the mayor of the Gold Coast City Council.

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

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[867\]](#).

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[868\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—



Mr BLEIJIE (6.22 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 20 (Insertion of new ch 3)

Page 14, after line 20—

insert—

(aa) without limiting paragraph (a), ensure the games deliver legacy benefits for all of Queensland, including regional areas; and

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

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, amendments to be moved by Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP [\[869\]](#).

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [\[870\]](#).

Tabled paper: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Jarrod Bleijie's amendments [\[871\]](#).

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.



Ms GRACE (6.22 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 20 (Insertion of new ch 3)

Page 21, line 3, 'take reasonable steps to'—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.



Mr BLEIJIE (6.22 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 20 (Insertion of new ch 3)

Page 32, after line 24—

insert—

(1A) At least 1 of the directors must live in a regional area.

This amendment is about giving regional Queensland a voice for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is about making sure a representative from outside of South-East Queensland is represented on the board to give everybody in Queensland the legacy benefits that were promised over 1,037 days ago when Brisbane won the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I would ask all honourable members to support this important amendment to give rural and regional Queensland a voice on this committee.

Mr MILLAR: I support the amendment. We need to have a regional person on this.

Ms GRACE: The amendment says, 'At least 1 of the directors must live in a regional area.' We believe that diversity is more than just someone living in a regional area. There may be a very worthy appointee to the independent delivery authority who has lived all their life in a region, has incredible experience in a regional centre, may have been living in Brisbane for six months or 12 months and because they do not live in a regional area that person—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The member for Kawana's contribution was heard in silence. I ask that the minister's response be heard in silence.

Ms GRACE: That person could be denied their rightful place on the authority. We believe the current bill has extensive diversity and I encourage the panel to appoint someone from regional Queensland to the authority and I will be the first to cheer when that person is appointed.

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

AYES, 30:

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

NOES, 45:

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

Pairs: Enoch, Bates; Furner, Mickelberg; Howard, Robinson; Lauga, Zanow; Mullen, Molhoek

Resolved in the negative.

Non-Government amendment (Mr Bleijie) negatived.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill.

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 3, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

3 Clause 29 (Insertion of new ch 5)

Page 53, lines 19 and 20, from 'start'—

omit, insert—

perform its functions properly and efficiently, including, for example, its function mentioned in section 53AD(1)(a); and

Question put—That clauses 20 to 30, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 30, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.


Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.


DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Matter Referred to Ethics Committee

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, I refer to a ruling I made shortly after the House resumed after lunch regarding a private member's statement by the member for Whitsunday. I am withdrawing that ruling and apologise to the member for Whitsunday. I had a mistaken understanding of the scope of the Speaker's earlier referral to the Ethics Committee. I note that the Speaker has not made any ruling in relation to the post by the Minister for Health and that that matter is still under consideration. To assist with maintaining the dignity and order of the House, and given that we have 30 minutes to go, it would be helpful if members could avoid further discussion of these matters to allow the Speaker to consider them. This represents the manner in which the Speaker indicated he would like to manage these matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.32 pm): Last weekend, it was my pleasure to welcome the state leader of the LNP opposition to the electorate of Moggill to officially open the 2024 Brookfield Show. I congratulate President of the Brookfield Show Society Dan Petrie and his incredible team of volunteers on the terrific success of this year's show. The Brookfield Showground is a wonderful asset for our local community and there are a number of important capital works and infrastructure improvements which I will continue to fight for to ensure the Brookfield Showground remains a strong community asset.

Last Sunday, I was also delighted to support and participate in the annual Moggill Marathon. With a record number of entries this year, the Moggill Marathon was a phenomenal success. I wish to extend my congratulations to race director David Ember as well as to the Brisbane West Lions Club. I also offer my appreciation to the many organisations and schools that participated.


On the subject of schools, last Saturday I was also delighted to support both the Brisbane Independent School and Kenmore State High School with their open days. The students, teachers, staff and families of Kenmore State High School certainly deserve fully funded school infrastructure, including when it comes to additional classrooms, performing arts as well as sports centre infrastructure. I again reiterate my calls for this funding to be in the Labor state budget next month for both this school and also for detailed planning for an additional high school to service families in the electorate of Moggill.

Recently, I also had the pleasure of visiting our local Colleges Crossing Family Practice in Karana Downs for a formal meeting with RACGP Queensland Faculty Council Chair and local general practitioner Dr Cath Hester. The local provision of health care, including matters relating to ambulance ramping and emergency department access block, was high on the agenda as was the need for a dedicated ambulance station at Karana Downs.

Finally, I acknowledge Dr Keith Towsey. Dr Towsey is a general surgeon with post-fellowship training in burns and trauma with a public appointment at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital as well as being a visiting medical officer at St Andrews War Memorial Hospital. Dr Towsey is a colonel in the Australia Army. He has undertaken a number of deployments including to Afghanistan, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia, Samoa and Papua New Guinea. Recently, Dr Towsey presented to the 108 Army Cadet Unit on military medicine. I know that our local cadets of this Kenmore-based unit will have appreciated his expert and knowledgeable presentation which occurred earlier this week, particularly given he is currently posted as the Senior Medical Officer of Forces Command, the Australian Army's largest functional command.

In concluding, as it is National Volunteer Week, I wish to acknowledge and thank the many wonderful and dedicated local volunteers who contribute via various organisations, including school P&Cs, service clubs, environmental groups, sporting clubs and other local community organisations within the electorate of Moggill.

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.35 pm): In the last month, I have had the pleasure of announcing further services coming to Hervey Bay. They come thick and fast under the Miles government. Last week, I was excited to stand alongside Minister for Health, Minister Fentiman, at the Hervey Bay Hospital to announce the delivery of another 24 beds for the Hervey Bay Hospital. This is above and beyond the 35 beds announced with the expansion of the Hervey Bay Hospital's emergency building. In other great news for health services in Hervey Bay, 60 extra staff will be employed at our great hospital. These are great wins for the people of Hervey Bay. The new beds announced coupled with the previously announced 35 beds will bring the total of new beds to 59 in the general hospital that will come online to service the community of Hervey Bay. This is on top of the 22-bed mental health unit opened earlier this year and currently being used to service our patients. All up, that is a total of 81 beds in only a very short period for the Hervey Bay community.


All this just flies in the face of the misinformation being peddled by the other side who fly into Hervey Bay for their five-minute doorstep out the front of the hospital with their LNP candidate, forlorn faces pointed towards any camera they can find, to talk down Hervey Bay and peddle absolute mistruths about the hospital. This is insulting to our hospital staff. The LNP only stands for slick slogans and misinformation. They think the people of Hervey Bay are silly enough to have forgotten what they did to our regional health services when they were last in government. More upgrades and new services have happened at our hospital in the last 3½ years—since I was elected in late 2020—than happened in the 11 years and four terms the LNP were in charge in Hervey Bay. That amounted to very little.

Crickets was all the people in Hervey Bay heard from the other side when the 11-year and four-term member was spending his time here talking about God knows what. I think the member for Maryborough has often expressed in here what the former member spoke about. He certainly was not talking to ministers about getting infrastructure and services in Hervey Bay—not even during the time his side was in government. The people of Hervey Bay all know what happened during that time; it was cut, sack and sell.

I would also like to thank the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery, Minister Boyd, for coming to Hervey Bay last week to announce that the land for our brand new, state-of-the-art fire and rescue station has been secured. The new station to be located on land on Doolong Road and Main Street will be a game changer for Fire and Rescue Services officers who work in the current station on Torquay

Terrace that has reached its use-by date. For our community, this means a facility that will cover the enormous growth in Hervey Bay now for many years to come. I thank Jason McCloskey and his colleagues, particularly the firefighters union, for their advocacy for this new station. I told them we would deliver this new state-of-the-art station and that has been done. I look forward to it being built and in service as soon as possible. As always, Labor governments deliver whilst the other side just cut, sack and sell.

Burleigh Electorate


 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.38 pm): We know that government members are worried when they spend almost half of their three minutes complaining about the LNP and personally attacking candidates and former members who did great work in their electorates and were far better members than the present members.

As all members know, I will be retiring in October. I would not be doing that unless I made sure there was a really good candidate in my seat to take my place and represent the people of Burleigh. In Hermann Vorster, that is exactly what I have. He is a local person. He, his wife and his three children live locally. Hermann was elected to the Gold Coast City council in 2016. He has had eight years working hard for the people in division 11 on the Gold Coast which takes in quite a chunk of the Burleigh electorate.

In that time he has been doing a number of things to assist me as the state member. He has fought hard for the people of Burleigh. He has raised issues like the Varsity train station car park and pushed the then hopeless minister for transport to put in place a car-parking facility there. He has been fighting against crime that has happened all through Varsity Lakes. He has got more CCTV cameras throughout Varsity Lakes and he has been working very closely with the police. In fact, he was in James Street last week with the Leader of the Opposition talking to local shop owners about the issues they are having with homeless people and criminals in that area. He will make a great candidate.

Hermann has hit the ground running well and truly. He has been out doorknocking. He has been out talking to people in the streets and at the markets, unlike the Labor Party. We have not seen anything from the Labor Party in years in Burleigh. They only ever show up about five seconds before an election. We have not seen a candidate yet. We are five months from the election and the Labor Party does not have a candidate in Burleigh because I think, quite frankly, as a lot of other members have done already, they have given up fighting for their seats because they know that in October 2024 they are going to lose their seats and the government is going to change. The only way we can fix the issues that this government has created is to get rid of Labor. We have to show Labor the door in October '24.

Double Island


 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (6.41 pm): I can assure the member for Burleigh that I have not given up this seat of Barron River. I rise tonight to talk about Double Island. Double Island is a significant island in the electorate of Barron River. It is three kilometres off the coast of Palm Cove and well renowned as the jewel in the crown for Palm Cove tourism. It is known by its traditional name of Gudju Gudju by the Djabugay people. In their language it is the resting place of the Rainbow Serpent. People like Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston, Keanu Reeves and other A-list movie stars have holidayed at Double Island over the years, paying extraordinary amounts for overnight accommodation and everything that goes with it.

Unfortunately, in 2012 the lease for Double Island was purchased by Benny Wu, a Hong Kong billionaire, and a company called Fortune Island Holding and since 2012 barely anything has happened on Double Island. It has fallen into disrepair. There has been no maintenance done. No-one has ever stayed on Double Island since. The beautiful swimming pool where people used to drink expensive cocktails is now full of cane toads and fish and the island is falling down around itself. I can announce to the House that on 7 May the Land Court passed a historic ruling that says that the Minister for Resources does have the legal power to withdraw that lease. It is quite an exciting moment for the people of Cairns and certainly for Palm Cove tourism.

I want to acknowledge members from both sides of this House who have taken up the issue around leaseholds of Queensland islands. I know they include, but are not limited to, the member for Kurwongbah, who chaired the committee, and the member for Condamine in his role as shadow

minister and in other roles, as well as plenty of other members of this House. Certainly no-one has taken up this role more tenaciously than the Minister for Resources, the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart, who has been like a dog with a bone on this one. I really want to acknowledge him. It has been a very interesting ride with lots of different advice and legal proceedings and everything, but he has held the line. I know that we can put confidence in him and his department to make the right decisions over the coming weeks and months so that the people of Cairns, Queensland tourism and Palm Cove tourism can get their island back. Finally in relation to that, I can also advise the House that we are working on the Palm Cove jetty with Transport and Main Roads so that we can make that important lifeline to Double Island a reality.

Queensland Police Service, North Brisbane District Awards Ceremony

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.44 pm): Last Friday I was honoured to be asked to attend the Queensland Police Service North Brisbane District awards ceremony held at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club. Attending the service to present the awards, under the guidance of the master of ceremonies, Inspector Michelle Pickett, were Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Kelly, Assistant Commissioner Ben Marcus and Chief Superintendent David Cuskelly. There were 111 officers honoured for their dedicated service at the ceremony. Might I say that there are more than 1,300 officers in the North Brisbane District.


Officers received national medals and clasps, national police service medals, the Queensland Police Service Medal and clasps, and emergency response medals. Amongst the recipients were two officers who also received the first of the emergency response medals allocated for service during COVID. Certificates of appointment were awarded, as were 17 district officer certificates. Recipients played many roles in many situations saving lives and protecting the community. Four officers were recognised for their work in Operation Romeo Mugwort, which resulted in 39 offenders being prosecuted for 201 drug offences on the north side. Others were involved in breaking open drug-trafficking networks, responding and saving lives through advanced first responder training and tactical first aid at severe motor vehicle incidents, as well as search and rescue and, again, tactical first aid for vulnerable people at risk of self-harm. Through these actions people are alive today who would otherwise be dead.

Superintendent Steve Holahan received a Certificate of Service and Meritorious Service Medal acknowledging his 41 years of continuous service in both operational and specialist roles. Steve started his distinguished policing career as a first-year constable on 9 May 1983 and retires after 41 years service on 31 May this year. He tells me he has no plans. Steve has served in uniform in the CIB as a detective and was commissioned in 2004. Much was made at the ceremony of Steve's character, leadership and mentoring of many younger officers over his time in the service. I echo the thoughts of all in the service and say: good luck in your retirement, Steve.

Two exemplary conduct medals were awarded. Those medals recognise members of the QPS who have demonstrated exemplary conduct in a specific role of duty. Sergeant Scott Adams received this prestigious recognition for 30 years of service with the Disaster Victim Identification Squad. In his role he took part in many operations that I am sure many of us would struggle with, including identification of 15 victims of the Childers backpackers hostel fire. Sergeant Mark Farnill also received the Exemplary Conduct Medal for 40 years service. On top of this were a cohort of new first-year constables about to head off to their assigned duties, four of whom are making their way to the Hendra station under the watchful eye of officer in charge Senior Sergeant Russ Halley.

Our police do a tough job in an increasingly fractious society. I want to thank them for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our community safety. The awards last Friday were a fitting recognition of those officers' dedication and service.

Aspley Electorate

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (6.47 pm): Over the past few weeks I had the pleasure to visit and congratulate some of our many local community organisations on their recent grant application successes. Through the Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund, Aspley Devils have just been awarded \$350,000 for additional change rooms and amenities, and Aspley Memorial Bowls Club have received \$228,000 to

upgrade their lawn bowl greens. I want to thank the Minister for Tourism and Sport for these outstanding commitments. It is fantastic to see this funding being injected back into our local community organisations. I look forward to seeing progress on these great updates.

To shine a light on some of the other brilliant northside organisations, I had a really good time with the team from Bramble Bay Women's Shed to congratulate them on their successful Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant of just over \$15,000. This organisation serves to provide women a place to develop skills in woodwork and do-it-yourself, and it is also a place where they can be part of a really empowering and welcoming community. This is a great little group that has only been around for a couple of years, probably less, but they are growing and doing really great things across the north side.


One of our many local junior sporting organisations, Aspley Little Athletics, has been supporting our emerging young athletes for over four decades. Last Saturday it was great to see so many kids being recognised for their talent and dedication at their end-of-season awards presentation. I will always continue to support northside grassroots sporting organisations as they foster our next generation of athletes and have such a large place in many locals' social and sporting lives.

Moving to exciting developments in our schools, I am really happy to report that, after recently visiting Craigslea State High School again, the construction of their Volleyball Centre of Excellence is well on the way to completion. This is a brilliant project that we committed to in 2020, and it is really great to see the progress happening. It was incredible seeing the 28-tonne concrete slabs placed on site firsthand. I cannot wait to see this multimillion dollar facility up and running as a sports precinct not only for the school's unparalleled volleyball excellence program—the best in the state—but also for it to be used by the broader community. Thank you to the staff and students for this fantastic visit.

Earlier in the month I had the pleasure of showing the Premier some of the sites of the electorate, talking with locals at the Aspley Hypermarket about our unprecedented \$1,000 energy rebate whilst also being able to highlight one of the north side's true gems, Aspley Oriental, which the Premier knows well. It is important to remember that our cost-of-living assistance, which countless Queenslanders rely on, is only possible through keeping our energy assets in public hands and our progressive coal royalties.

To show my gratitude to some of our local dedicated health staff, along with the member for Stafford I recently had the pleasure of providing cupcakes to the hardworking nursing team at Prince Charles Hospital ahead of International Nurses Day. I would like to thank the amazing leadership team of Melanie and Bradley for showing us around as well as all of the nursing staff, particularly in the post-acute care unit and the adult intensive care service. All nurses and staff at the Prince Charles Hospital do an amazing job every day.

Taringa Railway Station, Accessibility Upgrades

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.50 pm): Much has changed since the 1950s: we have had 16 different prime ministers—17 if you want to include Kevin Rudd's second go at it; the contraceptive pill was approved; Medicare was introduced; Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon; and First Nations people won the right to vote. However, one thing has almost stayed exactly the same. I am sure everyone here knows just what I am talking about. Any guesses?

A government member: The LNP!


Mr BERKMAN: I am looking at you, transport minister. Drum roll—Taringa station in my electorate! It was originally built in 1875. When the lines were quadruplicated in the late 1950s it was rebuilt with two platforms, an overpass and a whole bunch of stairs. So it is today, still completely inaccessible except by stairs. Let us put this into perspective. When Taringa station was last upgraded TV was in black and white, phones had rotary dials, Australians bought their groceries with the pound and Robert Menzies was prime minister. Those stairs have been shutting people out of the station for far longer than we have had computers or the internet. Yes, they do shut people out. Anyone who uses a wheelchair, a pram, a bike or has any mobility issue just cannot use Taringa station, which is pretty ludicrous given that it is right next to a private hospital, a supermarket, a church, allied health services and some really nice parkland.

The government says they use patronage numbers to prioritise upgrades, so I will remind them one more time—the transport minister in particular—that around 50,000 people use Taringa station each month, but the irony is that this figure excludes everyone who cannot use it because it is inaccessible. Taringa is an important and growing community hub and it deserves an accessible train station.

There is something else that has happened since Taringa station was last upgraded: the federal Anti-Discrimination Act was amended to include disability standards for public transport. Taringa station is about as far from meeting those standards as you could possibly get. More than 2,000 people signed my petition asking the transport minister to commit funding for an accessibility upgrade at Taringa station. With just a short few weeks left until the budget is delivered, I really hope I will be able to give them some good news at budget time.


I do not want to hear anyone tell them, like the former transport minister did, that they cannot access Taringa station but if they want to they should get a taxi to Indooroopilly and catch the train there instead. It is really just not good enough. We have waited long enough. Public transport accessibility is an essential investment, not a nice-to-have. Take the Taringa station out of the too-hard basket and include it for funding upgrades in next month's budget.

Logan Electorate, Education Infrastructure

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.53 pm): I want to update the House on the new primary school which, as many of you know, is halfway between the existing Park Ridge primary school and Logan Reserve school on Park Ridge Road. On Thursday last week—and this will be very interesting to the member for Mermaid Beach—I visited with FK Gardner & Sons, who were in the midst of constructing the new prep to grade 6 school. It is uniquely going to be a school with FamilyLinQ, a new connection of education, health and community services. It is a model for the Park Ridge and Logan Reserve community. I saw plans for the signalised intersection and road improvements. It is going to include a long day care and kindergarten, so for many families in the quickly growing Park Ridge and Logan Reserve area it will be a one-stop drop-off. The landscaped terrace overlooks the new sporting fields, and the basketball courts had been painted the week before. The school is formed around a central street, with outdoor multipurpose areas and a hall. I am looking forward to the new principal being appointed very soon. Parents will be able to start the enrolment process, so there will be lots of excited new grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 students in January 2025. I would also tell any local teachers in the area that this is an exciting opportunity to start in a brand new, fantastic school and to get local jobs.

Even though it was a wet day, there was a large number of workers at the site on Thursday. I note that the education minister, who is a huge supporter of this, is here for this speech because she will be very keen to see it open in January 2025. In this quickly growing area, this adds to the new classrooms we have done at Logan Reserve school and the new admin and classrooms we have done at Park Ridge State School. Because this is such a quickly growing area, we have also secured a site for a high school and special school, which is going to be a fantastic addition. I know that parents have contacted me who want special education facilities. They have said they want it more locally, because otherwise they have to go into Wembley Road or Calamvale, and this is an essential part of it. We fought for these things and now we are delivering. You would assume that under the three years of the LNP government and their forward planning there would be schools built, but we know there were none. That is why I want to keep fighting for the people of Logan, because I know they deserve the schools and services their children really need.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.56 pm): With 85 per cent of the Gold Coast Light Rail going through my electorate of Mermaid Beach, I am totally disappointed at the disruption and uncaring attitude the constructing body has demonstrated to residents and businesses along the route as they continue on their unfettered program with total disregard for community concerns. This construction was supposed to be different from light rail stages 1 and 2 in that it was to be done in staged segments to minimise the pain and suffering for businesses and residents. The government said they had learned from stages 1 and 2 and they would build stage 3 in a more caring and considered program.

What happened? There is light rail construction from Pacific Fair to Burleigh, and the businesses along these sealed-off frontages along the Gold Coast Highway have either gone broke or are going broke. Southport and Surfers have still not recovered from light rail stages 1 and 2 construction. I met with residents at Nobby Beach the other day, and one man living on the highway with two very young children said he could not get any sleep, with the construction noise going right through the night. Is he going to cop that noise until the end of 2025, when the opening date is currently scheduled? Surely there can be a better, staged construction program that delivers shorter periods of inconvenience and suffering to smaller sections as they progress down the highway.

If this is the standard this government accepts for light rail construction, I feel for southern residents from Burleigh to the airport if light rail stage 4 ever sees the light of day—not that I think their Labor mate Albanese has any intention to fund 55 per cent of \$7.6 billion, as the cost estimate of light rail stage 4 has blown out to, and that is without the normal Labor blowouts and costs this state government adds to every piece of infrastructure it tries to build in Queensland, when it actually constructs something. The \$250 million BPIC union-demanded cost overrun for light rail stage 3 that the construction body refused to pay but which was picked up by the taxpayers of Queensland by the Labor government is just another classic case of a financially incompetent government dancing to the tune of union demands.

What has happened to the corollary benefits of suffering the construction of light rail stage 3 through the Mermaid Beach electorate such as upgrades to Hedges Avenue and Albatross Avenue, which are in dire need of modernisation? The footpath in Hedges Avenue needs doubling and smoothing at a minimum, and the undergrounding of power lines to eliminate pedestrian and cycle impediments is essential. These should be the legacy projects from light rail stage 3 construction as promised to residents, and they should start now. I cannot wait for October so that Queenslanders can show Labor the door in 2024.

Transdev; Toondah Harbour

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.59 pm): There are two matters I want to raise tonight in the House. The first one is about Rob, the Transdev bus driver who was sacked unfairly two months ago after he intervened to separate a fight and rescue a passenger who was under attack. It was Rob's heroic actions which saved this person from any more injuries, but, unfortunately, Transdev gave him the sack. Coincidentally, Rob is also the union delegate. EBA negotiations are currently underway and there have been a number of stop-work actions. The delegate has come to the aid of a passenger and got the sack. It makes you wonder. The minister has called for him to be given his job back. Some 1,500 locals have called for him to be given his job back. There has been much support for him.

What is even worse is that I am receiving messages from local constituents about bus cancellations by Transdev. I received one from David this week about his not being able to get into the city. He is saying that it is happening more and more often. They have a bus driver shortage at the moment at Transdev while they are also sacking heroic bus drivers like Rob. They need to listen to the TWU, that is doing a fantastic job representing Rob, and give good drivers like Rob his job back, especially when they are short-staffed.

I want to throw my support behind Toondah 2.0. I was disappointed with the federal government's decision to not go ahead with Toondah Harbour, but it is important that we do not throw the baby out with the bathwater and ensure that this PDA can still deliver a great public outcome. I think the next iteration needs to be entirely on the land, not touching DJ Walter Park, and have no connection to the Ramsar area.

We could also utilise this area to upgrade the port and provide more formalised car parks down there with CCTV, which is much needed, and still have space for retail and dining. It could also provide valuable housing in this housing crisis. It will not come as any surprise that there would not be any community outrage when we are focusing on more housing and more units. There are already a lot of units at Toondah. You only have to drive down there to see the cranes. There are two unit blocks being built there right now, but they do not have any public infrastructure. This is a chance to have a PDA with a partnership between the private and public sectors where we are getting not only housing but also a valuable uplift to Toondah Harbour itself. It is the gateway to Minjerribah. It is the gateway to Moreton Bay. We need to upgrade it and we can do it in partnership.

The House adjourned at 7.02 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, 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