



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 20 August 2024

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TUESDAY, 20 AUGUST 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 18 June 2024

A bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to refer particular matters relating to the Help to Buy scheme to the Parliament of the Commonwealth for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the Commonwealth Constitution and to amend this Act and the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Economic Development Act 2012, the Planning Act 2016 and the Public Sector Act 2022 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Electricity Act 1994, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Gasfields Commission Act 2013, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, the Water Act 2000 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the State Financial Institutions and Metway Merger Act 1996 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

18 June 2024

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 18 June 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 18 June 2024 [[1520](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the member for Stafford, Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP, will be absent for the period of 20 to 22 August 2024 inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Member for Mirani

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received correspondence from the member for Mirani advising of his resignation and association with Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party, and for the remainder of the 57th Parliament the member will be representing the people of Mirani as an Independent. I table a copy of the member's correspondence for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 August 2024, from the member for Mirani, Mr Stephen Andrew MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, advising of his resignation from Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party effective 2 August 2024 [\[1521\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Rulings, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House and Alleged False and Misleading Account of Proceedings

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 June 2024, I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Glass House alleging that the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women deliberately misled the House while answering a question without notice on 16 April 2024.

On 17 June 2024, I also tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Nanango alleging that the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs deliberately misled the House while answering a question without notice on 30 April 2024.

On 17 June 2024, I tabled a ruling regarding a matter of privilege relating to a complaint by the member for Glass House alleging that the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women; the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development; and the members for Barron River, Kurwongbah, Thuringowa, Bundaberg, Stretton and Pumicestone all published a false and misleading account of proceedings in the House in social media posts.

I ruled that these matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I refer to these matters now so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of these matters under the standing orders, they should do so immediately.

Parliamentary Friends of Tennis

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is once again time for tennis on the Speaker's Green, parliament's annual celebration of the sport of tennis which will take place at 1 pm today. Yesterday, the Parliamentary Service staff tested out the court with a social club tournament in which I hear the Clerk was a fierce competitor. I cannot confirm or deny whether there is any truth to the allegation that the Clerk may have smacked his partner in the back with a tennis ball—it is only alleged at this stage—but I will say that the matter is made worse because his tennis partner is also his partner in life!

This afternoon we will be joined by Australian tennis star John Millman, a former world No. 33, two-time Olympian and Davis Cup representative. I thank Tennis Australia for supporting Tennis on the Green for many years—an event which many MPs look forward to on an annual basis. I also thank the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis and their co-chairs, the members for Bundamba and Oodgeroo, for their ongoing support of this wonderful event.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from West End State School in the electorate of South Brisbane.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Surace, Mr F

Mr Crandon, from 2,330 petitioners, requesting the House to deny any application for parole submitted by Francesco Surace who is serving an 11-year sentence with a non-parole period of 8 years [\[1462\]](#) [\[1463\]](#).

Pimpama State Secondary College

Mr Crandon, from 306 petitioners, requesting the House to provide for a designated junior school playground and refrigerated water bubblers at Pimpama State Secondary College [\[1464\]](#) [\[1465\]](#).

Gympie, PCYC

Mr Perrett, from 946 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a PCYC is built in Gympie [\[1466\]](#) [\[1467\]](#).

Barron River Bridge, Repair; Tablelands to Cairns Inland Highway

Mr Knuth, from 3,710 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the urgent repair of the current Barron River Bridge and to fast track a new inland highway from the Tablelands to Cairns [\[1468\]](#) [\[1469\]](#).

Rollingstone, Ambulance Station

Mr Dametto, from 1,008 petitioners, requesting the House to establish an Ambulance Station at Rollingstone [\[1470\]](#) [\[1471\]](#).

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

Victoria Point, Redland Bay and Cleveland, Police Resources

1,448 petitioners, requesting the House to consider a permanent mobile police van for Victoria Point and to prioritise extra police resources for Redland Bay and Cleveland [\[1472\]](#) [\[1473\]](#).

Euthanasia

2,465 petitioners requesting the House to consider enacting legislation that will give the right to take up the option of medically administered euthanasia for a dignified and compassionate 'end of life' [\[1474\]](#) [\[1475\]](#).

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

Mary River, Net-Free Zone

Mr Saunders, from 1,137 petitioners, requesting the House to support amendments to regulation that declare the Mary River as a Net Free Zone via a resource allocation [\[1476\]](#).

FairPlay Vouchers

Mrs Gerber, from 453 petitioners, requesting the House to expand the eligibility criteria of FairPlay voucher providers to include creative and/or artistic pastimes [\[1477\]](#).

Darlingia Forest School

Mr Knuth, from 373 petitioners, requesting the House to save our non-state democratic school, Darlingia Forest School [\[1478\]](#).

Weapons Licensing

Mr Andrew, from 1,801 petitioners, requesting the House to revise the participation conditions for a Category H weapons licencing to provide a fairer and more equitable means of counting pistol range participation days [\[1479\]](#).

Kelvin Grove Road, Pedestrian Safety

Mr Berkman, from 643 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a range of measures to improve pedestrian safety along the Kelvin Grove Road corridor [\[1480\]](#).

Bulimba Creek, Koalas

Mr Minnikin, from 1,311 petitioners, requesting the House to install safety fencing on both sides of Bulimba Creek under the Old Cleveland Road Bridge to provide safer passage for koalas [\[1481\]](#).

Queensland Community Safety Bill

Mr Dametto, from 15,586 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake widespread community consultation on the Queensland Community Safety Bill [\[1482\]](#).

Housing, Methamphetamine Contamination

Hon D'Ath, from 930 petitioners, requesting the House to support a public enquiry into the dangers of living in methamphetamine contaminated housing and to adequately protect tenants and landlords so properties can be made safe from this dangerous chemical [\[1483\]](#).

Southern Downs, Wind and Solar Projects

Mr Lister, from 2,278 petitioners, requesting the House to prevent any further development of current and future wind and solar projects within the district of Southern Downs [[1484](#)].

Disability Parking Permits

Mr Mickelberg, from 1,002 petitioners, requesting the House to alter Queensland legislation to allow parents and/or carers of a child with a disability to apply for and obtain a Disability Parking Permit for each parent and/or carer [[1485](#)].

Flinders Highway

Mr Katter, from 677 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise critical upgrades to the Flinders Highway [[1486](#)].

Cloncurry, Ramsay and King Streets Intersection

Mr Katter, from 357 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise critical upgrades to the intersection of Ramsay and King Streets, Cloncurry [[1487](#)].

The Member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, has lodged the following e-petitions which are now closed and presented—

Woongoolba State School

342 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a school hall is provided for Woongoolba State School [[1488](#)].

Woongoolba State School

292 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a new administration building is delivered to Woongoolba State School [[1489](#)].

Woongoolba State School

312 petitioners, requesting the House to provide replacement classroom furniture and upgraded playground facilities at Woongoolba State School [[1490](#)].

Cedar Creek State School

196 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the car park at Cedar Creek State School [[1491](#)].

Cedar Creek State School

199 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a kindergarten on the grounds of the Cedar Creek State School [[1492](#)].

Cedar Creek State School

187 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a number of critical infrastructure upgrades for Cedar Creek State School [[1493](#)].

Coomera State Special School

464 petitioners, requesting the House to install a signalised crossing on Foxwell Road, Coomera for Coomera State Special School [[1494](#)].

Eagleby Police Beat

513 petitioners, requesting the House to restore the staffing levels at the Eagleby Police Beat to eight officers [[1495](#)].

Ormeau Woods State High School

307 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a number of critical infrastructure upgrades for Ormeau Woods State High School [[1496](#)].

Pimpama State Primary College

310 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a designated playground facility for Years 3-6 at Pimpama State Primary College [[1497](#)].

Ormeau State School

387 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure shade structure is installed over the existing multipurpose court at Ormeau State School [[1498](#)].

Norfolk Village State School

265 petitioners, requesting the House to provide an open space nature playground for Norfolk Village State School [[1499](#)].

Pimpama State School

291 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure construction of a larger canteen at Pimpama State School [[1500](#)].

Pimpama State School

261 petitioners, requesting the House to establish sun-safe areas and walkways at Pimpama State School [[1501](#)].

Coomera Rivers State School

134 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure tiered seating, shade sails and a retaining wall for the school oval is installed at Coomera Rivers State School [\[1502\]](#).

Picnic Creek State School

166 petitioners, requesting the House to concrete the outdoor break area before the P&C funded outdoor seating and tables are installed at Picnic Creek State School [\[1503\]](#).

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

South East Queensland Forests Agreement

993 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the original conservation commitments of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement are honoured [\[1504\]](#).

Medicinal Cannabis

2,040 petitioners, requesting the House to consider Recommendation 20 of the federal 'Inquiry into current barriers to patient access to medicinal cannabis' [\[1505\]](#).

Native Forest, Timber Industry

1,197 petitioners, requesting the House to note the Code of Practice for native forest timber production on Queensland State Forest Estate 2020 is not fit for purpose [\[1506\]](#).

Youth Crime

4,615 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate a range of measures to address the issue of escalating youth crime and for this legislation to be known as 'Vyleen's Law' [\[1507\]](#).

Highways, Speed Limits

2,571 petitioners, requesting the House to increase highway speed limits along the vast majority of our modern highway network to an appropriate 130 km/h [\[1508\]](#).

Dogs, Confinement and Tethering

787 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2007 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement and/or tethering of a dog [\[1509\]](#).

Dogs, Choke Collars

639 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of choke collars used on dogs [\[1510\]](#).

Dogs, Electric Collars

746 petitioners, requesting the House to remove any provisions in the Animal Care and Protection Act 2007 that permit the use of an electric collar on a dog [\[1511\]](#).

Moreton Bay Priority Development Area

809 petitioners, requesting the House to reconfigure the PDA boundaries to protect Moreton Bay from offshore development [\[1512\]](#).

Oakleigh State School, Pedestrian Safety

454 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the Frasers Bridge pedestrian underpass and install a pedestrian crossing to provide safe access to Oakleigh State School [\[1513\]](#).

Local Planning Schemes

1,704 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure appropriate and sustainable, smaller developments generally aligned with local planning schemes [\[1514\]](#).

Burleigh Heads National Park and Burleigh Ridge Conservation Reserve, Wildlife

2,229 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently provide a safe land-bridge fauna crossing for wildlife between Burleigh Heads National Park and Burleigh Ridge Conservation Reserve [\[1515\]](#).

Gaming Venues, Information Collection

304 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw the power of Office of Liquor and Gaming Revenue or any other government body to force any gaming venue to require patrons to provide private detailed personal financial information or face banning from the facility [\[1516\]](#).

Middle East

612 petitioners, requesting the House to condemn the actions in Gaza that place Palestinians at risk of Genocide [\[1517\]](#).

Middle East

553 petitioners, requesting the House to condemn Israel for its occupation of Palestinian territory [[1518](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS**PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)**

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

17 June 2024—

- [1089](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women and Member for Waterford
- [1090](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs and Member for Springwood
- [1091](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women and Member for Waterford; the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development and Member for Bundamba; the Member for Barron River; the Member for Kurwongbah; the Member for Thuringowa; the Member for Bundaberg; the Member for Stretton; and the Member for Pumicestone
- [1092](#) Queensland Music Festival—Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2023
- [1093](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 April 2024 and 20 May 2024

18 June 2024—

- [1094](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 13, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 March 2024 and 16 April 2024
- [1095](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (4058-24) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 6,443 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately enforce that all state government offices must accept cash as a legal form of payment and condemn any move to cease the distribution or acceptance of cash
- [1096](#) Professional Standards Act 2004 (Qld): Bar Association of Queensland Professional Standards Scheme [Refer to subordinate legislation No. 97 of 2024]
- [1097](#) Professional Standards Act 1997 (WA): Law Society of Western Australia Professional Standards Scheme [Refer to subordinate legislation No. 98 of 2024]

20 June 2024—

- [1098](#) Response from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (4005-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,062 petitioners, requesting the House to install reverse cycle air conditioners in all public housing properties
- [1099](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (4039-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,561 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the medical advice used to enforce the COVID-19 mandates
- [1100](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to a paper petition (4088-24) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4051-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,625 and 540 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to cease any current Scarborough Boat Harbour planning and restart the planning process in a more open, transparent and collaborative manner, involving all key stakeholders, to develop an environmentally sustainable and community supported plan
- [1101](#) Response from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Scanlon), to a paper petition (4087-24) presented by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, and an ePetition (4018-24) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 612 and 4,373 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure that council public amenities, especially the Fraser Coast Regional Council, build gender specific 'Male & Female' amenities blocks

21 June 2024—

- [1102](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick), to a paper petition (4096-24) presented by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 320 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately enforce that all state government offices must accept cash as a legal form of payment and condemn any move to cease the distribution or acceptance of cash
- [1103](#) Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995 (Cwth): Guidelines for the Classification of Computer Games 2023

26 June 2024—

- [1104](#) Correspondence in relation to the Speaker's proposed overseas travel

28 June 2024—

- [1105](#) Auditor-General Report 15: 2023-24—Reducing serious youth crime
- [1106](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Examination of the Office of the Independent Assessor 2024
- [1107](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 15: 2022-23 Local Government 2022 and Report 8: 2023-24 Local Government 2023
- [1108](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Examination of Auditor-General Report 2: 2023-24—Improving asset management in local government

1 July 2024—

- [1109](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding application of same question rule and the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023 and the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [1110](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2024 and the absence of a message from the Governor
- [1111](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists' (Version 6)
- [1112](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists—Community pharmacy scope of practice pilot' (Version 2)
- [1113](#) Letter, dated 1 July 2024, from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, Hon. Mark Furner, to the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, Mr Cameron MacMillan, regarding an extension notice for the Fisheries Structural Adjustment Scheme under the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011

3 July 2024—

- [1114](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (4011-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,069 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation includes mandatory codes for provision of species-specific shelter and consider each species' capacity to tolerate extremes in weather

5 July 2024—

- [1115](#) Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission—Annual Report 2022-23

9 July 2024—

- [1116](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (4066-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,740 petitioners, requesting the House to request the removal of Scott's Farm from the Ripley Valley PDA and to remove the proposed primary school from Scott's Farm
- [1117](#) Letter, dated 9 July 2024, from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Hon. Grace Grace, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and extract from Queensland Government Gazette No. 44, dated 28 June 2024, regarding an approved payment by WorkCover Queensland to the Office of Industrial Relations, in 2024-25

10 July 2024—

- [1118](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 45, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 September 2023 and 30 April 2024
- [1119](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (4083-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,094 petitioners, requesting the House to revoke the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area PDA; investigate options for upgrading the Toondah Harbour ferry terminal; list GJ Walter Park on the Queensland Heritage Register; and amend the Economic Development Act 2012 to ensure wetlands and other protected places are not included in priority development areas

11 July 2024—

- [1120](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (4079-24) sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 424 petitioners, requesting the House to replace the playground equipment at the Coomera State School
- [1121](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 20 March 2024 and 16 April 2024
- [1122](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. D'Ath), to a paper petition (4097-24) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (4077-24) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 8 and 40,462 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure every Queenslanders deserves the right to protect themselves against intruders by legislating to protect victims from prosecution following the act of defending themselves against an intruder, to be known as 'Castle Law'
- [1123](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (4075-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,837 petitioners, requesting the House to, under the Referendums Act, include on the same day as the 2024 general state election, the question: 'Do you support the introduction of daylight saving from 2025'

- [1124](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Linard), to an ePetition (4015-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 887 petitioners, requesting the House to stop an incinerator being built in the Scenic Rim at Bromelton
- [1125](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (4049-24) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 3,463 petitioners, requesting the House to remove section 6.2 Payment of the first four night's accommodation from the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme
- [1126](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (4071-24) sponsored by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 7,827 petitioners, requesting the House to suspend all medical and surgical transitioning treatments for children in Queensland and commission an independent inquiry, similar to the United Kingdom's Cass Review, into gender care
- [1127](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (4076-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,939 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure increased, ongoing funding to Arthritis Queensland
- [1128](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Community Safety (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (4042-24) sponsored by the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr Langbroek, from 863 petitioners, requesting the House to provide more police traffic resources including the use of acoustic cameras to stamp out illegal behaviour, hooning and illegal exhaust modifications
- [1129](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services (Hon. Mellish), to an ePetition (4016-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 486 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure motorists are not issued with speeding fines when a flashing school zone sign is not functional or faulty for any reason
- 12 July 2024—
- [1130](#) Response from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (4038-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,408 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure there is an efficient, effective and accountable planning and development application assessment system and to remedy errors by the use of ministerial powers
- [1131](#) Response from the Minister for Tourism and Sport (Hon. Healy), to an ePetition (4000-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,285 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium for football at Perry Park
- 15 July 2024—
- [1132](#) Response from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (4089-24) sponsored by the member for Callide, Mr Head, from 1,746 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the new hospitals at Biloela and Chinchilla cater for the future needs of these communities by offering increased services and facilities including restored maternity services
- [1133](#) Response from the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals (Hon. Stewart), to an ePetition (4080-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,006 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that Fox Resources MDL3040, development of a coal mine north of Bundaberg, is rejected in its entirety as it is not in the public interest
- 17 July 2024—
- [1134](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 12, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 April and 30 April 2024
- 19 July 2024—
- [1135](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads: Maritime Safety Queensland—Marine Incidents in Queensland, 2023
- [1136](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament—Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, government response
- 23 July 2024—
- [1137](#) Further response from the Minister for Tourism and Sport (Hon. Healy), to an ePetition (4000-23) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,285 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a mid-sized rectangular stadium for football at Perry Park
- 25 July 2024—
- [1138](#) Queensland Government: Report titled 'Banned single-use plastic items: Review of Part 3A and 3AA: Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011'
- [1139](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2022-23, government response
- 26 July 2024—
- [1140](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 February and 5 March 2024, government response
- [1141](#) Planning and Environment Court Act 2016: Planning and Environment Court Amendment Rule 2024, No. 5, explanatory notes: Erratum
- 29 July 2024—
- [1142](#) Queensland Government: Report titled 'Renewable Energy Targets: Methodology'

- [1143](#) Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2024 made by the Education Ministers under sections 301 and 324 of the Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the States and Territories
- [1144](#) Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2024 made by the Education Ministers under sections 301 and 324 of the Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the States and Territories, human rights certificate
- [1145](#) Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2024 made by the Education Ministers under section 301 of the Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the States and Territories
- [1146](#) Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2024 made by the Education Ministers under section 301 of the Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the States and Territories, human rights certificate
- [1147](#) Document, undated, titled 'Statement from the Minister for Corrective Services'
- 31 July 2024—
- [1148](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Auditor-General: Basic rates of audit fees
- [1149](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report year ended 30 April 2024
- [1150](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Review of *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*, June 2024
- 2 August 2024—
- [1151](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 17, 57th Parliament—Trusts Bill 2024
- [1152](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [1153](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024
- [1154](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 13, 57th Parliament—Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill 2024
- [1155](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2024
- [1156](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 15, 57th Parliament—Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024
- [1157](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 8, 57th Parliament—Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [1158](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [1159](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 46, 57th Parliament—Criminal Justice Legislation (Sexual Violence and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2024
- [1160](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 47, 57th Parliament—Child Safe Organisations Bill 2024
- [1161](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 48, 57th Parliament—Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [1162](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 66, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, government response
- [1163](#) Statutes Amendment (National Energy Laws)(Other Gases) Act 2023 which received Royal Assent on 23 November 2023
- [1164](#) National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008: National Gas (South Australia)(Other Gases) Amendment Regulations 2024
- [1165](#) National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011: National Energy Retail (Other Gases) Amendment Regulations 2024
- [1166](#) National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011: National Energy Retail Law (Local Provisions) Amendment Regulations 2024
- 5 August 2024—
- [1167](#) Oath for appointment as Queensland Auditor-General of Ms Rachel Vagg, dated 5 August 2024
- 6 August 2024—
- [1168](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to the United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, 29 June-7 July 2024
- 9 August 2024—
- [1169](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1170](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1171](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1172](#) Cost of Living and Economics Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information

- [1173](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 49, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1174](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 49, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1175](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1176](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 11, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1177](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1178](#) Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1179](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1180](#) Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee: Report No. 9, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1181](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1182](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1183](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates
- [1184](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 18, 57th Parliament—2024-25 Budget Estimates—Volume of Additional Information
- [1185](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 19, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 April 2024 and 30 April 2024

13 August 2024—

- [1186](#) Queensland Ombudsman: Forensic Disability Service—second report: A review of the implementation of recommendations made in the 2019 Forensic Disability Service Report, August 2024

15 August 2024—

- [1187](#) Statutes Amendment (National Energy Laws)(Wholesale Market Monitoring) Act 2024 which received Royal Assent on 18 April 2024

16 August 2024—

- [1188](#) Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee: Report No. 17, 57th Parliament—Examination of the Report of the Strategic Review of the Office of the Information Commissioner

19 August 2024—

- [1189](#) Letter, dated 16 August 2024, from the Queensland Ombudsman, Mr Anthony Reilly, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, enclosing an erratum to the Queensland Ombudsman Report: Forensic Disability Service—second report
- [1190](#) Queensland Ombudsman: Forensic Disability Service—second report: A review of the implementation of recommendations made in the 2019 Forensic Disability Service Report, August 2024: Erratum
- [1191](#) Queensland Ombudsman: Forensic Disability Service—second report: A review of the implementation of recommendations made in the 2019 Forensic Disability Service Report, August 2024: Revised Report
- [1192](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Registered Nurses' (Version 5)
- [1193](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Midwives' (Version 4)

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Retirement Villages Act 1999:

- [1194](#) Retirement Villages (Financial Documents) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 71
- [1195](#) Retirement Villages (Financial Documents) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 71, explanatory notes
- [1196](#) Retirement Villages (Financial Documents) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 71, human rights certificate

Corrective Services Act 2006:

- [1197](#) Corrective Services Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 72
- [1198](#) Corrective Services Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 72, explanatory notes
- [1199](#) Corrective Services Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 72, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994:

- [1200](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 73
- [1201](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 73, explanatory notes
- [1202](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 73, human rights certificate

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [1203](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2024, No. 74
- [1204](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2024, No. 74, explanatory notes
- [1205](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2024, No. 74, human rights certificate

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009:

- [1206](#) Local Government Legislation (Superannuation) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 75
- [1207](#) Local Government Legislation (Superannuation) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [1208](#) Local Government Legislation (Superannuation) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 75, human rights certificate

Childrens Court Act 1992:

- [1209](#) Childrens Court Amendment Rule 2024, No. 76
- [1210](#) Childrens Court Amendment Rule 2024, No. 76, explanatory notes
- [1211](#) Childrens Court Amendment Rule 2024, No. 76, human rights certificate

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023:

- [1212](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2024, No. 77
- [1213](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2024, No. 77, explanatory notes
- [1214](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2024, No. 77, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

- [1215](#) Fisheries Quota (Spanner Crab Fishery) Amendment Declaration 2024, No. 78
- [1216](#) Fisheries Quota (Spanner Crab Fishery) Amendment Declaration 2024, No. 78, explanatory notes
- [1217](#) Fisheries Quota (Spanner Crab Fishery) Amendment Declaration 2024, No. 78, human rights certificate

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [1218](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (CopperString 2032—Workers Accommodation Camps) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 79
- [1219](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (CopperString 2032—Workers Accommodation Camps) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 79, explanatory notes
- [1220](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (CopperString 2032—Workers Accommodation Camps) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 79, human rights certificate

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

- [1221](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 80
- [1222](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 80, explanatory notes
- [1223](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 80, human rights certificate

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [1224](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 81
- [1225](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 81, explanatory notes
- [1226](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 81, human rights certificate

Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973:

- [1227](#) Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2024, No. 82
- [1228](#) Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2024, No. 82, explanatory notes
- [1229](#) Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2024, No. 82, human rights certificate

Information Privacy Act 2009, Right to Information Act 2009:

- [1230](#) Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 83
- [1231](#) Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 83, explanatory notes
- [1232](#) Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 83, human rights certificate

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

- [1233](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 84
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- [1235](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 84, human rights certificate

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

- [1236](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 85
- [1237](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 85, explanatory notes

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[1239](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 86

[1240](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 86, explanatory notes

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Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

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[1243](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 87, explanatory notes

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[1250](#) Civil Liability Indexation Notice 2024, No. 89, human rights certificate

Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002:

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[1252](#) Personal Injuries Proceedings Indexation Notice 2024, No. 90, explanatory notes

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Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994:

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[1255](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2024, No. 91, explanatory notes

[1256](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2024, No. 91, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Private Health Facilities Act 1999, Public Health Act 2005, Radiation Safety Act 1999, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021:

[1257](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 92

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[1260](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 93

[1261](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 93, explanatory notes

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[1266](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 95, explanatory notes

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[1278](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Code of Practice) Amendment Notice 2024, No. 99, explanatory notes

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Marine Parks Act 2004, Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011:

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[1290](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Other Rules Amendment Rule 2024, No. 103, explanatory notes

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[1305](#) Exhibited Animals (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 108, explanatory notes

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Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[1307](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 109

[1308](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 109, explanatory notes

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[1314](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 111, explanatory notes

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Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990:

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[1325](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Construction and Commissioning of Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 115

[1326](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Construction and Commissioning of Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 115, explanatory notes

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Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

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MEMBER'S PAPER

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[1519](#) Nonconforming petition regarding Zara's Rule which would allow parents or nurses to call for immediate intervention from an ICU or PICU doctor when they feel their concerns are not being heard in a life-threatening situation

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Paris 2024 Olympic Games



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.43 am): This month all eyes were on Paris. I do not think there is a Queenslander whose sleep schedule did not suffer just to get one more late-night match in or to rise to an early alarm to catch the swimming, and boy, did our athletes do us proud. A total of 142 Queensland athletes represented Australia in Paris. That is our state's largest contingent on record. They competed in 29 different sports and 40 Queenslanders won medals—that is our second highest wrap ever—nine golds, 12 silver and seven bronze.

That sort of talent does not come overnight. It takes years of devotion and hard work by athletes, their coaches and support teams—years of standing on business. It is something we should all be proud of and applaud. Paris has seen the greatest ever performance by 'Team Australia' and it is the Queenslanders who have been at the heart of this success. I have always said that Queensland is the best country in the world and our superstars have proven it on the world stage.

There are more late nights and early mornings to come. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish our Paralympians the best of luck. All of Queensland is right behind them.

Cost of Living



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.44 am): My government is doing what matters, and what Queenslanders tell me matters the most right now is a helping hand to bring down household costs like transport, energy and grocery bills. It is why we are delivering the biggest energy bill rebate in the country, something we can do because we are making mining billionaires pay their fair share and

giving that fair share back to Queensland households. To date, more than 1.3 million Queensland households have received a \$1,000 off their energy bill and for vulnerable households that increases to \$1,372 over the financial year. That is making a big difference, meaning Queenslanders have more in their pockets to pay for essentials.

I want to make sure every Queensland household receives that rebate in full, which is why I met with energy retailers to ensure that customers are getting the full value of rebates. I even made them sign a pledge to do so because Queenslanders deserve better than to be ripped off at the meter.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango.

Mr MILES: Then there are the 50-cent fares; that is what I call standing on business. Since 50-cent fares started just two weeks ago Queenslanders have saved almost \$14 million. Patronage throughout South-East Queensland was up to 98.5 per cent on pre-COVID levels. That is a pretty amazing result. When you break it down that is a 7.7 per cent increase in buses, 17 per cent increase in ferries, 17 per cent increase in light rail and almost a 12 per cent increase in rail journeys. The first weekend of 50-cent fares was the biggest weekend of public transport patronage in South-East Queensland ever.

We are not just making the bus cheaper; we are also cutting rego by 20 per cent. Queenslanders will see this discount on their rego renewals for the next 12 months. Those who might have just paid their rego will see it on their next bill regardless of whether that is three, six or 12 months from now. It is something all Queenslanders who drive a light vehicle will benefit from. Across South-East Queensland alone 20 per cent off rego is set to save drivers a massive \$239 million. If elected in October, my government will drive down petrol prices, making it fairer for all Queenslanders at the bowser.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Mr MILES: If elected in October, my government will drive down petrol prices, making it fairer for all Queenslanders at the bowser.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Toowoomba South will cease his interjections.

Mr MILES: We will cap price increases to five cents a day, limit them to once a day, help independents get into the market and build Queensland's own state owned petrol stations. It is the only comprehensive plan to make fuel more affordable for Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I need to hear the ministerial statement. I would ask that you do the same, otherwise I will start warning members.

Mr MILES: It is the only comprehensive plan to make fuel more affordable for Queenslanders.

I know how expensive grocery shopping can be. Pre-packaged food becomes cheaper and more convenient while our farmers get ripped off at the farm gate. It is why I commissioned the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee and last week at the Ekka my government accepted all recommendations from the committee. I now formally table the government's response to the report.

Tabled paper: Supermarket Pricing Select Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into Supermarket Pricing, government response [[1522](#)].

As a key initiative of our response, a Food Farmers' Commissioner will be established to assist producers navigating supplier arrangements with supermarkets. This response starts the process of helping to level the playing field between our farmers and consumers and the major supermarkets.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, it has been way too long. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MILES: There is always more to do, but only a government I lead is willing to take bold action to drive change. Good governments help with the here and now—the global pressures that come and go—but good governments also have a bold vision for the future, and that is something I am outlining to Queenslanders every single day.

Opposition, Transparency

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.50 am): Transparency, accountability and integrity in government matter to Queenslanders and they matter to me. Lobbying should be transparent, and it is for my government, and I think it should be transparent for the opposition too. That is why my government will today amend the Integrity Act to widen the definition of ‘opposition representative’ to include shadow ministers and shadow assistant ministers. This will ensure that prospectively any meetings that registered lobbyists have with a shadow minister or shadow assistant minister which fit the definition of lobbying activity will be recorded and publicly available, but we know the opposition has been meeting with lobbyists for some time without this being disclosed, exploiting—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MILES: But we know the opposition has been meeting with lobbyists for some time without this being disclosed—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr MILES: But we know the opposition has been meeting with lobbyists for some time without this being disclosed, exploiting a loophole in existing laws—something I think is rotten to the core. I am proposing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr MILES: I am proposing that a motion is moved in this House to compel members who have been shadow ministers or shadow assistant ministers during this term of parliament to produce a list of any meetings that they have had with registered lobbyists in connection with their shadow portfolio duties. Queenslanders deserve to know exactly who—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, Premier. Members to my left, I am giving a bit of latitude. I know it is the first week back after quite a gap after estimates. The interjections will cease or members will be warned and/or thrown out immediately. I reserve my rights so that I can actually hear the speaker on their feet.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Queenslanders deserve to know exactly who has been lobbying those decision-makers of the shadow cabinet in the formulation of their policies and ideas—if indeed they have any!

Cost of Living

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.53 am): The Miles Labor government is delivering what matters for Queenslanders. We know Queensland families are facing global and national cost-of-living pressures. That is why in the state budget this year our Labor government introduced the largest cost-of-living relief package of any state or territory government in history. The package includes our \$1,000 electricity bill rebates for every Queensland household. This is separate to the Albanese Labor government’s \$300 electricity rebate, so together these rebates mean that many Queensland households will not have to pay a power bill this year. We also introduced 50-cent public transport fares. Vehicle registration fees will also be reduced by 20 per cent and we rolled out a bigger and better FairPlay voucher program open to all children aged five to 17 years of age.

Our government knows the best way for families to combat global cost-of-living challenges is with good, secure jobs, and our economic management is delivering that with more people in jobs in Queensland than ever before. Figures out last week from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed another 4,300 jobs were created in July, totalling 117,300 jobs over the 12 months to July. Importantly, this was dominated by full-time jobs. In July, 4,200 of the 4,300 people—that is, 97 per cent—were employed in full-time positions. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Queensland has grown its job market by 15.2 per cent. That is an additional 390,200 people in employment. Compared to pre COVID, the ratio of employment to population in terms of the proportion of people in work has increased from 61.8 per cent to 64.3 per cent in July 2024.

I am proud to report to the House that Queensland wages are also going up. The ABS wage price index found pay rates increased 4.6 per cent over the year to the June quarter 2024. This is the strongest annual wages growth anywhere in mainland Australia. Jobs generation and wages growth are key priorities of the Miles Labor government and these results demonstrate that we are delivering just that.

Paris 2024 Olympic Games

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.56 am): As the Premier has already said, what a fortnight it was in Paris and our Olympians doing the nation proud. Our Queensland athletes were part of the most successful Olympics ever and punched well above their weight. We still have the Paralympics to go, kicking off in Paris from 28 August, and I cannot wait, because, after all, the games are all about the athletes. I am very much looking forward to the official welcome home ceremony in September for our Olympians and Paralympians to celebrate all of our wonderful Queensland sporting heroes.

The Miles government is taking every step to ensure that Queensland is ready to host the 2032 games under the IOC's new norms that will leave a lasting legacy in communities right across the state. We have already announced around \$850 million in infrastructure investment for minor venues, including over \$80 million for the commencement of works at the proposed athletes village at Hamilton Northshore. Our previously announced \$560 million investment in three venues on the Sunshine Coast and at the Chandler Sports Precinct will see a \$148 million upgrade of the Sunshine Coast Stadium. It will also deliver a brand new \$142 million indoor sports centre and \$14 million in upgrades at the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre.

The Chandler Sports Precinct is also in line for a \$257 million investment which includes a new indoor sports centre and vital precinct upgrades. These investments alone will support more than a thousand jobs, and let us not forget the \$205 million new indoor sports centre for Moreton Bay which is now out for expressions of interest to tender. This will see a new state-of-the-art sporting legacy for the community in the lead-up to and beyond the 2032 games, supporting around 178 direct full-time jobs during construction. Over half of the \$1.87 billion Minor Venues Program will either be out for tender or have had contracts awarded before the end of the year and will be ready for use by the community well before 2032. We are doing what matters for Queensland, and that includes building vital community sporting infrastructure that will be used in the lead-up to and beyond the games in 2032. Our positive plan for Queensland has already delivered thousands of FairPlay vouchers for our budding athletes of the future, along with 50-cent public transport fares.

We know that the 2032 games will provide a generational opportunity to showcase our great state, our culture, our natural environment and, most importantly, our great people. The games will also help to showcase Queensland's food, produce and athletes, who we know are some of the best in the world. The 2032 games will deliver more economic activity and more jobs, particularly for small and medium businesses. Legacy projects will also benefit Queensland in the coming decades and our state will shine.

Health System

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.59 am): We know that Queenslanders are feeling the pinch from the rising cost of living. That is why we are taking action to keep more money in Queenslanders' pockets, like \$1,000 off household power bills and 50-cent fares. Our record health budget is squarely focused on making sure Queenslanders do not have to choose between putting food on the table and accessing the care they need.

Over 77 years ago, Queensland became the first state in Australia to provide free health care to all and the Miles Labor government is proud to continue that tradition. Primary care, such as that provided by GPs, has been the responsibility of the federal government, but from talking to families in our communities we know that many Queenslanders either cannot get an appointment when they need it or, if they can, they simply cannot afford it. That is why we are stepping up and providing more primary care in the community than ever before.

Our seven satellite hospitals, which are now open across the south-east, are providing free and accessible healthcare while taking pressure off our busy emergency departments. Our minor injury and illness clinics have treated over 110,000 Queenslanders for conditions ranging from respiratory

infections and viral illnesses to head injuries and rashes. That is in addition to more than 52,000 outpatient appointments delivered across all seven sites. More than 160,000 Queenslanders have received free care closer to home as part of our nation-leading Satellite Hospitals Program. However, we are not stopping there.

Our new network of nurse-led walk-in clinics will be open seven days a week from 8 am to 10 pm, offering a lifeline to those in need. From conjunctivitis and simple respiratory conditions to cuts and urinary tract infections, those clinics will be a first port of call for minor ailments.

Let us not forget the valuable role of community pharmacists. The Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot is empowering our pharmacists to prescribe medicines for and treat common health conditions, wellbeing services and chronic disease programs. Ten pharmacists and six pharmacies are currently participating in the pilot, which will expand across the state.

Of course, we are helping Queenslanders to protect themselves against serious infections by providing free vaccinations, including free vaccinations against the flu. This year alone, around 1.6 million Queenslanders have taken up the offer of a free jab, including hundreds at the Ekka. In February of this year we made the RSV immunisation free for all babies up to eight months of age and free for First Nations babies up to 20 months of age if they have complex medical conditions. With more than 33,000 doses administered, we have seen RSV hospitalisations drop by 49 per cent. We have basically eradicated RSV for newborn babies here in Queensland. We are investing \$90 million over three years to deliver free meningococcal B vaccines to 450,000 children and adolescents.

We are working hard to remove financial barriers to essential health care, but our work is far from over. Our government will continue to work hard every day to ensure every Queenslander has access to the care they need, closer to home and without worrying about the cost.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (10.03 am): The Miles government is working every day to help Queenslanders, especially to help them to manage their household budgets. We are always looking for what else we can do to help Queenslanders and protect consumers.

Some Australian energy users have been moved to time-of-use tariffs without their consent. Today I can announce that the Miles government will progress regulation to ensure all retailers must offer a flat tariff option to Queensland households. This is another important initiative to protect Queensland consumers. It complements the Australian Energy Market Commission's three-year ban on tariff changes without consent, an initiative spearheaded by the Miles Labor government. Time-of-use tariffs do have the potential to save Queenslanders significant costs on their energy bills. However, achieving those savings is often contingent on consumers understanding their energy usage and for busy households that can sometimes be a challenge. That is why we will make it a choice.

I have also heard reports that some private energy retailers are telling Queenslanders that the distribution network is forcing them on to time-of-use tariffs. I am advised by the distribution network that that is categorically untrue. Today we put those private companies on notice: in instances where this practice of misleading consumer advice is brought to our attention, we will be referring those statements to the ACCC and, where appropriate, the Energy and Water Ombudsman for investigation.

It has also been brought to my attention that some embedded networks and bodies corporate have yet to pass on the energy rebates to Queenslanders living in apartments and multiunit complexes. I can inform the House that I have written to the Strata Community Association seeking their support to ensure operators of embedded networks take timely steps to pass on our nation-leading energy rebates. I confirm and I welcome their support.

The Miles government will always take action to help Queenslanders in every way that we can. We will always champion better protections for Queensland consumers because doing the right thing by Queenslanders is what matters.

Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.05 am): The principle of a fair go is something that is important to Queenslanders and it is important to our Labor government. It is in our DNA. To me a fair go means that every Queenslander has a safe place to call home. It is why we are investing billions of dollars to deliver new social homes, from the Cape to the Gold Coast.

Social housing gives people a leg-up, but it also creates generational change. The fact that a kid can be raised in public housing and go on to be the prime minister of this country is proof of that. A home is not just four walls and a roof; it is a foundation. It is a foundation for a young person to study and get a good job, for a veteran such as Neville to age with dignity and for someone with a disability such as Simon to live independently. That is what Labor governments are about.

Our Homes for Queenslanders plan might be ambitious, but I do not think it is unreasonable to try to meet the needs of Queenslanders. We are the first state in the country to lay out a long-term vision to do that. While 53,500 more social homes might sound like a lot, it can be done by building more public housing and utilising our Housing Investment Fund to enter into partnerships with super funds and community housing providers.

On Sunday, the Premier announced that 47 homes will be built in partnership with Y-Care, aimed at older women who are at risk of homelessness. On the Gold Coast I announced that we will work with Brisbane Housing Company Limited to build 159 social and affordable homes in the heart of Southport. In Gladstone we purchased the former Barney Beach Accommodation centre to create 85 social and affordable units. The member for Harvey Bay announced a partnership with local developer Shorelyne to build 32 new homes for low-income, older Queenslanders. In South Brisbane we saw the first expectant mothers and new families move into 60 self-contained units in the newly renovated Menso hotel. These are real partnerships and real homes, not slogans and soundbites.

The fact is that when we came to government housing had been going backwards under the LNP housing spokesperson. We have changed that and if elected in October we will continue to do what matters.

Education, Cost of Living

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.08 am): The cost of living is a huge issue. Certainly it is the biggest issue raised with me and most of us across the chamber. That is why the Miles government is pulling out all stops to provide relief for Queenslanders, with 50-cent fares, a \$1,000 energy subsidy, 20 per cent off car registration, free kindy, free TAFE, government owned petrol stations, a cap on fuel price increases and FairPlay vouchers to name a few. We know how welcome those initiatives are.

In my portfolio of education, we are going the extra mile on the cost of living as well to make sure parents do not have to choose between their child's education and the essentials of life. This weekend past, I was so pleased to announce that we are investing over \$150 million to make sure that students in some of our most disadvantaged schools get free digital devices. It will mean free devices for 140,000 students over three years. On top of that, eligible families will have free internet as part of the Australian government's School Student Broadband Initiative.

This program has been running since 2020 and we have already provided over 42,000 digital devices to disadvantaged students, which is game changing. Our kids simply must be able to learn in an online environment both at school and at home and we cannot have them divided into the haves and the have-nots. We cannot jeopardise their futures.

The 680 schools chosen in our new package were based on the socio-economic conditions of their catchment, which look at the level of unemployment, parental income, housing affordability and other cost-of-living impacts. Principals are best placed to decide what devices to invest in that best meet the learning needs of their students.

For parents, it would be like a stab in the heart to have to make decisions that mean their child misses out. We are helping to make sure parents do not need to make those sorts of decisions through the many other supports we provide for Queensland families such as free kindy, our textbook and resource allowance, GPs in schools, mental health professionals in every state school, our school breakfast and lunch program, after-school homework centres, the School Transport Assistance Scheme and Share the Dignity. All Queensland kids deserve the best start in life and that is exactly what we are working to give them. We are doing what matters.

SET Solutions

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.11 am): The Miles Labor government knows that Queenslanders deserve the opportunity to have good, secure employment and that Queenslanders deserve the opportunity to improve their skills and their prospects through quality training. That is why our government has developed the Good Jobs, Great Training: Queensland Skills Strategy 2024-2028.

This strategy commits to the development of a new framework to ensure training providers deliver quality training. Quality training is important. We have all seen what happens when training providers are poorly run: Queenslanders miss out. Take, for example, Southern Edge Training, otherwise known as SET Solutions. In November 2014, the then Newman government funnelled \$320,000 towards SET Solutions to provide call centre training in Townsville. The then member for Mundingburra took to social media to claim responsibility for that grant but, in less than a year, Telstra closed the call centre that these workers were supposed to work in. I table the media release from the Newman government and the Facebook post from the then member for Mundingburra.

Tabled paper: Extract of a social media post, dated 24 January 2015, from the then member for Mundingburra, Mr David Crisafulli MP, and a media release, dated 6 November 2014, from the then Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, regarding a grant to fund a new call centre in Townsville [[1523](#)].

Members of this House should know that before that grant was awarded in Townsville SET Solutions had already been found to be noncompliant in the training it provided. Furthermore, at the time that taxpayer funding was directed towards SET Solutions, the company was already being pursued by the Australian Taxation Office for unpaid tax obligations. SET Solutions has shown how some training providers are able to take advantage of Queenslanders—Queenslanders who are trying to improve their lives, Queenslanders who are choosing to head back to the classroom and learn a new skill, Queenslanders who have decided to invest time and energy into improving their lives.

It is precisely because of companies like SET Solutions that our government has cracked down and weeded out dodgy training providers. Since 2015, the number of registered training operators in Queensland has dropped from 683 to 355. Through our Good Jobs, Great Training strategy, the Miles Labor government is demonstrating its commitment to ensuring Queenslanders have access only to high-quality training. Anyone involved with SET Solutions or companies like it should give a full and detailed acquittal of their involvement today.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I rise to advise the House that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services will be absent today due to illness. As such, I advise the House that the Premier of Queensland will take questions for Minister Mellish during question time today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Traeger, Apology

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (10.14 am): On Thursday, 7 March I engaged in disorderly conduct whilst on the parliamentary precinct that amounted to contempt of the parliament. My actions were ill-considered and I take this opportunity to offer my unequivocal apology to the House for any indignity that has been caused to the Queensland parliament as a result of my actions.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.15 am): As chair of the PCCC, I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated May 2024.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, May 2024 [[1524](#)].

The report concludes that, during the period covered by this inspection, the CCC and law enforcement officers of the CCC complied with the provisions of chapter 13 of the PPRA in all respects. The committee received the parliamentary commissioner's report on 31 May 2024, and I am tabling the report within 14 sitting days of receipt, as required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

CFMEU

Mr CRISAFULLI (10.15 am): My question is to the Premier. In 2018 and 2022, this Labor government struck deals through the Office of Industrial Relations hindering police accessing worksites to investigate workplace unrest. Is the Premier aware of whether these deals have been used to prevent police from investigating CFMEU thuggery on Queensland construction sites?

Mr MILES: In direct response to the Leader of the Opposition's question, I can say they have not. Let me say this: as soon as evidence of violent behaviour was referred to the police and I was informed of that, we acted. Prior to that, I had met with the Police Commissioner. I had asked him to contact the Victorian Police Commissioner. I had asked him to ensure that if there was any evidence of overlap of the incidents that had been reported in Victoria it would be fully investigated and acted upon here.

I was advised at that time that the police had no current complaints or investigations. As soon as it was clear that there was a complaint and there was an investigation, we acted and we will continue to act. This week, we will be seeking the House's support to legislate to provide powers to the administrator appointed by the Albanese government to take actions related to the Queensland state registered entity, the CFMEUQ. We look forward to, hopefully, those opposite supporting that bill along with their comrades in the Greens political party. We know that the two parties teamed up in the federal parliament to block Labor's laws. The laws would have been in place a week earlier if it were not for the coalition of the LNP and the Greens political party.

Now that those laws have passed the Australian parliament, we are in a position to pass appropriate laws to ensure there is no refuge in the state system. We will ensure the strong actions being taken by the Australian government are followed up with strong actions here at a state level, and that is precisely what you will see from us this week.

CFMEU

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have a further question for the Premier. Following shocking reports of masked men assaulting a Cross River Rail worker outside his home after he stood up to the CFMEU, today I announce that an LNP government would overhaul these MOUs to empower police to do their job. Will the Premier join me and commit to overhauling these deals which hinder police investigating CFMEU industrial disputes?

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to allow the question in that it is foreshadowing a response from the Premier, but I will give guidance to members opposite to ensure that their questions are questions and not statements.

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I am advised that the MOUs to which he is referring have nothing like the effect that he is referring to. In fact, he is being grossly misleading. As I have said, we are and will continue to take action to ensure that Queensland building workers have a strong union to keep them safe and well paid, but one that does not tolerate bullying, intimidation or illegal behaviour. That is the action that we will take this week by supporting and ensuring that the administrator is equally appointed to the state registered entity.

I have to say that the Leader of the Opposition should know a thing or two about administrators. Of the people in this place, he is one of the few people who has driven a company into administration. Most of us have not achieved that—

Ms Fentiman: But much later than he should have.

Mr MILES: Obviously a bit later than he should have. The whole trading insolvent period is probably where the administrator could possibly have helped him to structure the business appropriately.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr MILES: The Leader of the Opposition is fond of asking questions but not very keen on answering them.

Mr Dick: Runs away. Hides from it.

Mr MILES: He runs away. He still has not explained what he did wrong to have to repay \$200,000, including an instalment when he was the Leader of the Opposition. He has not explained to taxpayers what role he had in funnelling more than \$300,000 of taxpayer funds into a company he then went to work at. He boasted about his role in delivering more than \$300,000 to the company that he then went to work at in less than the two-year period in which ministers are meant to not work for organisations in the policy area that they had an impact on. The member for Broadwater should think about answering some questions while he asks them.

Miles Labor Government

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Mundingburra for his question. As a member of our government he is doing what matters for Queensland, as we all are. That includes addressing the cost of living. We know that many Queensland households are doing it tough and when they are doing it tough it is important that their government supports them. That is why we delivered those \$1,000 energy rebates—rebates we could only deliver because we own our energy assets, because we stopped those opposite from selling them and because we are making multinational coal companies pay their fair share. We are redirecting that fair share to the budgets of Queensland households.

That is cost-of-living relief like 50-cent fares. We know those opposite have opposed 50-cent fares. Members of the LNP have said they only add strain to the Queensland economy. I know Queenslanders support them and we will continue to support them too. We have delivered 20 per cent off everyone's rego bill. Again, we are doing what matters for Queenslanders. We have delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers to get young people playing sport. We have a comprehensive plan to drive down fuel prices—vehemently opposed by those opposite, but a plan that we will stand by.

Those opposite have no alternative plan whatsoever on cost of living or on fuel prices. They have no alternative plan on housing or on health care. On health care they say that more data will fix it. I have never seen data help a patient and I certainly know that our doctors and nurses do not need to be told how busy they are as they know how busy they are. On community safety we know that they only have a plan to win seats with four-word slogans.

They are hiding their plans just like the Leader of the Opposition is hiding his record—his record of driving a small training company into the ground; his record of funnelling \$300,000 worth of taxpayer funds and boasting about it before going on to work for that company. He still has not told Queenslanders whether that company has ongoing tax debts—whether it has paid its tax debts. This whole idea is rotten to the core and it is about time the Leader of the Opposition started doing what matters.

CFMEU

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. The LNP can today reveal that the CFMEU registered as a third party for the election only after meeting this Premier—something the former premier refused to do. Will the Premier legislate to remove the CFMEU as a registered third party during the Queensland election campaign or will he accept the help of the militant union to secure a fourth term and 14 years in power?

Mr MILES: The member for Everton might not have been listening. By the end of this week an administrator will be appointed to the CFMEU and that administrator has indicated that they do not intend to participate in third-party campaigns or political campaigning. The actions that we are taking are ensuring we avoid the very scenario the member for Everton asked about and that makes it a pretty stupid question, frankly.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I wish to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the visiting member of the Senedd of the Welsh parliament, who is also the chair of the finance committee. I give a warm welcome to Mr Peredur Owen Griffiths and Mrs Angela Owen Griffiths. Also this morning we have with us the Hon. Heidi Victoria, former minister in the Victorian parliament, and Dr Lisa Murphy, CEO of the Stroke Foundation.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Miles Labor Government, Small Business

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier advise what the government's payment terms are for small businesses, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you have been here long enough to know not to interrupt during questions. You are warned under the standing orders. I am very close to wanting to send you out right now. Members, questions will be heard in silence. Member for Bancroft, I will ask you to start your question again.

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier advise what the government's payment terms are for small businesses, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternative?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Bancroft for the question. The Miles Labor government has a target of 20-day payment terms for small businesses. The member also asks about risky alternatives. Let us look at the payment terms for the LNP leader when he was the sole director of training company SET Solutions. The liquidator's report revealed that the company went into liquidation owing 173 creditors \$2.7 million. Liquidators also found that the LNP leader was most likely trading insolvent the entire time he was the sole director.

The ABC revealed last week that the LNP leader paid \$200,000 in a confidential settlement years after the collapse of the company. The LNP leader did not tell anyone about the hush money last month when he was asked. The LNP did not register this liability on his register of interests as a member of parliament. In fact, if it were not for the media this secret payment would have remained secret. Let us be plain and simple: this \$200,000 payment was hush money, pure and simple.

Last week the LNP leader said the hush money was part of his 'obligations' to SET Solutions' suppliers.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim!

Mr DICK: Those particular payment terms are extraordinary. It took the LNP leader three years to start paying the \$200,000. The LNP leader paid it in three silent instalments over the course of more than a year. Before the LNP leader did that, the Leader of the Opposition had to be pursued for insolvent trading in the Supreme Court of Victoria. Then the LNP leader only agreed to pay if he could keep his name secret.

Still after all of that you would think the creditors would get their money, but what happened? They got \$200,000 when creditors were owed more than \$2.7 million. This money was not for suppliers; it was hush money paid by the Leader of the Opposition. My question today is: which members of the front bench and which members of the LNP parliamentary party know about that secret payment? If it had not been for the media, no-one would have known about it. Queenslanders would not have known about it and we would have gone to the election with that \$200,000 payment kept hidden from Queenslanders—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim!

Mr DICK:—and all of this from the man who wants to be the Premier of Queensland.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is warned under the standing orders. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders just in case you did not hear me. It was hard to hear over the top of your voice.

CFMEU

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. CFMEU entry permit holder Kurt Pauls has amassed tens of thousands of dollars in fines for Fair Work Act violations and has been appointed by this Labor government to its Work Health and Safety Board. Will the Premier remove all CFMEU members from Queensland government boards?

Mr MILES: I am advised that Kurt Pauls—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left!

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I have previously advised the House, this government will act this week to appoint an administrator to the CFMEU and that administrator will have all of the powers necessary to clean up both the Queensland branch of the federally registered CFMEU and the Queensland registered entity. This is the kind of strong action that is required to ensure we clean up our construction industry. We will get that done this week, whether the LNP and the Greens political party team up to block us again or not, because it is important.

The question relates to board appointments. Most of our boards have more than one member. I am advised that the training organisation that the Leader of the Opposition drove into the ground had a board of just one—a board of just one—a sole director.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was simply: will the Premier remove all CFMEU members from Queensland government boards?

Mr SPEAKER: The question as asked relates specifically to a matter of board appointments or removals. Premier, I know you have touched on the broader issue. I ask you now to return to the specific element of the question.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I can be transparent in answering this question. The answer to the question is yes. That is in stark contrast to the Leader of the Opposition refusing to tell Queenslanders why he paid \$200,000 so that creditors would not get their money. He will not tell Queenslanders if he owes an outstanding debt of unpaid taxes. He will not explain to Queenslanders if he broke the two-year rule working for a company that he boasted about delivering hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer funds to.

On this side of the House, where a problem is identified we act. On that side of the House, when the company is insolvent and you are the sole director you keep trading until you get caught. That is the difference between our approaches.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, there were a number of members to my left—I was unable to ascertain who they were—where the Minister for State Development's name was used directly on multiple occasions. It will cease. I remind all members that correct titles will be used in this House.

Bonds, Yields

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the state of Queensland's bond yield and how it compares with others?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his important question. An investor in QTC's 10-year bond can expect a return of 4.67 per cent on top of their principal investment. That is lower than a Treasury Corporation of Victoria's 10-year yield of 4.73 per cent, but I can tell you, Mr Speaker, it is significantly higher than the returns of creditors of SET Solutions and its former director, the Leader of the Opposition. The LNP leader did not pay his tax debt when he was the sole director of SET Solutions. The special liquidators report into SET Solutions revealed that, and that is a statutory report they prepared. The report found that the Australian Taxation Office issued the LNP leader with a legal demand for more than \$112,000 in unpaid taxes. The ATO gave the Leader of the Opposition 18 days to pay it.

The report reveals not only that the LNP leader missed that due date but that he did not pay the bill at all. The LNP leader did not pay his debts. The ATO was finally able to reach a payment plan with SET Solutions but only after the LNP leader had left the building—and that was just his debt with the ATO. It does not include the \$6,400 that was owed to the Robina tavern and the Logan tavern in the electorate of Woodridge or the \$72,000 that the Leader of the Opposition owed Azzurro Consulting, a consulting company based at Hawthorne in Brisbane's east. I know the member for Bulimba will be very upset that this company, Azzurro Consulting, based in her electorate is out of pocket \$72,000. What did the LNP leader do when his debts were piling up? The LNP leader did what he always does. He reverted to form—cut and run. That is what he did.

The LNP leader will say that he paid \$200,000 to help the suppliers. Everyone now knows that \$200,000 was just hush money. That \$200,000 payment was just hush money paid by the Leader of the Opposition to keep his crooked behaviour of running that business into the ground a secret, and it took the Leader of the Opposition four years to pay. It only came about because the Leader of the Opposition was facing a claim of insolvent trading in the Supreme Court of Victoria. That is the only reason he sought to make that payment.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, there was a particular word that was used in terms of behaviour.

Mr DICK: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I appreciate you doing that for the benefit of the House.

Work Sites, Union Rights of Entry

Mr BLEIJIE: The Premier has said he will do whatever it takes to stamp out CFMEU intimidation. Will the Premier support laws that reintroduce a 24-hour right-of-entry notice provision for Queensland work sites?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. He is right: we will take appropriate measures to clean up the CFMEU and we will do that this week. What we will not do is make Queensland workplaces less safe. We will not put in place impediments for appropriately permitted union officials and Workplace Health and Safety representatives to go on site where a safety risk exists. The member for Kawana might want to see construction workers die, but on this side of the House we do not. On this side of the House, we will stand for the rights of workers to—

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

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier just said I want to see workers dying. That is the most offensive thing I have ever heard. I ask him to withdraw the comments that he made about me.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear the direct comment. The member has taken personal offence and I ask the Premier to withdraw.

Mr MILES: I withdraw. When a safety risk is identified, if a representative cannot be onsite for 24 hours that is 24 hours in which a worker could die—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana.

Mr MILES:—24 hours in which a workplace safety risk will continue to exist—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr MILES: I am as determined—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, either you are trying to prove a point or you are completely ignoring me. You are warned under the standing orders. I gave you multiple opportunities to cease your interjections. Premier, you have one minute and 44 seconds remaining. Do you have anything further to add?

Mr MILES: I do, Mr Speaker, because I take this very seriously. I have been a permit holder myself. I have visited workplaces where workers have died. My mother was a workplace health and safety inspector. There is nothing more important than workers being able to call upon a representative immediately when there is an imminent risk. For the member for Kawana, who voted against industrial manslaughter being a crime and voted to protect bosses who, through their negligence, see workers die—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr MILES: I take that interjection from the member for Everton. I am proud to have dedicated a significant portion of my life to representing working people and keeping them safe and coming in here every day for 10 years to fight against those opposite, because I know what they stand for. They stand against the interests of working Queenslanders. I will act on the CFMEU, but I will not use it as a stalking horse for bosses who want to run unsafe workplaces. I will not use it as a stalking horse to target unions or workers. We will take appropriate action while we also keep Queensland workers safe.

Miles Labor Government, Commercial-in-Confidence

Ms BUSH: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline why the government engages in commercial-in-confidence agreements, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cooper for her question. Our government engages in commercial-in-confidence agreements with the private sector to ensure Queenslanders keep their bargaining power. We saw that last week with our power supply agreement with Rio Tinto. That agreement helps protect 10,000 direct and indirect jobs while providing Rio Tinto with the renewable energy and energy security the company needs until 2040. By keeping that agreement confidential, Queenslanders keep their bargaining power for the next time we negotiate a power supply agreement. It is an example of how the Miles Labor government is using confidentiality to do what matters for Queenslanders—in this case, producing metals in Queensland, having a strong industrial base in Central Queensland, and saving and protecting 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.

In contrast, the LNP leader uses confidentiality to hide the fact he was running a business while it was insolvent. The LNP leader was the sole director of SET Solutions just before it was put into liquidation. Liquidators found that SET Solutions was more likely trading insolvent and pursued the LNP leader for insolvent trading in the Supreme Court of Victoria. That was when the Liberal Party was in power in Canberra. Under federal law, the onus was on the LNP leader to prove he was not trading while insolvent. What did the LNP leader do? He paid \$200,000 in a confidential settlement. That is \$200,000 in hush money.

Our government uses confidentiality clauses to protect Queensland taxpayers; the LNP leader uses confidentiality clauses to protect himself. There are mums and dads out of pocket because of the incompetence of the LNP leader in running that business. He ran a business into the ground. Mums and dads are out of pocket. They have lost money because of how badly he ran that company, and he has kept that a secret. At every step he has tried to cover it up, paying \$200,000 in hush money. The LNP leader had to make it go away. This just reeks. If you cannot run a small company, how on earth could you run Queensland? The LNP leader could not be trusted with public money. That is the difference between the Miles Labor government and the LNP leader. The choice facing Queenslanders in October is between a government that protects workers and a government that wants to hang workers out to dry and not protect them. That would happen under the LNP. The choice that all Queenslanders face is the Miles Labor government, which does what is best for Queensland, or the Leader of the Opposition, who just does what is best for himself.

Goondiwindi, Police Resources

Mr LISTER: My question is of the Premier. Following escalating youth crime in Goondiwindi, the Premier told the media there are 18 officers at a local police station. Whistleblowers have confirmed to the LNP that as few as nine officers have been available to be rostered in recent weeks. What does the Premier say to Goondiwindi locals for operating their police station at half capacity in the middle of a youth crime crisis?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Southern Downs for his question. I was advised yesterday that the Police Commissioner has deployed additional policing resources to Goondiwindi, including a team from Toowoomba, to ensure there are additional police there. I can also advise the House that, given the cross-border nature of the crime occurring in Goondiwindi, we will act this week to expedite the appointment of Queensland's Cross-Border Commissioner so that—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I would ask you to listen to the answer.

Mr MILES: Policing across that border can be challenging. I understand from news reports that the alleged offences tend to involve stealing motor vehicles in Queensland and dumping them on the other side of the border.

In addition to these additional police, which appropriately are operational decisions for the Police Commissioner, my government will act to ensure we have the Cross-Border Commissioner in place as quickly as possible to support the community of Goondiwindi as well as all of the other border towns and to work with their counterpart Cross-Border Commissioner in New South Wales to ensure those communities get the support and policing they need.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland by securing our Olympics infrastructure, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for the question. I know how proud we were to stand at that site in Moreton Bay and announce the exciting new \$205 million indoor sports centre. It was great to be there with the Premier and federal minister Katherine King, co-funders of our \$7.1 billion funding envelope to deliver venues for the games in 2032. It was great to see Jeff Horn there, because that will probably be a site for boxing. We wish all of the athletes who are going to participate in boxing in 2032 a fantastic games. Hopefully we can get gold at that Moreton Bay centre when the games come around.

Tenders are now in the market for this exciting new venue, which will deliver a massive legacy in that area. It is right near the train station, I might add, just across the road. It is a fantastic area. As the Premier said on the day, he grew up in that area and he never thought he would see such a facility. What a great legacy for that part of Brisbane and Queensland. We are out in the market. It is an exciting new venue that will deliver a massive legacy which will be enjoyed by locals well before the games and for decades to come.

As I mentioned earlier, over \$850 million is out there in the market for venues to be used for the 2032 games and we are looking forward to delivering that. We have our experts IOC vice-president John Coates and Ian Chesterman, president of the AOC and newly elected IOC member, supporting Brisbane's plan, Queensland's plan, for the 2032 games. What do we hear in alternatives? Not much at all. We have the Leader of the Opposition saying different things on different occasions and hiding behind a 100-day review. The Leader of the Opposition says, 'We'll clean the mess.' Let me tell him that SET Solutions were in a bit of a mess and they gave him more than 100 days to fix that one up, and we have been hearing from the Deputy Premier about exactly the job that he did there and what a mess it was for the creditors of SET Solutions.

Mr Mander: Desperate.

Ms GRACE: We have really seen—yes, it is desperate, all right. I take the interjection from the member for Everton.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Deputy Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will cease your interjections.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, could you imagine if it was one of us with that report on SET Solutions? You would have the member for Kawana denigrating every one of us. You would have the member for Maroochydore coming up about integrity. Remember the laptop stuff and all the rubbish that was raised about that? They made it up then, but they do not want to answer questions when it relates to themselves.

Gold Coast University Hospital

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. It has been revealed in the media that there is a part 6 investigation into the actions of a breast surgeon at the Gold Coast University Hospital. How many cases have been identified as part of this investigation, and have any clinical staff been stood down?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. There is an investigation underway into this matter at the Gold Coast University Hospital. I am advised it has not identified any surgeon operating outside of their scope of practice, nor has it been found to cause any harm to patients or patients needing to be recalled to the hospital. I am also advised that the surgeon has not been operating while this investigation is underway.

Health System

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister detail how the Miles Labor government's plan is delivering Queenslanders better health care closer to home, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Redlands for championing great health services in her community. She is a great local champion for the Redlands Satellite Hospital. Since it opened in August last year it has provided world-class care to over 20,000 baysiders, which is fantastic.

I will take any opportunity to talk up the wonderful care that our doctors and nurses are providing at our satellite hospitals. This is in stark contrast to the Leader of the Opposition, who, it would seem, would take any opportunity to whinge and whine about how those satellite hospitals are being run by our hardworking doctors and nurses. That is pretty bold, given his track record when it comes to actually running things. The one time this man was put in charge of running something it was seen that he was completely incompetent. He took over as sole director of SET Solutions and traded whilst insolvent. That is a pretty serious allegation for the Leader of the Opposition, but what did he say in this place in 2018? He told the parliament that he left the business 'without a single mark of wrongdoing' against his name. I am not sure why the Leader of the Opposition thinks trading whilst insolvent and not paying taxes is not a mark of wrongdoing. What in fact would be a mark of wrongdoing?

This is a pretty serious allegation under the Corporations Act. In fact, it carries fines of more than \$600,000 or even five years imprisonment, so it is a pretty big mark of wrongdoing, I would say. Of course, this is on top of the \$200,000 that we have now found he has paid out to keep this quiet. Since these reports have emerged, what has the Leader of the Opposition said in response? What he has said is, 'I made a fulsome statement about all of these matters back in 2018.' Well, since 2018 we have had a PwC report that says the company was trading whilst insolvent and we have had three instalments to keep his name out of the courts and out of the media of \$200,000, and he will not answer a question. We know that he does not like usual press conferences and he runs away from the cameras—he does not want to talk to the journalists—but to not even stand up and take questions on these serious allegations just shows how weak the Leader of the Opposition really is.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I will ask that you please withdraw that last reference.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw.

State Schools, Reading Resources

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice. The book *Gender Queer* shows its author fantasising about paedophilia with an image of a man touching a boy's genitalia. Can the minister please confirm that this book is not on the shelf at any Queensland school and, if it is, commit to having it urgently removed?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for the question. I am not aware of the book at all. I am happy to make inquiries about it. It is really important, obviously, that we are all very transparent about everything that happens in all of our portfolios. If you want to be the government of this state, one of the things the people of Queensland really require of all our leaders is that we are absolutely transparent. It is getting to that time when people are going to be asking questions about what an alternative government is going to be doing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! I cannot hear the minister, members to my left, in order to ascertain what she is saying. You will cease your interjections, please.

Ms FARMER: We are all absolutely transparent about what we are doing and what our plans are. We have a very fulsome plan for education, we have a plan for energy and we have a plan for the cost of living. We have plans for every single thing that we are going to be doing, but we just cannot seem to get a word out of the opposition on what they are doing in every single portfolio. I know that in education there are a couple of words here and there and in youth justice there are a couple of words here and there. I kept on thinking, 'Is it because they haven't got a plan? Is it because it's a bit dodgy and they don't really know what it's all about?'

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, it was a very specific question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Funny, is it, members to my left? I am giving a ruling. I hope you would like to hear it. Minister, it was a very specific question. I believe that you have given an undertaking to the member to look into it further. I ask that you return to the subject matter of the question or I will ask you to resume your seat under relevance under standing order 118(b).

Ms FARMER: Thank you for your guidance, Speaker. I am not aware of the book that the member speaks of, but I absolutely commit that in any action I take as education minister I will be absolutely transparent. I think it is what we would expect of any leader: to be absolutely transparent about what their plans are, about what their past is, about what their future is—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I have given you some guidance. The question was not about transparency. The question was not related to that. I will ask you to resume your seat.

Miles Labor Government, Small Business

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to support small businesses, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr McCALLUM: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. I acknowledge her ongoing strong advocacy on behalf of small businesses in her electorate and, indeed, the advocacy of every single member of the Miles Labor government. This is a government that is delivering record levels of support for Queensland's small businesses that includes \$650 off the energy bills of over 200,000 small businesses in Queensland.

It includes 20 per cent off vehicle registration for sole trader and small business vehicles. We are talking cars, utes, vans, trailers and light commercial vehicles. We have direct financial grants where we are providing direct financial assistance to our small businesses in the amount of \$5,000, \$25,000 and \$75,000. We are putting more money back into the pockets of both small businesses and their customers through our cost-of-living relief measures like 50-cent fares and \$1,000 in energy rebates to the customers of small business. We will always back Queensland small businesses.

I am asked about alternatives. I am asked about risky alternatives. Let us compare what the Miles Labor government is doing for small businesses with what the LNP did when they were last in government. How much direct financial assistance did the LNP provide to small businesses when they were last in government? Nothing. Zero. How much did the LNP commit in terms of direct financial assistance to Queensland small businesses this year in their budget reply speech? Zero. Not one dollar. But that is no surprise. That is no surprise when we consider the revelations in the media when it comes to how the LNP do business and how they treat Queensland small businesses.

We have seen the revelations about the Leader of the Opposition and SET Solutions where there is a list of creditors that is so long. It is a long and winding road that leads up and down the breadth of our great state and it ends in a murky swamp of obfuscation.

In a transcript from 20 July 2021, the Leader of the Opposition said, 'I can tell you one thing I intend to do and I intend to make sure that we are open and we're transparent.' Why is that date of 20 July 2021 important? It was the day after he made his final secret payment in the \$200,000. The hypocrisy is breathtaking.

(Time expired)

Lung Health, Screening

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals. Workers who are exposed to coal dust outside of mines are increasingly dealing with the serious health effects of pneumoconiosis, or black lung disease, but, under the coalmine workers health scheme they cannot access screenings with the Heart of Australia black lung bus. Will the minister expand the scheme so all coal workers, including port and railway workers, are eligible for these free lung health checks?

Mr STEWART: I thank the member for the question. This is very important. We know that there was a parliamentary inquiry which had support from both sides of the House—the full support of this House—and since then we have acted on the report that came out from that particular inquiry, and we continue to do that work. The Heart of Australia continue to run the bus, as the member for Maiwar is no doubt aware, right across this state. They have done some outstanding work. In fact, in the last 12 months they have travelled in excess of 80,000 kilometres to cover the length and breadth of this state doing those particular tests to determine whether previous workers have pneumoconiosis or are at risk of developing pneumoconiosis.

To put that into perspective, the circumference of the Earth is 40,000 kilometres, so they have travelled twice around the world to be able to get into remote communities, into places where previous workers have worked. That is paid for by the coal companies, collected by Resources Safety & Health Queensland for the workers of those coal companies. Those who work in places like on the trains that carry the coal and at ports who might be exposed to coal dust are actually covered under WorkCover.

We have been working very closely with Minister Grace and her portfolio to ensure workers are covered. This is important work. It is something that affects lives and takes lives. That is why we will continue to work each and every day to ensure that bus, which is the first of its kind anywhere in the world, gets to travel to remote communities like Collinsville, Dysart and Mount Isa—it has been to Townsville several times as well—to ensure people who have worked in those mines have the opportunity to get that screening done. If you can get that screening done and it comes up with a positive detection, you can get some early intervention.

We also realise from that work that workers in some of those other coalmine locations are not covered under that financial agreement from those coal companies also need to be covered. It is important work. We are continuing to work with WorkCover. I encourage any former coal worker who has worked in a coalmine or has any concerns to make sure that when that bus comes to town they get tested, because early detection and early intervention can save lives.

Consumer Protection

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs. Can the minister update the House on what the Miles Labor government is doing to protect Queensland consumers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Maryborough, who fights for his community every day. In fact, he is working hard, just like everybody on the Labor team, to protect Queensland consumers across the board. The contrast is just so clear. Here we have the member for Maryborough delivering \$1,000 to constituents in his neighbourhood through mining royalties whilst the LNP said no to relief and let power prices go up by 43 per cent. He is the member for Maryborough who helped ban rental bidding, whilst the LNP in office axed the tenancy support service. In fact, every time this Labor government moves to protect Queenslanders, the LNP object. We have heard them say no. We have heard them say no to cheaper petrol and diesel prices for Queensland motorists. We have heard them object to progressive mining royalties. In office, they even scrapped protection for motorists.

I am advised that the LNP, when the Leader of the Opposition was in cabinet, scrapped car warranties for Queensland motorists, stranding buyers with lemons. Imagine a scenario where he leaves his Glitter Strip home in the morning, he jumps in the \$200,000 car that he paid for with money he just had lying around—the fluffy dice hanging off the rear-view mirror, the blackout tint so that no-one can see in and a sick rear spoiler—and he is ducking and weaving, ducking and weaving down the M1, probably en route to the country club on the southern edge of the Gold Coast, going down to Terranora Lakes for some secret business meetings perhaps. You can imagine what will be on his playlist on the stereo. There will be Miley Cyrus with *Wrecking Ball*, Bryan Adams with *Cuts Like a Knife*, and I am sure a little bit of Fleetwood Mac—and you all know the tune I am referring to. The car breaks down and because he has scrapped the lemon laws, he is stranded. Fear not, Labor reinstated the consumer protections he scrapped.

Our record on protecting consumers is clear in energy, in renting and even for motorists—not so those opposite. It is the LNP secret plan for big bills and little help—creditors including family small businesses that are victims of the SET Solutions fiasco. There was a \$200,000 concession by the Leader of the Opposition undisclosed. Seriously, it is time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean.

Trad, Ms J

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. Following the Chair of the CCC's evidence in estimates on 26 July, can the Attorney confirm if former Labor member Jackie Trad's solicitors have now resolved the final costs of the battle with the CCC and, if so, what are those final costs?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for the question. No. I am still awaiting final confirmation that settlement has occurred.

Consumer Protection

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the Attorney-General advise how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland and protecting families from dodgy companies, and is the Attorney-General aware of any risky alternatives?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Caloundra for his question, and it is a very important question. My department and this government every day go out to ensure we are protecting consumers. We are protecting mum-and-dad small businesses across this state. A fundamental aspect of the Corporations Law, whether that be the Associations Incorporation Act here in Queensland or the Commonwealth Corporations Act, is that there are strict rules regarding when trading insolvent. In 2022, this government inserted requirements into the Associations Incorporation Act to the trading insolvency laws to insert a duty to prevent insolvent trading. These rules make it clear: you cannot keep doing business if you cannot pay your debts.

The reason for these amendments is to protect creditors, employees and customers. Corporate history is littered with cocky directors who thought they knew better than anyone else attempting to trade their way out of insolvency. What instead occurs is that victims end up getting cents in the dollar for what they are owed. The victims are not only banks; they include small businesses, mum-and-dad investors, pensioners and customers. The Office of Fair Trading spends every day looking out for Queensland consumers—protecting them from businesses that are full of promises but short on results and service.

Recent public reports indicate that liquidators of the company SET Solutions, which the opposition leader was a director of, believe that the entity may have been trading insolvent for the entire period that the Leader of the Opposition was the sole director. We have heard that the Leader of the Opposition was involved in a business that secured government funding for a company that he then took over as sole trader for. Not only that but he also engaged a consultancy firm. One of the unsecured creditors—the third highest creditor owed money—is whose consultancy company? The Leader of the Opposition's own consultancy company! The business he is sole director of, a registered training organisation, consulted back to his own company which owed \$72,000. I am reminded of someone else who did this—ran an organisation, had a separate consultancy firm, engaged his consultancy firm and then sought debts back from that organisation. Who was that? Scott Driscoll, the former member for Redcliffe. He did that; he engaged his own firm. The Leader of the Opposition has a lot of questions to answer. Stop hiding from Queenslanders.

Brady, Dr S

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Energy. Why was Dr Brady prevented from interviewing whomever he wanted as part of his \$10.4 million investigation into the explosion at the Callide power plant?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. First of all, I advise the House that, in fact, Dr Brady has now categorically stated that he was not denied access to anyone. This is in stark contrast to the rights that were not afforded to those small and family businesses that sought access to the funds they are owed by the member for Broadwater. The question that needs to be answered in this place today is not about the member for Nanango's failure to keep up with what is happening in the court; the questions that need to be answered are those of the Leader of the Opposition that have rightly been put by members on this side of the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the minister is being relevant, from what I can hear. He may be making other commentary but, on the whole, it is still relevant. There is no point of order.

Frontline Workers

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland by supporting frontline workers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister. You have one minute to respond.

Mr RYAN: Thank you very much, Speaker. As always, you are very generous with your time! I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. I have known a number of members for Hervey Bay and he is the best member for Hervey Bay that this parliament has ever seen.

We have heard it all today. Of course, we are investing in the front line so that the Queensland Police Service has very good investigative skills to discover dodgy practices. We have heard revelations today about the dodgy practices from the Leader of the Opposition, not only when he was in business but also when he was in this House—not declaring the things that need to be declared, keeping those payments secret. This is a question of character and a question of integrity, and those questions need to be answered by the Leader of the Opposition right now. We have heard shouts from those opposite of ‘say it outside’. The Leader of the Opposition needs to go outside right now and answer the media’s questions about these dodgy practices.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am): I move—

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
 - (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of three hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 1 pm on Thursday, 22 August 2024;
 - (c) the Queensland Community Safety Bill, to complete all stages by the automatic adjournment on Thursday, 22 August 2024;
 - (d) the revocation and dedication of protected areas standing in the name of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, a maximum of 20 minutes to complete;
 - (e) a substantive motion to be moved by the Leader of the House regarding sessional orders, a maximum of five minutes to complete;
 - (f) a substantive motion to be moved by the Leader of the House regarding integrity matters, a maximum of 20 minutes to complete;
 - (g) a substantive motion to be moved by the Leader of the House regarding cognate and urgency of legislation introduced, a maximum of 5 minutes to complete; and
 - (h) the order of consideration of the Estimates Committee Reports associated with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and Appropriation Bill is as follows:
 - Tuesday: Cost of Living and Economics Committee (Appropriation (Parliament) Bill report), Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee report, Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report, Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report, Community Support and Services Committee report (if time permits).
 - Wednesday: Community Support and Services Committee report (if required), Cost of Living and Economics Committee (Appropriation Bill report), Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report, Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee report.
3. The following time limits for the bills listed in 2. apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (ii) for the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, by 12.30 pm on Thursday, 22 August 2024; and
 - (iii) for the Queensland Community Safety Bill, by 30 minutes before the automatic adjournment on Thursday, 22 August 2024.

4. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the specified times, the Speaker:
- shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 39:

LNP, 33—Bates, 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, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Ind, 2—Andrew, Bolton.

Pairs: Mellish, Molhoek; Sullivan, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

QUEENSLAND FOOD FARMERS' COMMISSIONER BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.20 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

QUEENSLAND FOOD FARMERS' COMMISSIONER BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to establish the office of Queensland food farmers' commissioner and for related purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 20 August 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 20 August 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill 2024 [[1525](#)].

Introduction



Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.21 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Office of Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner and for related purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill 2024 [[1526](#)].

Tabled paper: Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill 2024, explanatory notes [[1527](#)].

Tabled paper: Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1528](#)].

This important bill reflects the government's commitment to redress the imbalance in market power between the major supermarkets and their fresh produce suppliers. This imbalance in market power has the potential to result in price gouging and other predatory actions by supermarkets at the expense of their fresh produce suppliers. This can result in diminished incentives for investment by fresh produce suppliers, lower levels of food supply than might otherwise be the case and higher prices passed on to consumers.

This issue was addressed by the parliament's Supermarket Pricing Select Committee in its report, tabled on 31 May 2024. That report recommended the appointment of a commissioner to address this issue. On 12 August 2024, the Miles government accepted all of the recommendations of the committee including legislation to establish the position of the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner. This legislation is necessary to create a statutory position with real independence. This is essential to overcome the mistrust many producers have of the existing arrangements governing their relationship with the major supermarkets. The bill establishes the Office of the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner to work with and support Queensland farmers and consumers in their dealings with supermarkets to improve transparency, redress power imbalances, and support sustainability and stability of the food supply chain in Queensland.

Drawing on the recommendations of the select committee, the bill provides the following functions for the commissioner:

- to provide a primary point of contact for matters affecting Queensland-based agricultural and horticultural farmers;
- to provide information and advice to help farmers understand and manage arrangements that govern relationships between supermarkets and their suppliers;
- to work collaboratively with state and Commonwealth entities and other persons responsible for regulating farmers;
- to monitor and advise the Queensland government on developments in national arrangements that govern the relationships between supermarkets and their suppliers;
- to report to the minister about a particular issue or general matter affecting farmers or consumers including, for example, improper behaviours and business practices adversely impacting farmers or consumers;
- to prepare reports about a particular issue or general matter relating to farmers or consumers, or the commissioner's functions; and
- to perform any other function given to the commissioner under this or another act.

The commissioner is appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the minister for not more than three years, with the possibility of one further three-year appointment. The initial expression of interest that has been circulated is for an interim appointment of 12 months. This will allow for consideration of longer term arrangements once the Australian government landscape in this area becomes clearer by mid-2025.

The interim commissioner will be eligible for longer term appointment. Staff of the commissioner will be employed under the Public Service Act. The minister may give the commissioner a statement of expectations. Importantly, the bill contains confidentiality provisions which will protect the confidentiality of information provided to the commissioner and the privacy of the individuals concerned. The bill requires a review of the act after four years. In practice, the government intends to consider longer term arrangements, including the need for further legislation, on advice from the commissioner in mid-2025.

I would like to thank the members of the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee for their report, and the officers of my department and others who have developed and expedited this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (11.25 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 Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee.

CROSS-BORDER COMMISSIONER BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.25 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

CROSS-BORDER COMMISSIONER BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to establish the office of cross-border commissioner and for related purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 20 August 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 20 August 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024 [\[1529\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.26 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner and for related purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024 [\[1530\]](#).

Tabled paper: Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[1531\]](#).

Tabled paper: Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1532\]](#).

More than 750,000 Queenslanders live in the 12 local government areas along our state's borders with New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Those living in communities on or near the border cross state lines every day to work, to study, to see family and friends and to access essential services. Navigating differences in regulation and service delivery, which naturally exist between jurisdictions, can be challenging for communities and add to the cost and ease of doing business in border areas. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration between states and territories and engagement with local communities.

The Cross-Border Commissioner Bill 2024 delivers on the Miles Labor government's commitment to establish a cross-border commissioner to help manage cross-border issues and to work collaboratively with neighbouring jurisdictions on service delivery and economic opportunities. The announcement, made in the 2024-25 budget, was met with overwhelming support by local councils along our borders and key advocacy groups, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce and South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils. Goondiwindi Regional Council called it a 'significant development' that promises to address longstanding cross-border issues that have affected their community. The Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce said it 'warmly welcomes the establishment of the Office of the Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner', calling it a 'pivotal development' that aligns closely with their efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation and enhance economic opportunities that benefit both Queensland and our New South Wales neighbours.

The bill establishes the functions of the Cross-Border Commissioner and the Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner and draws on best practice from similar models used in other Australian states. The commissioner's functions under the bill are to facilitate the operation of cross-border

agreements, enhance engagement between stakeholders and with neighbouring jurisdictions, advocate for the resolution of issues affecting cross-border communities and provide advice to the government on cross-border issues.

In carrying out their functions, the commissioner will work collaboratively with cross-border communities and stakeholders including local governments, other state and territory governments, regional bodies, industry associations and community groups. Under the bill, the commissioner is appointed on the recommendation of the minister for a period of three years, with a maximum term of six years. The bill provides for the minister to direct the commissioner on matters relevant to the commissioner's functions and give the commissioner a statement of expectations for the performance of their duties. Details of any ministerial direction will appear in the commissioner's annual report, which will be tabled in parliament.

The bill also establishes the Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner to help the commissioner perform their functions. Staff in the office will be employed under the Public Sector Act 2022 and will report directly to the commissioner. The 2024-25 budget provides \$3.26 million to support the establishment of the Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner including two employees to support the commissioner in that role.

The bill is compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019. A statement of compatibility has been prepared for the bill. Border communities have advocated to us for the establishment of a cross-border commissioner in Queensland and the Miles Labor government has listened. We are delivering funding and legislation to establish this role that will be crucial in advancing the social and economic wellbeing of Queensland's border communities. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.30 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

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

NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.31 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to establish the office of night-life economy commissioner and for related purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 20 August 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 20 August 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 [[1533](#)].

Introduction

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.31 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Office of Night-Life Economy Commissioner and for related purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 [1534].

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024, explanatory notes [1535].

Tabled paper: Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [1536].

The bill seeks to establish the Night-Life Economy Commissioner to work with night-life businesses to create a vibrant and safe night-life environment and support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night-life economy. Queensland is known throughout the world as the Sunshine State. We are proud of our golden beaches, our lush rainforest and our wide open plains, but it is when the sun sets—when a pulse of energy runs through the streets of our cities and towns—that our mighty state of Queensland truly shines. The new Miles Labor government is committed to giving Queenslanders a good, safe night out and we are committed to our night-life businesses and their economic, employment and cultural contribution to Queensland. We are so serious that we are legislating it.

This bill aims to cast the lead role for the state's night-time industry. The new commissioner will work with the industry to support, promote and advocate for key aspects of the night-life economy. The main objective of the commissioner is to work with night-life businesses to create a vibrant and safe night-life environment. They will have an emphasis on partnerships that encourage the growth, sustainability and vibrancy of the diverse local businesses that underpin this important sector.

The new Miles Labor government acknowledges the unique needs of night-life businesses, necessitating the creation of a night-life economy commissioner. This role will ensure that effective support mechanisms for addressing issues impacting the night-time economy and government programs meet their specific needs. The bill establishes the commissioner's appointment and functions, establishing them as a central advocate for night-life businesses, working statewide and interjurisdictionally to enhance these enterprises.

The focus will be on fostering partnerships that promote growth, sustainability and vibrancy. Collaboration with other commissioners on matters relevant to the night-time economy is also required, recognising the common interests of other issues in other areas. The commissioner may also conduct inquiries into issues affecting the night-time economy upon ministerial direction, ensuring a coordinated government approach. The requirement that the minister must direct the commissioner to conduct an inquiry is to navigate when an issue may intersect across multiple areas and ensure a coordinated government approach is applied.

We all have fond memories of evenings spent out with our family and friends going to gigs, dining out, seeing a show, watching live comedy or visiting the many clubs, pubs and restaurants operating in the night-time economy across our great state. I am proud to introduce this bill, which backs in our night-life economy, the businesses operating within it and, most importantly, the Queenslanders whose lives and livelihoods depend on it. With this bill and this new role, the Miles government is not just strengthening the Sunshine State; we are making it the 'starlit state' as well. I commend the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill 2024 to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LR McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.35 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 Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee.

QUEENSLAND FOOD FARMERS' COMMISSIONER BILL**CROSS-BORDER COMMISSIONER BILL****NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL****Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate; Allocation of Time Limit Order**

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.35 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill, the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill and the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill be declared urgent bills and not stand referred to a committee and be set down for their second readings to enable the bills to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting;
2. In accordance with standing order 172, the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill, the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill and the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with—
 - (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles; and
3. Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the time limits and order for the second reading of the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill, the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill and the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill (cognate debate) will be a total time for debate of 40 minutes: Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)—25 minutes; any other member—five minutes; with no time allocated for the mover in reply.
4. If all stages of the bills listed above have not been completed by the end of the maximum time specified in paragraph 3., Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bills without further debate
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In moving this urgency motion today, I am advised that these bills are not complicated in nature and establish the legislative framework for what has already been announced in the public domain. In particular, one of the commissioners to be established—by the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill, which has been introduced—was the subject of a parliamentary inquiry and the others were announced earlier during the budget process. I am also advised that the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill is in response to calls from townships along our borders to help deal with the complex issues of living in those border towns. In addition, this week we have seen the issues in Goondiwindi in respect of community safety issues, and this commissioner will collaborate with agencies to ensure a cohesive and strong response. I can advise that it is the government's intention to debate these bills on Wednesday. Officers of the relevant ministers are available to answer questions ahead of the debate if required.



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (11.39 am): The LNP opposition will not be supporting this motion. However, Madam Deputy Speaker, please do not in any way interpret that as meaning that we do not support the explicit legislation that it applies to. We would have accepted urgency on these bills. What we cannot accept is that we will debate three bills in 40 minutes. That is ridiculous.

Let us go to the matter of urgency and look at the role of a cross-border commissioner. Suddenly this government has determined that this is a priority. Why? As we have known for this entire term, they only act if they get adverse press. What occurred in the past 24 to 48 hours? Adverse press in Goondiwindi!

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to the commentary of the manager of opposition business. He is going to the substance of the bill and not the substance of the urgency motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am listening to the contribution. I am prepared to allow some latitude on the scope but I will ask that you come back to the actual motion, member.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. On urgency, I know that the member for Southern Downs has been calling for this legislation for at least half a decade if not an entire decade. I know that during the COVID pandemic the member for Currumbin was raising the issue of the need for a cross-border commissioner. As to the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner, in his contribution on this debate the Leader of the House himself referred to the supermarket pricing inquiry, which finished three months ago. How many sittings have we had since then when they could have introduced this?

We have had this dumped on us and been given 24 hours to consider and 40 minutes to debate three important pieces of legislation. That is the part that the opposition cannot agree to. Those opposite have trashed parliament. They are treating it like a plaything. Enough is enough.

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 38:

LNP, 33—Bates, 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, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Mellish, Molhoek; Sullivan, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.46 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the sessional orders for the 57th Parliament circulated in my name be agreed to and effective immediately.

TEMPORARY AMENDMENTS TO SESSIONAL ORDERS

1. Sessional Order 1, Wednesday
 - Omit—*
 - 2.00pm — 3.00pm—
 - Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 5) if no reports to debate, Government Business
 - 3.00pm — 4.30pm—
 - Government Business
 - Insert—*
 - 2.00pm — 4.30pm—
 - Government Business
2. Sessional Order 1, for Thursday 12 September only—
 - Omit—*
 - 3.00pm — 6.30pm—
 - Government Business
 - 6.30pm — 7.00pm—
 - Automatic Adjournment
 - Insert—*
 - 3.00pm — Government Business until adjournment moved by the Leader of the House (no adjournment debate)

3. New Sessional Order 2A—

Insert—

2A. Valedictory speeches

Valedictory speeches of retiring Members will take place during government business, at a time and in the order advised by the Leader of the House, with each Member allotted a maximum of 15 minutes.

In moving this motion I wish to once again outline my thanks for all of the parliamentary staff who work tirelessly each and every day for not only the members and staff of this House but also all Queenslanders in ensuring the proper running and functioning of the Legislative Assembly. I do this as I know that we have extended the sitting hours of this chamber in recent sittings and will do so this week and most likely during the next sitting week, and all of the staff take the changes and enhancements in their stride.

Turning to the substantive elements of the motion before the House today, the motion in effect does three things: it removes the debate of committee reports for the remainder of the session, it removes the automatic adjournment on the last sitting day with no adjournment to occur and it establishes the framework for the valedictory debate. There are currently 12 committee reports on the *Notice Paper* for debate. These reports have been carefully considered by bipartisan committees and they have made their reports, sometimes with recommendations for the appropriate decision-makers to review and action, if required. Generally, those decision-makers are not the parliament; they are members of the executive and the Crown. As such, the committees have discharged their duties and reported and made recommendations, where relevant. It is now up to those decision-makers to review the reports and take action, if needed. All that was occurring during that time was that the House 'take note' of the reports. I am not diminishing the important role that debate of committee reports has.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, you are clearly directing comments at the person on their feet and not through the chair. I do not believe that there is anything worth interjecting about at the moment that I can hear. I will ask the Leader of the House to continue.

Mr de BRENNI: As I said, I am not diminishing the important role that debate of committee reports has. However, I want to put it in context: the reduction of the debate of these reports will not reduce the ability of any recommendations that arise out of the reports to be so actioned. The temporary suspension of committee reports will allow an additional two hours of debate of legislation during the next two sitting weeks—debate on legislation that will ultimately affect and support Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

Secondly, the motion removes the automatic adjournment on the last sitting day. This is because on that day, in addition to the important work that the Miles Labor government is getting on with on behalf of Queenslanders, this chamber will pause to hear the valedictory addresses of retiring members of parliament from both sides of the chamber. As such, there is a degree of flexibility required to manage those addresses and there does not need to be an additional adjournment statement section after the House has paused for at least two hours, by the current count, to hear the addresses of retiring members of parliament.

The final element of this motion establishes the framework for valedictory speeches. Retiring members of this chamber will be afforded 15 minutes to provide their valedictory statements. While this is a far cry from other states such as New South Wales, which I am advised recently had a 40-odd-minute valedictory debate, we believe that 15 minutes is just enough for a retiring member to reminisce on their time and to thank their colleagues and the Miles Labor government.

These are sensible amendments to the sessional orders for the remainder of this term. In our opinion, they strike the right balance and, coupled with the additional sitting hours, will ensure that the important business of this chamber continues on behalf of all Queenslanders. Therefore, I call on all members to support the motion circulated in my name.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.51 am): I rise to address the motion to temporarily amend the sessional orders, moved by the Leader of the House. The LNP opposition will be opposing this motion. We would accept the changes being made in relation to valedictory speeches—we acknowledge that our members for Gregory, Burleigh, Oodgeroo and Ipswich West will be delivering such—but by removing debate on committee reports the Leader of the House is not diminishing our opportunity to debate; he is outright abolishing it. This is all because those opposite cannot manage their own agenda. They are in chaos. They are in crisis. They are increasingly desperate each and every week in this chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allocated for the debate having expired, I will put the question.

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

AYES, 48:

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

NOES, 36:

LNP, 33—Bates, 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, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Mellish, Molhoek; Sullivan, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTIONS

Walsh, Ms M, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.57 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee Report No. 223, tabled in the House on 14 June 2024
2. suspends standing order 274 for the purposes of dealing with this particular matter
3. finds Ms Mary Walsh in contempt for the unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, and
4. authorises the Speaker to admonish Ms Walsh, in writing, for her actions.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Member for Hinchinbrook and Member for Traeger, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.58 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee Report No. 224, tabled in the House on 14 June 2024
2. finds the member for Hinchinbrook in contempt for disorderly conduct on the precinct
3. finds the member for Traeger in contempt for disorderly conduct on the precinct
4. determines that an unequivocal apology to the House is an appropriate penalty for both members
5. notes the apology on the floor of the House from the member for Hinchinbrook on 14 June 2024 and the apology on the floor of the House from the member for Traeger on 20 August 2024, and
6. resolves to take no further action.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.59 am): Pursuant to sessional order 2(3), I advise the House that the automatic adjournment for today's sitting will commence at 9.45 pm.

MOTION

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.59 am): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of one state forest;
 - (b) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of four state forests and parts of eight state forests;
 - (c) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the revoked areas of 12 of the aforementioned state forests as one new national park, parts of four existing national parks, one new conservation park and parts of four existing conservation parks;
 - (d) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of parts of one national park;

as set out in the proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of areas to be revoked

Targinie State Forest	An area of about 542.764 hectares described as lot 137 on FTY1831 (to be described as lots 1 to 6 on SP346685), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Yurol State Forest	An area of about 479.19 hectares described as lots 3 and 4 on AP22502 and lot 5 on AP23654, for dedication as part of the existing Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Ringtail State Forest	An area of about 889.0402 hectares described as lots 6, 7, 8 and 11 on AP22503 and lot 5 on AP23653, for dedication as part of the existing Tewantin National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Jimna State Forest	An area of about 843.1309 hectares described as part of lot 207 on FTY1885 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23883), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Peachester State Forest	An area of about 657.509 hectares described as part of lot 313 on FTY1182 (to be described as lot 3 on AP23888), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Squirrel Creek State Forest	An area of about 6461.858 hectares described as part of lot 343 on FTY525 (to be described as lot 344 on AP23882), for dedication as the new Squirrel Creek National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Bellthorpe State Forest	An area of about 479.277 hectares, described as lot 572 on FTY1521 (to be described as lot 572 on AP23880), for dedication as part of the existing Bellthorpe National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerburrum West State Forest	An area of about 227.7837 hectares described as part of lot 589 on FTY1876 excluding lot 100 on SP326158 and lots 101 and 102 on SP329108 (to be described as lot 4 on AP23657), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Beerburrum West State Forest	An area of about 891.1593 hectares described as parts of lot 589 on FTY1876 excluding lot 100 on SP326158 and lots 101 and 102 on SP329108 (to be described as lots 5 to 7 on AP23657), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Deer Reserve State Forest	An area of about 99.8631 hectares described as part of lot 637 on AP23775 (to be described as lot 3 on AP23887), for dedication as part of the existing Deer Reserve Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Elgin Vale State Forest	An area of about 212.2387 hectares described as part of lot 673 on FTY1931 (to be described as lot 674 on AP23889), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Luttons State Forest	An area of about 119.1279 hectares described as part of lot 766 on AP23774 (to be described as lot 2 on AP23886), for dedication as part of the existing Glass House Mountains Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Yabba State Forest	An area of about 576.2108 hectares described as part of lot 986 on FTY1720 excluding lot 986 on AP6339 (to be described as lot 1 on AP23884), for dedication as part of the existing Wrattens National Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Delaneys Creek State Forest	An area of about 289.4595 hectares described as lot 2563 on FTY725 (to be described as lot 2563 on AP23778), for dedication as the new Delaneys Creek Conservation Park, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park	An area of about 24.67 hectares described as part of lot 27 on NPW826 situated in the counties of Aberdeen, Tingarra and Westgrove (to be described as lots 1 to 3 on SP338905), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation for submission to the Governor in Council.

Queensland currently has more than 14.88 million hectares of protected area, which is an area more than twice the size of Tasmania. We also have over three million hectares of state forests. The Miles government is committed to a well-managed protected area system that provides social, environmental and economic benefits to Queensland. Our government's record \$262.5 million commitment to invest in protected area expansion and management is not only delivering growth in our protected areas and supporting long-term conservation but also delivering important social and economic outcomes.

Over the past year alone we have acquitted over \$111 million to the total program, which includes the acquisition of 12 properties totalling more than half a million hectares. This also included funding from other sources including philanthropic donations. These properties will be added to the protected area estate to protect Queensland's unique biodiversity for future generations. These acquisitions will also result in local employment with new rangers to be engaged to deliver land management programs, local contractors standing to benefit from capital and minor works projects and tourism opportunities presented to communities and businesses by bringing more visitors to these regional areas.

Just last month we saw the dedication of two new national parks and additions to existing public protected areas throughout the state totalling over 59,000 hectares including, most notably, the creation of the Lakes National Park—over 43,200 hectares in area, north of Hughenden. Today, I bring to the House a number of proposals to further expand the protected area estate and protect critical habitat for our native species.

With responsibility for around 13 million hectares of terrestrial parks and forests, there is sometimes a need to progress revocation proposals that ultimately result in balanced outcomes for the Queensland public. Of the 14 revocation proposals to be debated in the House today, two are appropriate, sensible and necessary actions linked to balanced public interest outcomes. One involves a national park and the other a state forest. Ten are to deliver the latest tranche of our Labor government's commitment to transfer up to 20,000 hectares of state forest to protected area as part of the Native Timber Action Plan. This will afford these areas stronger legislative protections and enhanced management for crucial habitat for threatened species in South-East Queensland such as the greater glider and the iconic koala. The remaining two revocations bring to a close the conversion of Yurol and Ringtail state forests to protected area status, as part of the Yurol-Ringtail conservation project. For all revocations that propose to excise land from the estate, careful consideration was given to ensure that the proposals aligned with departmental policy and appropriate compensation was negotiated with proponents for the loss of conservation values.

The first proposal is the revocation of the entirety of Targinie State Forest, containing an area of approximately 543 hectares, to support the Gladstone State Development Area and this government's objective to support growth of a hydrogen export industry. The revocation of Targinie State Forest is necessary to establish a new multi-user infrastructure corridor that links the Gladstone State

Development Area to Fisherman's Landing at the Port of Gladstone. The Coordinator-General identified Targinie State Forest as the ideal route to locate a hydrogen pipeline and infrastructure corridor due to its proximity to available land infrastructure networks and access to port facilities. The revocation is not expected to significantly impact the forestry estate as the forest is isolated, fragmented and already disturbed, with about a quarter of its area occupied by an oil shale mine and corridor easements.

Importantly, and in compensation of this revocation proposal, more than 1,400 hectares will be added to the protected area estate and provide significant conservation and management benefits to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed estates. This compensation land on Curtis Island has far higher conservation value, largely undisturbed and connects to existing national park. This land adjoins Curtis Island National Park, Curtis Island Conservation Park, Graham Creek estuary in the 'Narrows' section of the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, and the nationally important Port Curtis Wetland and forms part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area.

Its inclusion in the national park estate will provide for the protection of its values and complement the management of the surrounding terrestrial and marine conservation areas by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The protection of this land will directly benefit forest dwelling species that likely include the vulnerable powerful owl and the yellow-bellied glider. It will also assist in the protection of the adjacent wetlands with their resident threatened species including the endangered eastern curlew and the vulnerable dugong, beach stone-curlew, and green and flatback turtles.

The land is currently within the Curtis Island environmental management precinct area and on-ground management is conducted by QPWS. However, it is currently owned by the Coordinator-General. The addition of this land to the protected area estate will enable QPWS to manage fire, pest, recreation and cultural values more effectively with policies and legislation designed for this purpose. Consultation has occurred with all parties impacted by the proposed action and there were no objections to the proposal. The future usage of Targinie State Forest will be facilitated by the Coordinator-General.

This government will temporarily revoke an access track from Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park, containing an area of about 25 hectares, to facilitate lawful thoroughfare access to an adjoining property, Lonesome Holding, containing leases for resource activities. Lonesome Holding is 14,500 hectares of unallocated state land purchased in 2001 for its very high conservation value with the intention to dedicate and add to the national park. The revocation footprint aligns with an existing vehicle track and is not considered to present significant impacts upon the values of the national park as the vehicle track area is already disturbed and has existed for over 30 years. The revocation is considered necessary to allow access and track maintenance activities, including installation of erosion and sediment controls which do not align with national park management principles.

The government has reached a compensation agreement with the proponent which will result in the early relinquishment of about 3,617 hectares of resource tenements in Lonesome Holding, enabling these areas to be included in Expedition (Limited Depth) National Park. The agreement will also see the addition of the proponent's 4,387-hectare property, known as Kentucky, to the protected area estate in due course. These additions to the protected area estate include 1,429 hectares of endangered and of-concern regional ecosystems. The proponent has committed to identify additional areas that could be relinquished and converted to continue extending the national park when surface works are complete and on an ongoing basis. It is our government's intent to continue to add more of this important ecosystem to our protected area estate. This outcome is important as Lonesome Holding and Kentucky are home to significant areas of high ecological values unique to the brigalow belt, including endangered and of concern regional ecosystems and habitat for protected fauna and flora. The addition of these areas to the national park will enhance their protection, providing support for threatened and endangered species such as the greater glider, northern spotted quoll and the powerful owl. The 25-hectare track will remain as state land managed by my department and re-dedicated as national park when the off-park petroleum activities are completed.

In 2019, the Palaszczuk government launched the Native Timber Action Plan which aimed to balance the preservation of Queensland's timber industry with the need to expand Queensland's protected area estate. Part of this plan was the commitment to end native forest logging in the South East Queensland Regional Plan area and the upgrade of up to 20,000 hectares of state forests in the South-East Queensland planning area to protected area by the end of 2024.

The upgrade of these areas to national park requires the revocation of the state forests so that the national park dedication can occur. These upgrades involved the planned phasing out of timber harvesting in high conservation areas. There is the proposed revocation of part of Beerburrum West

State Forest and the proposed revocation of the entirety of Bellthorpe State Forest. The upgraded area of Bellthorpe State Forest will be dedicated as part of Bellthorpe National Park. Also part of the commitment to transition state forest to protected area is the proposed revocation of part of Deer Reserve State Forest, the proposed revocation of the entirety of Delaneys Creek State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Elgin Vale State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Jimna State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Luttons State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Peachester State Forest, the proposed revocation of part of Squirrel Creek State Forest and the proposed revocation of part of Yabba State Forest.

The final proposals before the House today relate to the completion of tenure upgrades for the Yurol-Ringtail conservation project. The proposed revocation of the entirety of Yurol State Forest, containing an area of about 479 hectares, and the entirety of Ringtail State Forest, containing about 889 hectares, will see these areas dedicated as part of Tewantin National Park.

We are delighted to bring to the House today these proposals. They are part of our government's commitment and track record in protecting areas of high ecological and cultural value in perpetuity for the benefit of all Queenslanders. We know that doing so will benefit all Queenslanders and the thousands of flora and fauna species that call these special areas home. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.10 pm): I will make a relatively brief contribution to the revocation and dedication of protected areas motion, about broader protected area policies and progress to achieve that. The LNP will, of course, not be opposing this motion, which will add over 12,000 hectares to the protected area estate which, if my math is correct, is around an extra 0.007 per cent of Queensland. I will come back to those percentages later.

A number of the changes here will increase conservation corridors between existing national parks. I will be followed in this debate by the member for Nanango, who will raise some of the particular issues that have come up in her patch. In particular, the member will raise the disappointing process that has been gone through. I know that the member has written to the minister about this and she will very forcefully raise those concerns in the House.

Mrs Frecklington: No pressure.

Mr O'CONNOR: You're welcome. It is disappointing to hear what the member for Nanango has told me. We need to take landholders on a journey. We need to listen to these regional communities. That clearly has not happened with some of the proposals before us. The member for Gympie, if time permits, will also make some commentary around sustainable timber supplies. He loves to talk about that, and rightly so. The member for Glass House would love to have contributed but, unfortunately, we have very limited time.

It is appropriate to use this motion to once again draw the attention of the House to the lack of progress made by this government to conserve more of what makes Queensland special. It was the Premier himself, who once was the environment minister, who set the target of protecting 17 per cent of Queensland way back in 2015. In 2016 he said—

Queensland is home to extraordinary landscapes and native species, and our goal is to eventually increase Queensland's protected areas to 17 per cent.

It seems that 'eventually' was the most important word in that statement, because here we are after nine years of Labor and less than one per cent has been added to the protected area estate. They started at 7.8 per cent. That is what then environment minister Andrew Powell left them. They are now at 8.95 per cent. That is an increase of just 0.79 per cent in a decade. For all this government's talk, it has barely moved the needle to increase the conservation of our state.

At estimates the government revealed that one of the recent national park dedications, which they announced a couple of months ago, was actually a property purchased by the member for Glass House way back in 2014, and that is Turkey Station. It has taken them a decade to dedicate it. That is just extraordinary. That is the length of time it has taken to act. 'Eventually' they will take action. 'Eventually' they deliver on a promise they made a decade ago.

Queenslanders have stopped listening. Our environment is no better protected by just making announcements. It must be backed up by practical action. Labor are refusing to properly support alternatives to solely focus on more and bigger national parks. We have seen a coalition recently write to the minister urging more support for private protected areas, with AgForce, the Pew Charitable Trusts and our NRM Regions Queensland all coming together to say that we need more support for landholders to join the conservation estate.

An issue that is consistently raised is the management of these areas that we are dedicating. We are not going to stop talking about the need to properly manage our protected area estate, because this government has failed in this so badly and it takes regional communities for granted. That means they will not support some of these motions because they see the state that some of our national parks are in. Invasive species continue to take over many of our parks because this government places little priority in properly managing them. I will leave my contribution there. I will pass over to my colleague the member for Nanango.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.14 pm): I rise to contribute to today's motion in relation to the revocation and dedication of protected areas. The areas affected within the Nanango electorate are the Jimna State Forest, the Squirrel Creek State Forest, the Elgin Vale State Forest and the Yabba State Forest. I am also going to touch on the Clermont area, but I know that my great mate and colleague the member for Glass House also very much wanted to talk about the impact on the native hardwood in his electorate. Let's hope he gets time to do that.

It is important to understand that there are two sides to every story, particularly when it comes to the Labor Party and national parks. While it might sound great to be creating new areas of national park, what Labor do not mention is that these revocations will seriously impact individual primary producers within the Nanango electorate. That is because included within some of these areas being revoked are long-held grazing leases. In particular, I wish to highlight the affected primary producers who will lose their stock grazing permits within Squirrel Creek State Forest in the Somerset region.

In January this year I met with a concerned group of graziers who are affected by this change. These are generations of grazing families who have held their stock grazing permits for more than 50 years. They have looked after the land. They have managed the land. They rely on these permits for the viability of their primary production business. They have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in infrastructure such as fences and dams on their leasehold land over many years.

Most importantly, they have cared for the land, the native animals and the flora and fauna on that land. They have managed fire. They have managed feral pests like pigs and wild dogs. They have managed weeds and biosecurity. In fact, they have done such a good job over this time—the land is in such good condition and it is so pristine—that the Labor government now want to turn it into a national park. It is thanks to the landholders in the Somerset region who have done that hard work. That is why we cannot trust this Labor government to manage that land, to manage the flora and fauna, to manage the weeds. We know their record as the worst neighbours in the state when it comes to national parks.

Those landholders have never received reimbursement from the state government for the work they have done managing their leasehold land within the state forest. In fact, they pay to retain that lease each and every year. I have written to the environment minister. They have written back but not given the answer the landholders want. I have also asked two questions on notice. In my second question on notice I asked whether consideration has been given to allowing stock grazing activities to continue as per programs that are underway in the Nairana and Mazeppa national parks in the Clermont area. The suggestion, of course, was knocked back—go figure. I table an article from Beef Central about the success of the stock grazing in those two parks in the Clermont area.

Tabled paper: Article from *Beef Central*, dated 26 February 2024, titled 'How strategic grazing kept fires at bay on three Qld National Parks' [[1537](#)].

It was actually written by a person who formerly worked for the department who is advocating for grazing in those national parks because they know that if you graze you are looking after the wildfire risk, you are looking after the pests, and you are looking after the native flora and fauna. They know that. The experts say that. What are the Labor government doing? They are closing their ears and not listening. There is no surprise there. Ten years later, they are doing absolutely the same.

We know that the suggestion was knocked back by the minister, even though it appears there has been success in reintroducing grazing programs into national parks. On behalf of the primary producers in my electorate who are affected by this swipe of the pen, I urge the state government to continue managing the fire, the feral pests and the biosecurity threats in the Squirrel Creek National Park to the standard that graziers have done for all of those decades. I can guarantee members of this House that if the Labor government is to continue to sit on the government benches here in Queensland that will never happen. That is why we have to show Labor the door in '24.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak on the motion. While I do not oppose the motion, there are a number of matters which should not be overlooked. The motion adds a further 12,000 hectares to the protected area estate, some of which is in or near the Gympie region. Since Labor came to power in 2015 it has increased the protected area estate to 1.23 million hectares. In mid-June the environment minister announced that the dedication is part of the government's—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Gympie, resume your seat, please. As per the business program, the time for this debate has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Error in Division

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): I have been advised by the Clerk at the table that there was an error in calculating the vote in division No. 3 earlier today. The division was on the motion to amend sessional orders. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was, in fact, ayes 48 and noes 36. In accordance with standing order 106(11), I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 252).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 15 February 2024, I introduced the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 into this House. The bill, in responding to various recommendations across a number of significant reports, contains a suite of measures to improve the operational efficiency, effectiveness and oversight of the CCC. The recommendations relate to three reports of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, the report of the Fitzgerald-Wilson commission of inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission, and the CCC's report *Culture and corruption risks in local government: lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council*, the Windage report.

The bill was referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for consideration. The committee tabled its report on 5 April 2024 and made one recommendation. I thank the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also extend my thanks to those organisations and individuals who made submissions and gave evidence before the committee.

The bill implements the government's response to the recommendations of the commission of inquiry relating to the CCC established by this government and undertaken by the Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC, KC and the Hon. Alan Wilson QC. The introduction of provisions requiring the CCC to seek the written advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to potential charges arising from a crime and corruption investigation finalises the government's response to the commission of inquiry. This follows the additional funding provided to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure it has the resources it needs to take on this new function, as recommended by the commission of inquiry.

As set out in the commission of inquiry report, the harms that may result from unsound charging practices are significant. First and foremost, there is the harm to individuals, in particular to their privacy and reputation. There is also the harm done to the public's confidence in the justice system itself. The high-profile nature of prosecutions arising from CCC investigations means they are in the public eye in a way that other prosecutions are not. When prosecutions fall over, the public scrutiny is far greater. Then there is the damage done to the reputation of the CCC itself. As observed by the commission of inquiry in its report—

Instilling confidence and ensuring trust in the current-day CCC has an impact on the actual and perceived integrity of the entire Queensland public sector.

These are high stakes—a view reinforced by the PCCC in its report on its inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council. It states—

It is the duty of any charging authority, including the CCC, to know the material consequences of any decision to lay a charge. The consequences of laying the fraud charge—whatever their source—are ones which ought to have been squarely confronted in the documents prepared as part of considering whether to lay the charges.

In relation to the bringing of charges arising from a Crime and Corruption investigation, the PCCC further states—

Particularly in cases where consequences are more severe (such as removal from elected office and the dissolution of an entire council), fairness, common sense and good practice would dictate that there is even more reason to take all available and appropriate steps in a process in order to ensure the decision is right.

Counsel assisting the PCCC, Dr Jonathan Horton KC and Mr Ben McMillan, submitted—

None of the memoranda ... prepared for the purposes of commencing criminal proceedings against the 7 Councillors that were considered by—

the chairperson—

on 24 April 2019 contained any elemental analysis of the proposed charges. They did not consider in any detail the evidence that might be relied upon against each individual accused or its admissibility. The 'varying culpability' of the different potential defendants was not given any attention. The memoranda did not properly address the public interest considerations, including factors that might weigh against charging each individual accused and the consequences of charging such a number of them that the elected government of Logan City would be dissolved.

I note the comments of the PCCC chair, the member for Scenic Rim, when tabling the PCCC's report. He stated—

This report just tabled outlines serious findings and related recommendations that speak to these issues, including by making findings about where the CCC has failed in the role entrusted to it by this parliament on behalf of all Queenslanders.

The member also stated—

... the decision to charge is what caused the majority of councillors to be removed from office, for Logan City Council to be dissolved and an administrator appointed. The discretion to charge miscarried.

Of course, it is impossible to avoid the potential that charges may need to be withdrawn or not make it past the committal stage—this is part and parcel of the checks and balances built into our judicial system—but when it comes to the CCC the consequences are particularly significant and every care should be taken to avoid unmeritorious prosecutions.

The amendments contained in the bill reflect the culmination of the careful and evidence-based consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of all relevant options undertaken by the commission of inquiry. Requiring the early involvement of the DPP in providing expert oversight of the decision to lay charges will provide a strong and impartial gatekeeper on the matter proceeding through the judicial system.

I note that a submission to the committee considered these amendments do not address concerns of the CCC 'effectively prosecuting matters or being involved in the prosecution of matters' and in this regard took particular issue with the fact that a seconded police officer is to be explicitly included in the definition of prosecuting authority under section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act.

The commission of inquiry considered the use of seconded police officers in detail and recommended that their use by the CCC, with the investigative knowledge, training, experience and expertise they possess, should continue. Specifically, the commission of inquiry recommended that police officers who are seconded to the CCC should retain their police powers, including their charging function in relation to corruption offences. However, the commission of inquiry was also clear that this power must be subject to the DPP providing detailed advice about whether or not a charge should be laid and a restriction placed on seconded police officers laying charges contrary to that advice.

While the bill finalises the government's response to the commission of inquiry recommendations, the CCC continues to progress an ongoing program of work to implement other inquiry recommendations. These recommendations are directed towards addressing the risks identified by the commission of inquiry of institutional capture of the CCC and of an overly 'law enforcement' approach that can arise where seconded police are involved in corruption investigations.

The changes include adopting a corruption prevention and policy focus in corruption investigations and greater reliance on civilian corruption investigators. The bill allows charges to be laid without first seeking the DPP's advice in exceptional circumstances. This ensures that the ability to lay a charge or the opportunity for a successful prosecution are not inadvertently lost or limited by the requirement to first seek the DPP's advice where exceptional circumstances may prevent this.

I note that a number of stakeholders who made submissions to the committee and appeared at the public hearing had differing views about whether the term 'exceptional circumstances' should be defined. However, it is not uncommon for this term to be undefined in legislation. The very nature of exceptional circumstances is that they are exceptional, unable to be predicted and therefore unable to be accommodated in advance. The bill, therefore, allows for a measure of flexibility around the timing of charges in the event exceptional circumstances prevent adherence to the usual processes.

However, as recommended by the commission of inquiry, the bill provides that if, because of exceptional circumstances, charges are laid without the DPP having first provided its opinion on whether charges may properly be brought the CCC must, as soon as reasonably practicable, provide a report on the investigation to the DPP and seek the DPP's opinion in relation to charge against the person. If the written advice of the DPP is inconsistent with the charge against the person, the bill requires the prosecuting entity in this situation to take steps in accordance with the DPP's advice—for example, by amending or withdrawing the charge. Requiring the CCC to still obtain the DPP's advice, even where a person is charged in exceptional circumstances, will ensure there is always external oversight of the decision to charge.

Another topic raised before the committee was the scope of the requirement to seek DPP advice and that this should be broader than a corruption offence. On this point, I note that 'corruption offence' is defined under the Crime and Corruption Act to mean alleged or suspected criminal conduct that may be either corrupt conduct within the meaning of that term under the act or misconduct under the Police Service Administration Act 1990. A corruption offence is therefore not limited to the offence of 'official corruption' and could include a range of criminal offences, depending on the circumstances and context of the corruption investigation itself.

To underpin the effective operation of the new process applying to the commencement of a prosecution for a corruption offence, the bill provides for the CCC and DPP to enter into a memorandum of understanding. I note that the CCC's regular progress reports on implementation and delivery of the commission of inquiry's recommendations indicate that a memorandum of understanding has already been developed and signed by both parties. Into the future, the bill requires regular reporting on the effectiveness of the memorandum of understanding by the CCC to the minister, the PCCC and the parliamentary commissioner.

I turn now to the centrepiece of the bill, the changes to streamline the operation of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act. Chapters 3 and 4 contain the bulk of the powers available to the CCC in the exercise of its various functions under the act. These include coercive powers and the ability to hold hearings. These chapters also include provisions for dealing with claims of reasonable excuse and privilege raised in response to the exercise of the CCC's powers. This has been a longstanding and important piece of work. The issues relating to chapters 3 and 4 are largely a legacy of the 2001 merger of the former Criminal Justice Commission and Queensland Crime Commission to form the then Crime and Misconduct Commission, now the CCC. The legislation to effect the merger was drafted to preserve the existing separate powers relating to the then misconduct, now corruption, function and crime function. Other changes to confer a confiscation function in 2002 and intelligence function hearings in 2013 introduced additional complexities.

The amendments in the bill involve a significant reworking of what are complex, technical and often duplicative and inconsistent provisions to provide for consistent procedures to apply across most of the CCC's functions. The bill ensures that people who are the subject of CCC powers are able to raise reasonable excuses including claims of privilege in appropriate cases via clear and uniform procedures. In this regard, the current application of privileges under the Crime and Corruption Act remains unchanged. Legal professional privilege, parliamentary privilege, public interest immunity and confidentiality will all be able to be claimed in the same way and self-incrimination privilege will continue to be abrogated. In this regard, I note that the committee in its inquiry into the bill noted the position with respect to self-incrimination privilege and considered that its continued abrogation for CCC corruption investigations is both appropriate and necessary and that, furthermore, the 'inability to use derived evidence would undermine the effectiveness of the CCC's ability to conduct corruption investigations'.

As I will touch on again in a moment, the bill also allows for a qualified journalist privilege to be claimed in the same way as other privileges under the Crime and Corruption Act. Importantly, the current right to apply or appeal to the Supreme Court of Queensland to finally decide claims of privilege is retained in the bill. Overall, the review of chapters 3 and 4 as reflected in the bill's amendments has resulted in provisions that will be far more 'user friendly' for the CCC and persons who may be subject to its powers as well as their legal representatives. This includes provisions similar to the temporary arrangements enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow a person to appear remotely at a CCC hearing and for CCC notices to be given electronically in certain circumstances. While there has been some realignment of powers to ensure consistency, the CCC's substantive powers have not been altered. In particular I would note that, despite concerns raised before the committee, the bill does not alter the current power of the chairperson under the Crime and Corruption Act with respect to searches of official premises in any way.

As I have just highlighted, the bill also introduces a qualified journalist privilege to protect the journalist-informant relationship in CCC investigations and hearings across all CCC functions. As is the case under the Evidence Act, the bill creates a presumption that a journalist or relevant person cannot be compelled to reveal information or documents to the CCC in response to the exercise of a compulsory power which might identify a confidential source unless it is in the public interest. I note that some clarification was required by the committee as to whether any amendments were required to the Evidence Act 1977 because of the introduction of shield laws under the Crime and Corruption Act. I can confirm that this is not the case. While the Evidence Act framework currently applies to claims of journalist privilege made in the context of CCC search warrants, it expressly prevents the privilege under the Evidence Act from being raised in a proceeding under the Crime and Corruption Act. The provisions in the bill have been designed to operate alongside the Evidence Act to allow journalist privilege to be claimed in relation to the exercise of all CCC powers under the Crime and Corruption Act.

There were some issues raised before the committee in relation to the proposed scope and application of journalist privilege under the Crime and Corruption Act. The way in which the privilege operates, who may claim it and in what circumstances it may be claimed are designed to align with the expression of the privilege under the Evidence Act. There is clear importance in ensuring that, as a statutory privilege, journalist privilege is reflected consistently across all Queensland legislation. Where there are differences with the Evidence Act, this is in the procedural requirements that apply to dealing with claims of journalist privilege. While these do not change the substance of journalist privilege, it is important that all claims of privilege under the Crime and Corruption Act, including journalist privilege, can be dealt with consistently under the same processes.

This means that claims of journalist privilege will be dealt with by a CCC officer in the first instance but, as with all privilege claims, if the CCC decides that the claim is not established, there is a right to apply or appeal the CCC's decision to the Supreme Court. This, of course, has the advantage that some claims will be able to be promptly resolved, obviating the need for an application to the Supreme Court and the obvious cost and delay involved for all parties.

The bill also makes it clear that when considering a claim of privilege, including journalist privilege, the CCC must not access any document, thing or information that is the subject of the claim. Relevantly, the bill introduces a new procedure to ensure that CCC officers are not required to make decisions on claims of privilege in circumstances where they are not in a position to do so, such as where access to the privileged material would be required to properly determine a claim. The new procedure allows the CCC to decline to decide a matter and instead refer it straight to the Supreme Court.

I turn briefly now to some of the non-procedural related amendments in the bill. The bill makes a number of amendments to the appointment and tenure provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act, including to enhance the independence and diversity of background of commissioners, which include the chairperson and deputy chairperson, and to allow greater retention of experienced senior staff.

The bill clarifies the scope of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's powers under the Crime and Corruption Act to ensure the parliamentary commissioner can investigate a matter relating to a CCC officer that would otherwise be considered corrupt conduct on their own initiative.

In response to the CCC's Windage report, the bill includes amendments to introduce non-binding criteria to guide the prescription of entities as units of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act and to clarify that an entity may be prescribed in relation to only a part of the entity's functions.

The bill also makes minor or consequential amendments to a number of other acts, namely the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010, the Public Sector Act 2022, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009.

In summing up, this bill is a significant piece of reform that builds on this government's track record of supporting our integrity bodies to do their job as effectively as possible for the people of Queensland.

Members will also see that I have circulated amendments which I will move on behalf of the Miles Labor government to this bill. There are three minor corrections to the provisions of the bill amending the Crime and Corruption Act, and the others, I note, are outside the long title of the bill, but are equally as important to what we are debating here today and were flagged by the Premier today in his ministerial statement. The amendments circulated will amend the Integrity Act 2009 to strengthen the Queensland integrity framework by widening the definition of 'opposition representative' within the act. As members

would know, the current act defines 'opposition representative' under section 45 to be the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and a staff member in the office of the Leader of the Opposition. This has meant that any member of the opposition who has been appointed as a shadow minister or shadow assistant minister, and who is not the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, has been able to meet with lobbyists in secret.

I must put on the record that the amendments that are moved today are no reflection on registered lobbyists. They have been following the law. As we know, the onus is on the lobbyist to record their contact with individuals who they are legally required to do by the legislation and the code of conduct. However, since the Miles Labor government changed the sessional orders to compel shadow ministers to publish their diary extracts, we have seen that those opposite have been having many meetings with lobbyists. If it were not for the actions of this government enhancing integrity measures, this parliament and Queenslanders would never have known about the secret meetings those opposite have been having with lobbyists and would never have known who is lobbying those opposite, who could one day be in government, when they are formulating their policies. I am advised that the government has written to the Integrity Commissioner regarding these amendments and they are supportive of them. I am also advised that the government has also written to the Leader of the Opposition about these amendments and outlined the pathway forward. I look forward to their agreement with these amendments.

I am also advised that in correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition to the Integrity Commissioner, shared with the government, he suggested that maybe the integrity laws should be extended to cover committee chairs. However, I am advised that the lobbying framework is designed to focus on those with decision-making or potential decision-making powers as opposed to those providing advice. On this basis, a parliamentary committee chair does not have decision-making powers and instead makes recommendation to the parliament on behalf of the committee. Therefore, the government believes that it is appropriate at this time to restrict this amendment and application of the lobbying framework to only the government ministry and shadow ministry. This is because it is government ministers who make decisions and shadow ministers who are potential decision-makers, or at the very least influential, you would assume, in crafting policies for their party to take to an election.

While the amendment before us today deals with prospective meetings with lobbyists, it does not deal with previous meetings which have not been disclosed. As such, I understand a motion will be moved in this chamber this week to ensure that Queenslanders and this House know retrospectively from the start of this term who the LNP opposition have been meeting with in respect to lobbyists, and I call on all members to support that motion when it comes forward for debate. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.43 pm): This bill is indeed lengthy and important. The overarching objective of the bill is to improve the operation and performance of the Crime and Corruption Commission through making a range of legislative amendments principally to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

It has to be pointed out that the pace of reform to the CCC under this Labor government can only be described as glacial. The bill implements certain changes that were recommended as far back as 2016—eight years ago. Even the most recent recommendations for reform from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee were tabled 1,010 days and 855 days ago respectively. It is almost as bad as the time this government has wasted getting ready for the Olympics. The latter of those recommendations were contained in the very significant report No. 108 of the PCCC in relation to the CCC's investigation of former Logan City councillors, and we will all remember that report into the charging and subsequent withdrawal of charges against the Logan City councillors. That also led to the dismissal of that council by this government through this House.

Notwithstanding the very long time the government has had to consider all these recommendations, going back, as I say, in some instances to 2016, some of them still remain unlegislated. Some of the recommendations from those reports still have not been done eight years down the path. This makes a mockery of the poor old member for Toohey's statement as the chair of the committee in the foreword to the committee report that, 'It is important we remain ever vigilant in the ongoing fight against corruption.' This government has only ever remained vigilant by looking in the rear-view mirror. This government is the Rip Van Winkle of vigilance when it comes to performance with this legislation.

What we have also found out about is this government's reluctance to advance reforms that are actually needed to deal with the decision in Labor mate Peter Carne's High Court case. It would not surprise anyone today if this government sought to move some sort of amendment to try to neuter the

private member's bill that is on for debate this afternoon. Hopefully we will get to it. It has been a case of a protection racket set up to prevent the release of embarrassing, supposedly, reports in relation to former Labor mate Peter Carne and former Labor deputy premier Jackie Trad and, in particular, the release of the report into the appointment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll and actions that I might say in respect to the former deputy premier were undertaken with funding approved by the Attorney-General, the former premier and the former attorney-general. Nothing in this bill deals with those very important transparency matters. This is despite the Attorney having said on a number of occasions that legislation will be brought before this House dealing with that matter. In fact, earlier this year, the Attorney-General said she expected the matter to be dealt with early in 2024. Here we are in the dying days of a dying Labor government that will no doubt be shown the door later on in October and still no action is being taken and there is no prospect of it being taken.

What is amazing—quite amazing—is that we can get a series of amendments dropped by the Attorney-General in this place not 20 minutes ago trying to deal with a lobbyist issue and trying to get them through this House with no scrutiny, no consideration and no information apart from the tabling of a few letters to try to gain some political advantage, but with all the time and all the effort they have not been able to deal with either of the matters in relation to the releasing of reports by the CCC that the CCC itself say are urgent and need to be done. Queenslanders will see through the charade and they will see that this government only acts in its own best interests. The Attorney-General's comments that she made just a few minutes ago in relation to supporting the actions of the CCC and supporting integrity are hollow without amendments that will be made, that should be made, to enable the CCC to do its job to report as it was originally set up to do and as people have thought it could do for 30 years.

Most of the bill's amendments implement the government's response to various recommendations in the following reports: the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, tabled on 30 June 2016; its report No. 106, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities*, tabled on 30 June 2021—that is a statutory report; the PCCC's report No. 108, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*, tabled on 2 December 2021; and the report of the commission of inquiry, headed by the two retired judges, relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission, tabled on 9 August 2022.

The amendments in the bill arising from the review of chapters 3 and 4 in report No. 97 are designed to streamline the CCC's enforcement powers by: providing single processes outside a hearing for the discovery of information and the production of documents and things across all relevant functions, ensuring consistency across functions for attendance and consideration of matters at a hearing of the CCC, and streamlining related offence provisions for failure to comply with the exercise of those enforcement powers.

The Attorney has gone through in some detail the matters that were raised by submitters at the committee inquiry and the effect of those provisions. I do not intend to repeat that. I want to point out that in 2021, when the government introduced a statutory framework to provide better protection of the identity of journalists' confidential sources in the Evidence Act—the journalist shield laws—the government committed to examining these laws as part of the review of chapters 3 and 4 of the CC Act. This bill amends the CC Act to apply a qualified journalist privilege under the act consistent with the Evidence Act—the so-called journalist shield laws. They are designed to protect journalists when they report in the public interest against actions designed to force them to reveal their confidential sources in court. The matter stems from a hearing and court actions in relation to the CCC seeking to obtain information regarding confidential sources from a journalist.

Previously, there was no common-law privilege that allowed journalists to refuse to reveal their confidential sources in Queensland. It was argued that that stifles the free flow of information and an active and free press. Changes were introduced to the Evidence Act through legislation passed in 2022 after the bill was introduced in 2021. The LNP welcomed the changes and at that time sought to amend the bill to extend the operation of the shield laws to matters before the Crime and Corruption Commission—exactly what this bill we are debating two years later is doing. Those amendments and that action were supported at the time by both the Law Society and the Bar Association as well as Australia's Right to Know coalition. In typical fashion, the government refused to act. They refused to countenance the amendment then, yet here we are today dealing with exactly the same issue and we are doing today what could have so easily been done over two years ago now.

Of course, we should not be surprised. Members will remember this Attorney-General's previous attempt at changing laws relating to the CCC and the provision of information when in August 2020—the member for Toowoomba South will well remember this—she wanted to introduce gag laws to stop

the reporting of matters reported to the CCC. The paragons of virtue on openness and transparency in August 2020, months out from an election—is there a habit forming here?—wanted to change legislation to stop the CCC reporting on matters that had been referred to it. It outraged journalists and led the *Courier-Mail* to publish a completely blank front page of their statewide paper highlighting the Orwellian overreach of the then arrogant Labor government.

Such was the reaction to that proposal, it did not even last 24 hours. There was an embarrassing backflip—or a spectacular backflip, depending on which report you read at the time. Members will remember that the Attorney ended up gagging herself when, 20 hours after introducing the bill, she issued one of the shortest and most feeble media statements of all time announcing the withdrawal of the bill.

Of course the LNP will be supporting the changes to the privilege laws, precisely because we championed them three years ago when the bill was introduced and just over two years ago when the debate was carried out. As I said then—

... there is no compelling reason advanced as to why the shield laws should not apply to hearings before the Crime and Corruption Commission.

The question again today is: why the delay? At the time, the then attorney, this current Attorney's predecessor and successor, said—

I can assure stakeholders that further consultation will be undertaken in relation to this work and that we will be in a position to determine the most appropriate course of action in the first half of next year.

That is, the first half of 2023, and here we are in the second half of 2024—for a bill introduced in 2021. It could have been done so much sooner. As the Bar Association said at the time, it would require only a relatively minor amendment to the provisions as they currently stand.

The bill proposes to make amendments to implement recommendations 1, 3 and 4 of the PCCC report No. 106 and recommendation 5 of PCCC report No. 108 by dealing with the issue of qualifications for ordinary commissioners, clauses 34 and 37; the PCCC consideration of appointments, clauses 35, 42 and 47; and the tenure of officers of the CCC, clauses 36, 38 and 47 of the bill.

One of the issues which has been raised in the statement of reservation by the very diligent and hardworking LNP members of the committee relates to tenure. A range of amendments are proposed to the tenure of commissioners and CCC officers which include introducing a seven-year fixed, non-renewable term for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and ordinary commissioners. It is important to note that this is not strictly in compliance with the recommendation made by the PCCC, whose recommendation was for terms up to seven years—allowing for the appointment of commissioners, the chairperson and the deputy chairperson for periods less than seven years. That matter is explored further in the statement of reservation and I am sure will be raised by a number of other speakers from this side of the House.

The amendments retain the requirement for up to five-year appointments for senior officers and the requirement for notice to the PCCC with the existing performance standards to be met before reappointment, but it removes the precondition which places a limit on extending maximum tenure from 10 to 15 years and includes a new provision allowing tenure limits to be reset after 10 years has elapsed for a person who has permanently left the CCC. The amendments also contain a requirement to give notice to the PCCC when a senior officer has been appointed to a further term and that term will result in the senior officeholder holding office for a period in excess of 10 years.

The LNP members on the committee noted in their statement of reservation that the chairperson, deputy chairperson and ordinary commissioners are to be appointed for seven years as a fixed term—not the PCCC recommendation that the term not exceed seven years. This is important because the ability of the PCCC to change the length of the proposed term of these positions when assessing the applicant is important to ensure there is bipartisan support for those appointments. One of the enduring characteristics of these positions is that they do receive bipartisan support. The ability to change tenure, or to have a lesser tenure than seven years, is one of the matters that has been taken up by the PCCC in previous appointments.

The CCC itself highlighted inconsistencies in the terms of employment for senior officers of the CCC with senior officers of other Public Service departments. The CCC have said that this makes recruitment more difficult. They argue that these positions are no greater risk of institutional capture or corruption than other departments. These are clearly matters in relation to tenure that will need to be monitored over time.

I want to turn to the amendment of section 49 with regard to the necessity to obtain Director of Public Prosecutions' advice. The bill amends the CC Act to provide a legislative requirement for the CCC to seek the advice of the DPP on corruption offences arising from a corruption investigation, unless in exceptional circumstances. This follows a recommendation from the commission of inquiry report relating to the CCC which was tabled on 9 August—that is the most recent of those commission of inquiry reports—which followed the PCCC report into the Logan City Council matter. It is also a matter directly covered in my private member's bill, although in a different manner.

This is another instance of the government being late to the party when such a change could have been made after the commission of inquiry report two years ago, or the PCCC report nearly three years ago. It is interesting to note that it is not just me saying this. We heard the same sentiment from the Local Government Association of Queensland, which said in its submission to the bill—

It has been over 18 months since that report was handed down, which included key recommendations urgently needed to overhaul the remit of our State's corruption watchdog. Queenslanders deserve to have a corruption watchdog that is unbridled from its recent failings, not a pile of reports that simply gather dust.

They have had to brush the dust off these reports. These reports have been gathering dust for over 1,000 days and, in the case of one of those reports, since 2016.

In order to give effect to the DPP prosecutions provision, a memorandum of understanding will be required between the CCC and the DPP to facilitate the operation of the new process, which will also hopefully provide guidance on what constitutes exceptional circumstances, because that is undefined—although I note that the department, in its response to these questions, has made some submissions regarding that. That MOU has a minimum set of requirements and must be published on the CCC's website. I note the Attorney mentioned this in her contribution to the debate a little while ago. I did not pick up all of it but, if I understand correctly, there have been negotiations underway between the CCC and the DPP in relation to that MOU.

My question is: given the provisions about the bill and the time that the bill has been in the House—it was introduced in February this year—has the Attorney been notified in relation to the MOU? Is she aware that the memorandum has been finalised and is she aware of the timeframe for that to be done? There certainly has been plenty of time for that to occur. The Attorney might be able to answer that. If I have missed it, I apologise.

The bill also makes some other policy changes to: enable the CCC to give notices by email; allow the appearance of a person via video and audiovisual link at CCC hearings in certain circumstances, which the Attorney has covered off on; ensure inspecting entities can report on contraventions of telecommunications interception warrant conditions or restrictions; and permit the transfer of the data and records of the Inquiry into the Future Role, Structure, Powers and Operations of the Criminal Justice Commission, fondly known as the Connolly-Ryan inquiry, to Queensland State Archives—a matter of concern about a decade ago—for storage while retaining the role of the PCCC and the parliamentary commissioner in determining applications for access to the data and records. These are, in the main, uncontroversial amendments which we support.

Debate, on motion of Mr Nicholls, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the first speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my good friend Samir Abou Gaoude, who is watching from home. You may all be wondering why I am looking so neat and tidy. It is thanks to Samir or, as he is better known, Samy the Barber. Thank you, Samy, for keeping me neat and clean. We often talk about his family in Lebanon. Like me, he wishes them all the best and hopes for peace in that region.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Crime; Member for Broadwater



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Youth Crime crisis is impacting every corner of this state. We have seen it in the north and out to the west, and over the weekend we saw a proud border town ripped apart by the madness that is the youth crime crisis in this state. I want to go to a quote from the Premier from April—

We'll throw everything at preventing and disrupting crime—that starts with having more police than ever before patrolling the streets of Queensland.

I want to read about one hour of madness on Saturday night. The document states—

At 3.50am ... police attempted to intercept a white ford Everest vehicle stolen from NSW. As police have attempted to intercept the vehicle they are not allowed to try and intercept the vehicle again for a further four hours unless the known circumstances change.

At 4.40 am ... unknown offenders have attended a local motel and have forced a door. Offenders have stolen the keys to a vehicle but were unable to start the vehicle. One of the offenders is armed with a large machete.

At 4.55 am ... unknown offenders have attended a local motel and have forced entry to a room. A 75 year old lady was assaulted by the offender by kicking her in the chest. Offenders have taken keys and have stolen a Mazda vehicle and the victim's handbag.

As a local resident told when more than 100 gathered in the park with next to no notice, 'This town is in shock.' 'We feel helpless with a weak state government that does nothing for us.' Another young mother told her story about being in such shock she miscarried.

The Premier said there are 18 police officers in Goondiwindi and that the commissioner had sent for more, but today we hear from whistleblowers there are currently only nine available, half the allotted strength. How have we reached this point in Queensland? We respect and value and thank the police for being able to mobilise and go into hotspots. Wouldn't it be amazing if there was the right number of officers there in the first place?

This morning we heard a distressing story about a family with three kids who had their caravan stolen while they were in it. I repeat: that was while they were in the caravan. There were reports that earlier the spare keys to their car were stolen. They attached the caravan to the car thinking this would prevent a theft. They were to be the crime victim for the second time in a day. The car was stolen with the caravan attached and the family inside. A witness said the criminals basically kidnapped them. It has been reported that, luckily, the family escaped with minor injuries, but they have been traumatised. Police have found them emergency accommodation—and aren't we thankful for those officers who wear blue?

Overnight in Graceville over a dozen businesses were broken into; a community is in shock and business owners and their staff are in tears. Our promise to the owners and staff of those businesses is that things will change: adult crime, adult time. There must be consequences for actions because the generation of untouchables are running riot through this state. We have weaker laws and fewer police officers and the only thing rising faster than insurance premiums is the number of victims in this state. Let's go through an analysis of Queensland Police Service statistics comparing 2015-16 to 2023-24. There was an increase in 53 of the 55 categories across the 11 major cities—53 of 55. Townsville robberies are up 287 per cent; Bundaberg stolen cars, 282 per cent; Rockhampton assaults, 253 per cent; Gold Coast assaults, 136 per cent; Brisbane stolen cars, up 120 per cent in less than a decade under this government and their watered down laws.

If government changes by the end of the year the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be law and that will embed Adult Crime, Adult Time. It will remove detention as a last resort. It will embed in sentencing provisions that the rights of the victim will come before the rights of the offender. Victims will be given visibility—what is happening with their case—because if justice is going to be done it must be seen to be done. Courtrooms will be open. That is not about identification; that is about justice being seen to be done, not the cobbled down, watered down version that we are seeing at the moment.

We will get serious about gold standard early intervention, the kind that turns kids around and gives kids hope. I never speak about the youth crime crisis without talking about giving kids a second chance, hope to turn their life around with discipline and structure. We talk about a resi-care system that has discipline, that has the ability for extracurricular activities, that has the opportunities for a kid to get into foster care or adoption to give them love and give them compassion. We will embark on rehabilitation with purpose. When we hear revelations that half the young offenders leaving detention do not even have a 72-hour plan, that tells us everything we need to know about a government in chaos and in crisis. Our commitment if government changes is that every young offender who leaves youth detention will have a 12-month plan. It will give them a chance to turn their life around. It will stop the 91 per cent reoffending rate. It will not be perfect for all people, but it will be better than 91 per cent and victim numbers will not be at 290,000, which is higher than New South Wales and Victoria despite their populations. That is our commitment to Queenslanders.

Finally, on commitment to Queenslanders, this is an opposition that is committed, focused and unified to focus on the things that Queenslanders are talking to us about. I want to address whatever that was we saw this morning. I tell honourable members that the Labor Party has reverted to form today and it has become increasingly clear that they are incapable of addressing the crises that are hurting Queenslanders and they have decided to get into the gutter with desperate attacks on me. History tells us these attacks will continue, and we predicted they would because that is all they have.

This issue has been used by the ALP since 2017. The details of this settlement have been publicly available for several years. For years they have made the same allegation and the facts remain the same. I came into a company in substantial trouble on the promise of a capital injection. I was at the company for four months and I met my obligations during—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Apologies, Leader of the Opposition. Member for Mudgeeraba and member for Waterford, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber. The member on his feet is attempting to give an explanation. I for one would like to hear that. I will warn people who interject from here on.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I met my obligations during and after this period. There were zero findings against me. Those opposite know this and they know that the information they are referring to has been public for several years. It is strange that they would wait until the final six sitting days to try and resuscitate claims in the dying days of a term. We have seen this all before.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is the desperation of a government that has run out of steam and a government that has no direction and, most importantly, no plan for the future of Queensland. We are choosing hope over fear. How many times have I stood here and said that the more the government becomes desperate, the more aggressive the government gets, the more I will choose hope over fear? The battlelines for the election are clear: after a decade—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Miller is warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—of this government, are things better or worse when it comes to youth crime, health, housing and cost of living, and who has the right plans for Queensland's future? They are the battlelines. There is one other question: after 10 years of chaos, after 10 years of crises, has this government finally decided to abandon the priorities of Queenslanders?

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of students from the Agnes Water Discovery Christian College in the electorate of Burnett.

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (2.11 pm): I find the Leader of the Opposition's contribution today perplexing on a number of fronts. He started off by talking about the very disturbing crimes that we are seeing in the border town of Goondiwindi. We absolutely want to make sure that community is protected. That is why we introduced an urgent bill today for a cross-border commissioner. Those criminals—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am just going to take some advice. Member for Currumbin, I was clearly on my feet and you continued to interject. You are warned. Member for Waterford, I would remind you of the standing orders around anticipation of debate. The matter you are referring to is on the *Notice Paper* for debate this week, so I would ask you to be very careful in your contribution in relation to that matter.

Ms FENTIMAN: My point, Mr Deputy Speaker, is that if the Leader of the Opposition was so concerned about what was happening in Goondiwindi he would not have voted against that being urgent because this is critical and it is a priority, so shame on those opposite. The Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about victims. What about the victims of his own personal misconduct? Have we seen the list of creditors—pages and pages and pages—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, you will table that document or you will put it down.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am happy to table the list of creditors when the Leader of the Opposition was the sole director of a company that owes Queensland small businesses millions and millions of dollars. *Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Southern Edge Training Pty Ltd (In Liquidation) creditor list' [1538].

Today I am speaking on a significant matter of public interest. The Leader of the Opposition has come in here today and tried to clear up these allegations. In fact, I think his contribution has raised more questions. He refuses to stand up in front of journalists today and answer questions. He says that nothing has changed since 2017. I will tell members what has changed since 2017: the fact that PwC has released a report that says at the time the Leader of the Opposition was the sole director of this company it was trading whilst insolvent—a criminal offence that attracts years in jail—and he has still refused—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, members!

Ms FENTIMAN: And it is clear that none of them knew about it—absolutely none of them knew about it. Perhaps if the LNP spent less time vetting its candidates, particularly women candidates, about their sexual histories—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, again, read from it or table it.

Ms FENTIMAN:—and more time vetting the Leader of the Opposition's business dealings and the fact that he was trading whilst insolvent, they would not all be surprised—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Gregory.

Ms FENTIMAN:—today when all of these allegations came out.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Gregory.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Leader of the Opposition comes in here and says, 'This is a dirty campaign by the Labor Party.' I am sorry, but these were articles published by an investigative journalist from the ABC.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, Minister. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I tried several times to get your attention to let you know that your interjections were getting out of hand, so you are warned under the standing orders. Members, there are far too many interjections. I am going to continue to warn people and I will ask people to leave.

Ms FENTIMAN: He still has refused to answer questions. Did he know that SET Solutions was insolvent at the time that he kept it trading? Did SET Solutions ever return an actual profit, or was it just creative accounting? How many small and family businesses are still owed money? I can tell the House that one of those creditors was St John Ambulance. St John Ambulance is still owed money by the Leader of the Opposition because of his time as the sole director of SET Solutions. Who rips off St John Ambulance? I will tell members who: the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli. That is who rips off St John Ambulance and businesses like Sunstate Personnel in Daisy Hill or the Mansfield Hotel in Townsville. He does not care about Townsville. He has already cut and run from Townsville.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the minister was saying and I ask that those comments be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. There are many Queensland-based businesses that the Leader of the Opposition has left high and dry. Perhaps most shocking are the revelations today that more than \$100,000 was left owing to the Australian Taxation Office. How many workers were left without having their superannuation paid? How many workers in Queensland and across the country did not get their superannuation because the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, did not pay his tax bill for SET Solutions? As we have heard today from a PwC report, not only has he failed to answer questions about the fact that the company was trading whilst insolvent; there are now three instalments—

Mrs Frecklington: Say this outside.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I have said this outside and I will continue to say it outside until the Leader of the Opposition answers questions because Queenslanders deserve to know. The whole situation is just so dodgy, with \$200,000 in hush money—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I take personal offence. The minister continues to use my full name. We all know exactly why she is attempting to do that. She has form using videos and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, points of order are not an opportunity to enter into a debate. Minister, I will remind you about the conventions around using people's correct titles in this chamber. I did not hear that, but if that was the case I would ask that you do that. The member has also, I think, taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. I again remind the Leader of the Opposition that since the first ABC article was published—the second ABC article reveals payments to the liquidators—he has refused to answer questions about why he did not list this on his register of interests.

(Time expired)

CFMEU

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.18 pm): I have seen this behaviour by the Labor Party before, and it was before the 2012 election. So desperate to cling to power, those opposite make stuff up, spread mistruths, spread misinformation and try to make the dirt stick. We have seen it all before. Just as Queenslanders were not fooled in 2012, they will not be fooled in 2024. They see through what the Labor Party is doing. They see through the desperate tactics, just like they see through the Premier now being all tough on the CFMEU. For 10 years the Liberal National Party has been prosecuting and raising the issues of the bullying, the intimidation, the fear and the scaremongering of the CFMEU on construction sites and for 10 years this Labor government has been in power saying that there is no issue, Labor members have continued to meet with the CFMEU, the Labor Party has continued to accept its donations and the Labor Party has continued to accept its campaign expenditure. For 10 years we have raised these issues and the minister has denied that there are any issues.

Leadership is a test when you are under pressure on a particular issue, as Premier Miles was this morning. Today, when I asked him a question about the CFMEU, his behaviour revealed the true Premier Miles. For any member, let alone the Premier, to suggest that any other member of parliament would wish Queensland workers killed on construction sites is outrageous. I have never heard anything like it in the 16 years I have served in this parliament and it was the Premier who said it. I was in such shock that I had to go to the article in which the Premier was quoted as saying, 'The member for Kawana might want to see construction workers die'. Remarks like that show that Premier Miles is out of his depth, he is out of touch and he is not fulfilling the high office of premier, and not one Labor member of parliament pulled him up when he said it.

This week we have seen the behaviour of the Labor government deteriorate to the extent where not only are they rushing through bills; they allowed their leader to stand up and say that another member of parliament wishes Queensland workers killed on construction sites. It is disgraceful behaviour from someone who says he is the leader of the state. The fact that not one Labor member pulled him up, not even the industrial relations minister who sits next to him in the chamber, shows how desperate they are to do and say anything to get re-elected in October. That they let remarks like that go unchecked and unchallenged shows that they will go to the bottom of the barrel or the deepest gutter and say and do anything to get re-elected. That is the behaviour of the Premier of Queensland.

I think Queenslanders should be appalled that they have someone in the office of the premier who behaves like that, who thinks that of another member of this House, who says it and who then thinks that he ought to get away it. What a disgraceful comment. When he said it this morning I had to ask my colleagues, 'Did I just hear what I think I heard?' I have pretty broad shoulders, as my colleagues know, and I give it as well as I take it. However, I would never say what Premier Miles said today about me to any Labor member. Not only that, I would never think it. I would never think to say it about a Labor member in this place. The fact that he not only thought it but also said it and did not think to apologise and withdraw the minute he said it shows that Premier Miles is out of touch and out of his depth. He is going to say worse things between now and the election. We will see that.

The health minister came in here and talked about the Premier. Interestingly, last week I read in 'Chooks' that the health minister is having private meetings—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you will read from that or table it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will table it—with her union and Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad is back. We know that the Labor Party members do not support Premier Miles and that Health Minister Fentiman is circling the wagons. I suspect that the comments that the Premier made this morning might give her the ability to make the challenge that she so desperately wants to make with Jackie Trad. Queenslanders will not be fooled or conned by this desperate Labor government.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 16 August 2024, titled 'Jackie Trad attends high-level meeting of Shannon Fentiman's allies' [[1539](#)].

(Time expired)

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (2.23 pm): As I said this morning, Queensland Olympians in Paris contributed to Australia's greatest ever gold rush with 18 medals, putting us fourth of all countries in the world on the medal tally. Once again, I congratulate those fine athletes and reiterate my best wishes for Queensland's Paralympians when their games campaign gets underway in Paris on 28 August. As a government, we are getting on with delivering the venues for the 2032 games with \$850 million worth of infrastructure investment already out to market, co-funded by the Queensland government and the federal government. All of those venues come under the IOC's New Norm. When we look at the New Norm, Stade de France was built in 1998 for the World Cup. It was not a new stadium that was built for the Olympics; it already existed and had been in use since 1998.

Gold is a topic that we often hear about from the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, he just talked a lot about gold standard early intervention services, which is one of his mantras. The difficulty we have is that there is very little detail about what their slogans mean. Gold standard? Oh my God! We all know about that: 'Give me 100 days and I will solve all problems.' However, actions speak louder than words.

Those opposite come in here and question us about why we are asking questions about the conduct of the Leader of the Opposition when he was the sole director of SET Solutions. I say to the House that if that had been one of us we would be pursued relentlessly, just as they have been pursuing members on this side of the House despite having absolutely minimal information at their disposal. How long did we hear about the laptop saga? 'Integrity crisis!' the member for Maroochydore would be saying. They went on and on about it and made things up. What did we hear? It was absolutely baseless, but that did not stop them continuing.

Now we have two reports from the ABC—not the Labor Party but the ABC—talking about the actions of the Leader of the Opposition when he was the director of SET Solutions and the possibility that that company was trading while insolvent. All of a sudden we are hearing, 'Give me 100 days.' He could not fix that in 100 days but left debts and a long list of creditors who have not been paid to this day. Now we hear about a \$200,000 payment being made. No-one had ever heard about that, no statements had been made in relation to that and I would not be surprised if a lot of the members opposite had no idea about that, but we on this side are not allowed to question it. The hypocrisy is unbelievable.

I remember when they relentlessly pursued the then member for Bundaberg, then minister Leanne Donaldson, over the non-payment of a rates bill. That minister did the right thing and resigned. They were relentless in their pursuit. The member for Kawana was just talking about different things that have occurred. They are still obsessed with former member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad. Even back then they mentioned that she did not put something on the register. I can tell the House that the Leader of the Opposition did not put his \$200,000 liability on the register in this House either. Actions speak louder than words. Scott Driscoll charged himself for consultancy work involving a company and government contracts. Azzurro Consulting is on the list of creditors. Who is the director? The Leader of the Opposition! There are questions to answer. This is not made up. The ABC is reporting this. You can hide but you cannot run.

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.28 pm): Actions do speak louder than words. What we have seen is a decade of no action, which is exactly why Queenslanders are in the grips of a cost-of-living crisis. Let us talk about the member for Waterford and former member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad. The reason we are still talking about her is because she is still running the show. We know that former member for South Brisbane Jackie Trad is having private meetings with the wannabe premier, the member for Waterford. It is obvious.

Mr Lister: Just like old times.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is just like old times—exactly. I take that interjection. Again I say: actions do speak louder than words. After a decade of this incompetent Labor government, what do Queenslanders have? Their rent has gone up. Their rates have gone up. Everything to do with housing has gone up. The cost of living has gone up. Electricity has gone up 20 per cent—three times the national average. Why? Government members are trying to pretend everything is okay with electricity, but one only has to look at the failures at Callide to know it is not okay.

Both the Treasurer and the energy minister are shareholding ministers of that very important Callide coal-fired power station. Over three years ago—it must be close to four years now—Callide blew up. It was a catastrophic incident. The government asked Professor Sean Brady to look at why power prices are going through the roof and what caused that catastrophic failure. What has Professor Sean Brady been paid—in instalments, I might add—to a month or two ago? Some \$10.4 million.

The Minister for Energy kept coming in here and kept fronting the media to be asked repeatedly, 'When will the Brady report be released?' He said, 'I don't know anything about it.' People's electricity bills are going through the roof, yet the energy minister completely misled the people of Queensland. He has forked out \$10.4 million, in instalments, over a period of about 12 months. You would think a shareholding minister might say, 'Is there a reason close to \$50 million is being paid for one report and the legal fees to hide that report and hide the failings of CS Energy?' It is a cover-up of epic proportions.

Premier Miles, the Minister for Energy and the Treasurer of this state all know that the explosion at Callide is why Queenslanders' electricity bills are going through the roof. They know that the cost of living is hurting everyday Queenslanders, yet what have they done? The Premier said that CS Energy would have to be broken up and reorganised. What did he do a week later? He handed them \$1.3 billion to manage. You have to be kidding me!

We have a Premier who says one thing but does another. What about the workers who could have been killed in that catastrophic incident? They are the ones we are fighting for. What about the mums and dads who cannot afford to pay their energy bills because this government failed to listen and failed to do anything in the last decade?

The other thing I will say about this new Premier is that he refuses to tell Queenslanders how much taxpayers' money he spent on two jets to fly him and the police minister around the state. It was the Police Commissioner who decided to be honest with Queenslanders—\$168,000. What was taxpayers' money—our money—being spent on? It was to shoot a video to promote the Premier of this state. What an absolute joke! On behalf of those mums and dads and those small business owners who are fighting to pay their bills and keep their small businesses open, I say to this Premier, 'Shame! Get out of the gutter and start thinking about the people of Queensland who are hurting because of your failures.'

Only the LNP and our leader, David Crisafulli, have a plan for this great state. It is all about reducing the cost of living. It is all about fixing the health system. It is all about looking after Queenslanders—getting them into houses and making sure that, if they are in Goondiwindi, they have the right to be safe. In our regional towns, people have the right to be safe. We will do something about crime. Let's show Labor the door in '24.

(Time expired)

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.33 pm): We are at a pivotal time in our state's history. In just a few short weeks, Queenslanders will have a very important choice to make—a choice about our future, a choice between a Miles Labor government with a clear and detailed vision for Queensland and an LNP opposition who are unknown and who are determined to stay that way. The Leader of the Opposition wants to slide into the office of premier by revealing as little as possible about both his past and his future plans. It is clear that, beneath the slick slogans, Queenslanders cannot trust a word that the Leader of the Opposition says.

We know from media revelations that he ran a small business that went bust and left Queenslanders out of pocket. Queensland businesses were owed money and students were left high and dry. In fact, the liquidators suspect that the Leader of the Opposition's company traded while insolvent—a criminal offence. We have also learned of \$200,000 in undisclosed secret payments while

he was a shadow minister, the third and final instalment of which was made after he became the Leader of the Opposition. We learned about these payments not because of any false virtues of transparency but because of the media. That is how it has come to light.

The more that we learn about the SET Solutions scandal the murkier it gets. The list of unanswered questions continues to grow in light of ongoing media reports. Was he the sole director of a company that was trading while insolvent? Why did he leave a host of unpaid business debts? How much of taxpayer funds were intended for a consultancy that he is linked to? Why keep payments of over \$200,000 secret and not disclose them to the parliament? Are there more liabilities that are being hidden from Queenslanders?

As serious as all of those questions are, there is perhaps another important question. What was his role as a minister in the Newman government that oversaw a payment of \$300,000 to the company that he subsequently took over before cutting and running from debts owed? If he cannot run a small business with openness and transparency, how can the LNP possibly be trusted to run our economy?

We have just heard from the member for McConnel. I know that the Hamilton Hotel is owed about \$8,000 by SET Solutions. With a total of \$2.7 million owed to creditors, there are many more. Some of the unsecured creditors of SET Solutions in the hospitality sector alone include the Bracken Ridge Tavern, Carrara Catering Services, the Hinterland Hotel in the electorate of Gaven, Hotel Metropol and the Mansfield Hotel—likely the ones in Townsville—the Robina Tavern, the Logan City Tavern and even Waxy's Irish Pub in Surfers Paradise. There are literally pages and pages more.

This is what Queenslanders can expect from the LNP. Queenslanders deserve better than dodgy deals, shady scams and broken promises. It is about time the LNP practices what it preaches on transparency, on integrity and on accountability. Be honest with the people of Queensland. Tell the truth and the whole truth about SET Solutions. Stop hiding the past and come clean with Queenslanders about your real plans for the future.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Crime

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.37 pm): Crime continues to be the No. 1 topic when speaking to people across North Queensland. Residents of Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns are still in the grip of a crime crisis. On a nightly basis we are seeing homes invaded, cars stolen and even carjackings at knifepoint. The other night, a young lady aged 17 was allegedly confronted by a group of youths in her home in Townsville. They extorted the keys from her at knifepoint. Women in Queensland should feel safe in their own homes.

Just recently another incident played out at a shopping centre, where some youths were picked up. Kids allegedly as young as 11 and nine were part of a group of nine who were wielding knives in Townsville to try to rob people. That is a blight on this state government's record. It pains me to hear that the 40,000 signatories to a petition in relation to the castle law bill that we garnered in only five weeks got almost nothing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I will take some advice. Member, I remind you of the standing orders around anticipation of debate. The bill you refer to is currently before a committee. You will have to move on in terms of your contribution.

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Queenslanders have been calling for castle law but they have also been calling for a couple of other things when it comes to youth crime and dealing with the crime crisis in Townsville and North Queensland—adult time for adult crimes. This was introduced first by the KAP nearly two years ago. The removal of detention as a last resort was introduced into this House by the member for Traeger in 2021 but was voted against by both sides of the House. It is great to see the LNP has come on board with this policy because we believe it will work.

Mandatory minimum sentencing coupled with relocation sentencing must be applied to young offenders for prescribed crimes. We need to start locking up more of these young offenders but we must also rehabilitate them. Sending them to Cleveland Youth Detention Centre is doing nothing. Recidivist youth offenders are coming out of that place at record levels. Kids coming out of Cleveland Youth Detention Centre going straight back onto the streets and reoffending should be the No. 1 concern of this House.

Only a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to sit through my first sentencing hearing in a youth justice scenario. To see that child released onto the streets of Townsville after spending time in Cleveland is an absolute travesty. It was said in the hearing at 2 pm on a Friday afternoon that a 72-hour

plan had not yet been done for that child. The way departmental wheels in this state move slowly, I bet that by five o'clock that afternoon when departmental staff went home that the plan for that child before they were to go into residential care was not done.

There are also good parents who are asking for a hand in terms of bringing their kids home so they are not a part of the next crime cycle that goes through cities like Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa. Good parents have no legislation to help keep their children under their roof at night. We always talk about the parents who are not looking after their kids. Put them to the side for a second. We have good parents driving around the streets of Townsville on a nightly basis looking for their kids. Child Safety is working against them to bring them home. Children as young as 14 are saying, 'We are self-placing now.' When a police officer does a welfare check after the child has been reported missing they are being told, 'This child is self-placing and they are safe.' There is nothing they can do about it. That is an absolute travesty.

The KAP will continue to work hard for Queensland coming into the state election. We will continue to road-test good policy and push for good policy in Queensland. We are happy for those in regional Queensland to be writing policy that is being adopted by this state. We just saw an announcement from the state government with regard to title deeds. Mr Katter, the member for Traeger, and his father have been pushing for title deeds for Indigenous communities for as long as I can remember. Those Indigenous communities deserve to have some autonomy. We cannot expect someone to respect what they have if they have no ownership. It is good to see that policy being picked up.

Blue cards have been an issue. We all know that blue cards have inhibited employment for a number of people living and trying to work in remote Indigenous communities. It has been a problem when it comes to kinship care. It is good to see the state government finally pick up this legislation and run with it and claim it as their own. I want to know why it has taken so long. Multiple times this House has been asked to make amendments to blue card legislation. The member for Traeger has been pushing for this for a long time. Remote Indigenous communities deserve this. The KAP will continue to fight strongly for regional Queensland coming into the state election.

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (2.43 pm): The people of Queensland are making an important decision this October. When they make that decision they deserve to know what the Leader of the Opposition actually stands for. It is hard to know what he stands for given he relies simply on slippery slogans. It is even harder to know when he runs away from the most basic of questions.

There are some very serious matters of public interest raised over the fact that the Leader of the Opposition was running a company so badly that it could not meet its costs and it could not pay its debts. That company went broke, with hundreds of families and businesses suffering, so much so that he has paid \$200,000 to clearly try to make the problem go away. If the member for Broadwater could not run a small training company properly then how can he run this state? What has been revealed by the ABC is deeply concerning for all Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve a leader who is accountable and honest with them. What we have seen every step of the way—whether it is this issue or almost any other issue of substance—is that the Leader of the Opposition dodges and weaves questions to try to get away with the clearly secret or dodgy deals that he does.

It begs the question: if the media had not revealed these issues would he ever have fessed up? I put it to the Leader of the Opposition today: will he come clean to Queenslanders on the full story and not the lame explanation that he just gave in this House which frankly raises more questions than answers? He said, 'I came into the company on the promise of a major capital injection which did not eventuate.' I put it to the Leader of the Opposition: who made that promise? How much was the promise for? What did he offer in return for the promise? These are very serious questions. When he is answering them he also needs to tell the people of Queensland a whole range of other things. How did he secure a Newman government grant for companies to establish a call centre for jobs and training in Townsville? Did he disclose that the director of two companies was also a donor to his 2012 campaign? How did he become the sole director of SET Solutions, the training company included in the call centre venture, less than 12 months later? Why did he say creditors were paid when hundreds were not? Why do liquidators suspect he was trading while insolvent? Did he know that that was the case?

If this was all above board, as he suggested to this House a number of years ago, why did he make \$200,000 worth of payments including after he became opposition leader and after he made this statement to the House? Why did he keep \$200,000 in hush money payments a secret? Why did he never update his register of interests with the associated liability, as every single member of this House is required to? These are all questions that the opposition leader must answer.

Queenslanders are right to question whether the Leader of the Opposition can be trusted. They are right to question whether he is fit to lead this state. They are right to question who on the front bench knew about the \$200,000 of payments long after he told this place there were no questions to answer. The fact is that he has not answered these questions. In fact, it seems he has no plans to based on the contribution we just heard. In fact, he does not front the media. He has not responded to media inquiries about it. He has not provided an explanation in this place. It does not pass the pub test.

There are a whole of range of questions that the Leader of the Opposition needs to answer. We heard a whole range of members of the crossbench come forward in defence—so-called pinnacles of integrity until one of those opposite is at the centre of the limelight. They try to talk about issues like housing, which I find pretty bizarre given the fact that their record is one of blocking investment and cutting funding. It is only a Labor government that can be trusted in October and the Leader of the Opposition needs to front the media and answer these very serious questions.

Youth Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.48 pm): Youth crime has never been worse in Queensland and under Labor it is getting worse. Almost a decade ago this Labor government made a conscious choice. They made a conscious choice to proudly and loudly water down our youth justice laws, and now towns like the normally peaceful border community of Goondiwindi are suffering under a youth crime crisis that was created by this Labor government almost a decade ago. They proudly and loudly watered down the youth justice laws and created a generation of young offenders—a generation of repeat offenders who know their rights exceed the rights of victims; Labor's generation of untouchables.

Youth thugs have terrorised Goondiwindi over the weekend, targeting motels and homes, stealing cars and torching them, and threatening locals with machetes. They have caused immense harm to local residents in the border town of Goondiwindi. I hear the Premier this morning trying to palm the problem off onto New South Wales, saying that these are border kids. These kids know that Queensland's laws are too weak to hold them. That is why they are coming over the border to terrorise our communities, to steal our cars and to threaten our local residents. They know that our police do not have the laws to hold them and they know that they are untouchable in Queensland.

Then there is the fact that under Labor we have fewer police on the beat. The Goondiwindi Police Station was meant to be resourced with 18 police officers. Today we can reveal as a result of a whistleblower that there were around nine police officers that week—working at half the capacity. With fewer police and weaker laws, how are our communities meant to be kept safe? This is the legacy of this Labor government after a decade in power.

In every major region across Queensland we have seen an increase in crime. In Bundaberg and Maryborough, stolen cars are up 282 per cent since 2015, since this Labor government came to power. In Hervey Bay, they are up 260 per cent since this Labor government came to power. In Rockhampton, they are up 226 per cent since Labor came to power. It is no different on the Gold Coast or in Brisbane. In Brisbane, unlawful entry is up 66 per cent. In Cairns, there is more than a 200 per cent increase in assaults since Labor came to power. Then there is robbery. In Hervey Bay, robbery is up 388 per cent. In Townsville, it is up 287 per cent. In Toowoomba, it is up 226 per cent. In Rockhampton, robbery is up 216 per cent since this Labor government came to power in 2015 and proudly and loudly watered down our youth justice laws.

The LNP, alongside Queenslanders in these communities, have been pleading for stronger laws, but this Labor government has refused. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws is the tough-on-crime approach that will keep these communities safe. They will keep border communities like the town of Goondiwindi safe. Labor's generation of untouchables will end under the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time. That is not all. At the other end of the spectrum, we will ensure we rehabilitate these youth. We will make sure that every single youth released from detention gets up to 12 months of intensive support so that we can turn the tide on Labor's generation of untouchables. We will rehabilitate these youths so that we can make communities safe again.

Queenslanders know that after a decade in power this Labor government has no plan to solve the youth crime crisis. They simply do not trust them to solve it because they removed detention as a last resort; they closed our courts to victims, their families and the media; they watered down our bail

laws; and they refused to listen to Queensland communities that are calling for stronger laws—Adult Crime, Adult Time; the LNP's Staying on Track program; rehabilitation for youths. Nothing will change in Queensland until we change the government.

(Time expired)

Member for Broadwater

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.53 pm): We have seen a pattern of behaviour from the Leader of the Opposition. He is in hiding today. It is consistent with his behaviour in the past. We remember budget week—that colossal failure where he hid from the media in budget week, the last budget before the state election. He would not stand up to the media. Remember the laptop? He accused the government of everything under the sun for months and months. When it was revealed to be a hoax, where was he? He went into hiding. He wants to become the premier of Queensland by hiding from scrutiny, hiding from the media, hiding from answering the questions that he needs to answer about Southern Edge.

The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition ran a small business that went bust and left many people, many companies, out of pocket. The liquidators suspect that the Leader of the Opposition made the company trade while insolvent—a potential criminal offence. Rather than take responsibility for his actions, he has refused to disclose these payments to the parliament. It is a disgraceful lack of transparency and integrity. You do not become premier of this state when you lack integrity and you lack courage and transparency. He has serious questions to answer, yet all we are getting from him is hiding, ducking and weaving. Will it happen tomorrow and the day after that? Probably. He will just hope that it all blows over and we go on to some other topic.

The pong, the smell, is growing. It is only growing because he refuses to answer the questions about this that any decent leader would. If he has nothing to hide then why is he hiding? That is the question. Why is he hiding if he has nothing to hide? Why was David Crisafulli's Azzurro Consulting owed \$72,000 by the very firm he ran into the ground? Has Azzurro Consulting received the \$72,000 Mr Crisafulli says he was owed? Has he declared the receipt of this large amount of money, if received, on his pecuniary interest register? These are all pertinent questions.

The Leader of the Opposition was appointed director of Southern Edge on 1 December 2015. Federal government records also list him as the CEO from 10 March 2016 to 18 April 2016. A creditors report dated 10 December 2019, after he had made a statement to the parliament, revealed that Southern Edge was 'insolvent from at least December 1, 2015'—the very same day that Mr Crisafulli was appointed a director. Can he explain how and why he was a director of a company—

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Miller has been a minister and has been in this House long enough to know to use correct titles. He continues to refer to the Leader of the Opposition inappropriately.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I apologise. I was taking instructions at the time. I remind all members to use correct titles.

Mr BAILEY: Can the Leader of the Opposition explain how and why he was a director of a company that was trading as insolvent and how it could have been making a profit when it was in fact insolvent, as found by the report? A statutory report by liquidators to creditors dated 24 April 2019 reveals possible recovery actions from the collapse of Southern Edge Training involving claims against the directors of the company or related parties for trading while insolvent. Will the Leader of the Opposition say whether he is one of those directors the liquidators refer to? He needs to come clean.

The ABC revealed last week that the payments that were made took four years to complete. Creditors had to wait four years to get a tiny fraction of the money they were owed. Even then he tried to hide it. The Leader of the Opposition did not tell the parliament. He did not update his register of interests. He kept these payments secret from this House and from the media. He has serious questions to answer. He cannot hide forever.

These are legitimate questions based on a report by the liquidators that has now been revealed. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: you cannot hide forever. Answer the questions that the media want to ask you because, as the Leader of the Opposition, as the potential leader of this state, that is the responsibility of anybody who has integrity. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: come out, come out, wherever you are because the media want to ask you questions. The stink and the pong will continue to grow until he comes out and faces the music and answers the legitimate questions that the media has to ask of him.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2472, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.58 pm), continuing: When it comes to stink and pong, the member for Miller is the exceptional proponent of it and the source of it.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those comments and ask that they be withdrawn.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members on my left! Member, he has taken personal offence.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw. When it comes to stink and pong, the member for Miller is part of a government that excels in emanating it. They are proponents of it. Nowhere is that more evident than in this piece of legislation, where they fail to deal with the biggest stink and the biggest pong of all: their Labor mate Peter Carne, whom they appointed to a \$300,000 a year job and to whom this Attorney-General had to give notice and sack because of allegations in relation to drinking on the job, the misappropriation of funds and travelling overseas at taxpayers' expense. That is a stink and a pong. This bill also does not deal with issues in relation to the former deputy premier, the member for South Brisbane, and her actions in the appointment of a former under treasurer of this state and allegations in relation to her interference in that appointment against a recommendation made by the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. That is a stink and a pong. It was this government's decision—made by the former premier, the former attorney-general, the current Attorney-General and factional allies of Premier Miles in this place—to fund Jackie Trad's action against the CCC to stop the release of a report by the independent Crime and Corruption Commission into those matters that is a stink and a pong, member for Miller, not your contrived outrage in relation to matters that have been fully and totally investigated by ASIC and liquidators.

That is the essence of what this bill does not do in terms of the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill. This bill fails to do the things that it should do and which this government knew had to be done. They knew it had to be done at least a year ago because of a decision out of the High Court which the government knew had a potential outcome and they failed to prepare for it. That is the decision in relation to their Labor mate, their Labor appointee, Peter Carne. This bill should have dealt with the fact that the CCC has been objectively neutered in its reporting function on its corruption investigations since 2020. Prevarication and delay have been the way this government has operated all the way through this shameful episode. Now to have, as the Attorney has done, some amendments introduced at the death of this particular debate shows just how desperate this government is. We have seen that desperation on display.

Let's not forget who it was that introduced requirements around lobbyists and the disclosure of ministers' diaries, because it was not the Labor Party. It was the LNP that between 2012 and 2015 introduced disclosure requirements in relation to ministers' diaries and lobbying activities and the establishment of a lobbyists register. It was the LNP, over the then Labor Party's objections, which introduced the requirement for the then leader of the opposition to disclose meetings held with lobbyists. That was not the Labor Party: that was the LNP. As the Leader of the Opposition has foreshadowed in terms of his correspondence with the Premier regarding this matter, which has been fulsome and complete, including copies of correspondence from the Integrity Commissioner, the LNP will not in that sense be opposing the principle in relation to the disclosure of lobbying matters. In fact, the very reason the government is moving that way is because LNP shadow ministers have been doing so anyway. My own diary discloses all meetings, as required since the amendment came in.

This bill, while necessary, in many respects is long overdue in what it does do, but it is more telling about the thought processes of this Labor government in what it fails to do and in the amendments that have been brought forward. There is only one way that transparency and integrity can be restored to the way this state is governed. The only way to restore the openness and transparency Queenslanders deserve is to show Labor the door in 2024 and elect a Crisafulli LNP government.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.03 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, in its report No. 4 of the 57th Parliament tabled in this Assembly on 5 April 2024, recommended that the bill be passed. As the member for Clayfield has already paid tribute to me, it is important that we remain ever vigilant in the ongoing fight against corruption.

Corruption undermines democracy and we cannot allow it to fester. The capture of the public sector by corrupt and criminal elements leads to a loss of trust in public institutions and democratic processes. We must not forget that the need for an anti-corruption organisation in this state lies purely at the feet of those opposite in their historical governance of this state. Strong anti-corruption institutions such as the Crime and Corruption Commission are key in our ongoing fight against corruption; however, we walk a narrow path. Endowing these institutions with coercive powers runs the risk of subverting our fundamental democratic freedoms. Checks and balances, external oversight and external vigilance are needed.

While the purpose of this bill is not to alter the current powers of the CCC, the reforms in the bill are nevertheless important in streamlining how the CCC performs its functions and providing additional avenues of accountability and oversight. I believe that this bill, as part of our ongoing fight against corruption, strikes a balance between the need for institutions with robust anti-corruption powers and the need for equally robust accountability mechanisms that apply to those institutions.

The committee recommended that the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be passed. A key recommendation of the CCC's commission of inquiry was that the CCC be required to seek advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions prior to the consideration of bringing a prosecution in relation to a corruption investigation. The bill sets out a clear and practical process for obtaining this advice. As we heard this morning from the Attorney-General, there is progress being made in relation to this memorandum of understanding. The benefit of this approach, as outlined by the CCC in their commission of inquiry, is to provide the CCC with expert advice regarding the prospects of a successful prosecution and accordingly reduce the possibility of withdrawn or failed prosecutions. Corruption prosecutions are generally very high profile, and an individual's reputation is still significantly harmed even if a prosecution is discontinued or fails.

The bill's main policy objective is to improve the operation and performance of the Crime and Corruption Commission through making a range of legislative amendments, principally to the Crime and Corruption Act. Two of the key reforms of the bill relate to a review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act. These chapters contain most of the CCC's key powers, such as the power to coerce evidence, hold hearings and provisions regarding privilege and reasonable excuse. The problems with the chapters arise due to the merging of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Queensland Crime Commission in 2001 and the resulting integration of these bodies' governing legislation. This means that the CCC's powers are couched in duplicative terms, as various discrete but similar powers are retained in the act each with application only to certain functions of the CCC. The reworked chapters are more concise and consistent, with broad application across most of the CCC's functions. Additionally, the new provisions include various practical improvements such as making COVID era arrangements for remote appearances and electronic notices permanent.

One of the most important reforms arising out of the review of chapters 3 and 4 is the introduction of qualified journalist privilege. This privilege, commonly referred to as a shield law, means that a journalist cannot be compelled to reveal a confidential source during a CCC hearing or investigation unless it is in the public interest to do so.

The committee recognises that the prosperity of democratic societies depends on robust anti-corruption mechanisms and institutions. At the same time, these powerful institutions must be subject to external oversight and frequent review to ensure they remain trusted as independent investigatory bodies. The significant coercive powers of these institutions must be balanced with safeguards that protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the state's individuals. The committee was satisfied that the amendments set out in the bill strike this balance. Based on the above, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.09 pm): This Labor government have ditched all pretence of integrity and accountability urged in Peter Coaldrake's call for the government to let the sunshine in by trading it instead for 'cloudy with a chance of meatballs'. They cast shade rather than light by hiding reports from the parliament, protecting their Labor mates from having CCC reports tabled in this parliament and turbocharging the sausage machine to ram legislation through the House—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member will get to debate the private member's bill soon, but that is not what we are debating here. This is not about the reporting that the member is speaking to now.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member, can I just advise you that this bill does not reflect the report.

Ms SIMPSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am referring to this government blocking the tabling of CCC reports on Jackie Trad by failing to act to change the laws. There is an amendment before the House that the opposition has put forward proposing that the CCC's reports be able to be published. The fact that this Labor government have not been wanting to enable that report to be tabled goes right to the heart of how they are trying to avoid the scrutiny of this parliament. There should be scrutiny into the actions of some of their former colleagues who have been allowed to have an underwriting of their legal action to keep those reports hidden from this parliament.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, the matters that you are talking about refer to a different private member's bill.

Ms SIMPSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, this is about integrity in this parliament and why it is important for us to understand that there have been significant issues, as my colleague the shadow Attorney-General referred to previously. While I appreciate that Labor members do not like us talking about Jackie Trad and do not like us talking about her report being hidden from this parliament—

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is well aware of the distinction between matters that are relevant to this bill and matters that are relevant to another bill. You have provided two sets of advice to the member already. I would encourage you to consider providing further advice for the member to remain relevant to this bill and save commentary around the other bill for the appropriate time when we debate the private member's bill later this evening.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, can I please advise you to stay relevant to this bill.

Ms SIMPSON: I am happy to do so because this is in the context of integrity and accountability before the parliament. That would not irritate members opposite if they were willing to listen to the fact that this is very important. We have a Crime and Corruption Commission, which is a standing royal commission, that should be able to do its job. My colleague the shadow Attorney-General referred to the shield provisions for journalists. They are ones that we are supporting, but the current Attorney-General in a previous iteration was not in favour of them. It is good to see that these provisions are to be supported here on the floor of the parliament.

It is important to understand that the fruits and roots of corruption and maladministration are the same, even if the intention may be different. Someone may intend to act corruptly but may not intend to maladminister the affairs or the resources of government, but they are both equally important. The role of the Crime and Corruption Commission is particularly focused on actions where they may be corrupt. That is a vitally important role and that is why we support that agency being able to do its job.

I note that other amendments to the Integrity Act have been tabled. I believe they were only tabled this morning. These were in respect of embedding in the legislation what has been happening already with regard to shadow ministers' diaries being published. That is happening and that is not a problem. I understand that these provisions will now ensure lobbyists also have to report their actions with shadow ministers. That is the drafting that is tabled here.

It is rather interesting that, when the state government worked out that they did not understand their own Integrity Act, they tried to blame everybody else for the fact that they had not drafted these provisions in there. They were the ones who were exposed to have failed in this regard but they tried to blame the opposition and then they tried to blame the lobbyists, who until this point have not been required to publish their diary entries with respect to meeting with shadow ministers. That is occurring and that is something we have been able to enable since that motion was passed in this parliament. That is now being provided for in this legislation.

It should not upset members opposite when we talk about integrity and accountability and the fact that there have been significant failures of this government, but somehow it seems to set them off. It sets them off when we remind them about some of their own members who have fallen foul of the laws of this state. One of them would be Gordon Nuttall, who also fell foul of the rules of this parliament. I want to come back to this issue of transparency in the parliament because it matters. It may have been degraded so much by the poor behaviour of this government, but we will not forget what Gordon Nuttall did in respect of deliberately misleading the parliament and doing it also contrary to the criminal

law. This government went to extraordinary measures to try to prevent that matter first being dealt with. Eventually, due to our continued pursuit of this matter, it was able to be brought to light. The parliament's scrutiny absolutely matters and so does that very important role of the Crime and Corruption Commission, that standing royal commission.

I remind members opposite that corruption and maladministration are of equal impact, even if they have a different intention in the actions that are undertaken. That is why the scrutiny and the accountability of this parliament and other agencies matters—in this case, the Integrity Commissioner and the Crime and Corruption Commission. We will continue to ensure that the laws are sufficient to enable them to do their job without interference from this government and without people being able to undermine them through other avenues. That is why the ability to speak in this parliament without fear or favour, without condemnation when upholding the rights of those who do not have the right to speak here, continues to be the case.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, before you take a seat, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language you used in your speech.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As always, I start by thanking my fellow committee members: the committee chair, Peter Russo, the member for Toohey; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper; Steve Andrew, the member for Mirani, who was a committee member at that time; Mark Boothman, the member for Theodore; and, lastly, Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim. I would also like to thank the members of the secretariat who so ably support the members of the committee in every way.

In his opening remarks, our committee chair indicated that corruption undermines democracy, which is certainly true, but I would go further and say that even the perception of corruption has a deleterious effect on the trust that people place in the institutions that wield power in our modern society. This not only affects how people interact with government and political processes but also entrenches an unhealthy cynicism in the wider community that makes it progressively more difficult for a government, any government, to canvas opinions of the community. When a party seeks to fan this cynicism for partisan political purposes, they damage everything that this chamber seeks to uphold and diminishes the potential of governments of all political persuasions. A prime example would be to deliberately scream, 'What's on the laptop?' to implant manufactured suggestions of wrongdoing, knowing full well that in fact there was precisely nothing on said laptop, or keeping secret financial transactions that ought to have been fully ventilated.

In February 2024, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence introduced the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 into Queensland parliament and referred it to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. The committee's sole recommendation was simply that the bill be passed.

The bill's primary objectives include: a review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act to develop uniform provisions and clarify the application of privileges under the act; to establish journalist shield laws; and implement a requirement for the CCC to seek the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions on corruption offences arising from a corruption investigation. As suggested by the Attorney-General in her introductory speech, these reforms are critical, but exhaustive and further work remains to be done. This is only right and proper given the significant powers afforded to the CCC. By way of example, Queenslanders should be reminded that the CCC remains the only Queensland law enforcement agency with powers to conduct coercive hearings requiring witnesses to attend hearings and give evidence. These investigative powers are not ordinarily available to other investigative bodies, including the Queensland Police Service. This is why the role of the PCCC is so vital for a healthy democracy in Queensland. The importance of this body in monitoring and overseeing the functions of the CCC cannot be overstated.

Following the discharge of all eight Logan City councillors in early 2021, the PCCC report 108 recommended that an investigation be conducted into the CCC investigatory and charging functions. The ensuing commission of inquiry from early 2022 identified two primary areas of concern, notably that there was: a risk of institutional capture of the CCC by the QPS due to the system by which QPS officers are seconded to the CCC; and the risk of corruption investigations adopting an overly 'law enforcement' approach at the expense of other responses like systemic or organisational changes intended to promote prevention. To that end, the main issue identified in report No. 97 of the PCCC, according to the bill's explanatory notes, was that 'different powers and processes apply, depending on

the function being exercised'. This has led to 'significant complexity and potential confusion'. Recommendation 6 of report No. 97 recommended reviewing chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act.

The bill also makes several amendments relating to production powers, most notably: the power to require production of a document or thing—to insert a single set of provisions to require production of a document or thing outside of a hearing applying to a crime investigation, a specific intelligence operation, a corruption investigation, a specific intelligence operation for corruption as well as witness protection functions; and the power to require immediate production at a hearing—the bill proposes to add new sections requiring the immediate production of a document or thing at a hearing relevant to the investigation or operation.

As you would expect with a bill containing amendments of this type, there was significant feedback from Queensland's legal sector. The Queensland Law Society opposed section 81L which gives the CCC chairperson power to issue a search warrant, stating that they felt the amendment was 'inappropriate and removes a critical check present in the current system where a judicial officer is able to interrogate the reasons for the issue of a warrant'. They questioned how this power sits with other powers given to judicial officers in relation to search warrants under the legislation.

In response, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General noted that the amendments reflect sections in the current Crime and Corruption Act. In keeping with the policy objectives of the review of chapters 3 and 4, the amendments do not extend the coercive powers of the CCC, but rather streamline their operation. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General further notes that new section 81L is based on section 73 of the current Crime and Corruption Act.

Turning now to the protections afforded to the media, the bill proposes to introduce amendments to provide for better protections of a journalist's confidential sources in relation to CCC investigations. The bill would amend the Crime and Corruption Act to apply a qualified journalist privilege consistent with the Evidence Act. The amendments provide that: where a person claiming journalist privilege disagrees with the decision of the CCC, they have the right to apply to the Supreme Court to decide their claim; while confiscation related to investigations are not included in the new processes for dealing with claims of reasonable excuse, including privilege, journalist privilege is applied to confiscation matters; and existing provisions under the Evidence Act will continue to apply to the execution of search warrants by a CCC officer, including a police officer seconded to the CCC, under the Crime and Corruption Act. These amendments also provide that the claims of journalist privilege will be initially considered by the CCC.

Australia's Right to Know coalition criticised several aspects of the shield laws. They emphasised that the confidentiality of sources is paramount. Going further, they added that they oppose the provisions whereby an initial claim of journalist privilege will be decided by the CCC. They stated that they believe such decisions should only be made by the Supreme Court and questioned the ability of the CCC to remain impartial. By way of response, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General provided that the bill does not require a journalist or relevant person to comply with the CCC directions if this would disclose the identity of the informant. Further, journalist privilege may only be overridden if it is in the public interest, where the public interest outweighs any likely adverse effect of the disclosure.

Lastly, Australia's Right to Know proposed amending section 205D(4) to provide greater protection of confidential sources, including by providing for situations such as where the editor supervising a journalist does not know the identity of the informant but has access to the documents which could lead to their identification. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General responded that the proposed changes to section 205D(4) were designed, according to policy objectives, to align with that of the Evidence Act and not to extend the scope of privilege beyond that applied under the Evidence Act.

Most significantly of all, in my view, the bill proposes to amend the Crime and Corruption Act to require that, before commencing a prosecution for a corruption offence, the CCC must seek the written advice of the DPP on whether a person should be prosecuted and, if so, for what offences. According to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the bill also provides that—

The CCC must provide the DPP with a report on the corruption investigation and include all relevant information known to the CCC. This includes compelled materials and is not limited to material that would be admissible in a prosecution.

Where a prosecution is commenced without first seeking advice because of exceptional circumstances, the CCC must seek the DPP's written advice to the prosecuting entity as soon as reasonably practicable after it is received.

Given all that has gone before, a strong and robust CCC remains as vital as ever but, given its necessary and not inconsiderable powers and scope, a constantly evolving reviewing process which seeks improvement and refinement is vital. This bill is part of that ongoing process, so I commend it to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members—the chair and all the other members. The bill before us today has been a long time coming if you think about it. Some of the recommendations from the original reports which recommended changes to the CC Act date back to 2016, so about eight years ago. I was talking to the member for Toowoomba North and saying that that is almost two-thirds of a child's average school life—eight years. It has taken eight years for this important legislation to make it here to this House.

The multiple reports which were tabled have given us the impetus for this debate today. Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, tabled on 30 June 2016, made 29 recommendations. Report No. 106, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission's activities*, tabled on 30 June 2021, made 30 recommendations. Report No. 108, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*, was tabled on 2 December 2021. These were critically important reviews. That it has taken so long for legislation to come to this chamber shows how the Miles state government views the CCC. In later contributions in relation to estimates hearings, we will hear what the CCC chair said about these matters. In her introductory speech on the bill the Attorney-General said—

The CCC plays a critical role in Queensland's anti-corruption and integrity landscape and has various other important functions in combatting and reducing major crime, witness protections and civil confiscations.

Our local residents, the people of Queensland, expect the highest standards when it comes to government. Corruption must be weeded out and destroyed in every way possible, and that is what Queenslanders expect. Let's look at some of the recommendations made in those original reports. Report No. 106 states—

The committee recommends consideration be given to amending the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to provide for a single non-renewable appointment for the Chairperson and Ordinary Commissioners of the Crime and Corruption Commission, not exceeding seven years.

That report was unanimous. Both sides felt that terms should be for no more than seven years but also stated that they could be shorter. Locking in seven years potentially harms bipartisanship in this parliament. The PCCC did recommend not exceeding seven years, but a shorter period would be far better and would ameliorate any potential negative impacts.

I refer to the 2021 five-yearly review and the PCCC's recommendation No. 2 relating to the definition of 'bipartisan support'. We can see over history how governments can potentially manipulate the appointment of CCC chairs. These amendments are worrying in terms of bipartisanship and open debate on this matter.

The bill further enhances executive powers for the selection of the CCC. This was not supported in the original PCCC report. We are expecting openness and transparency when it comes to these matters. Ensuring proper bipartisanship—both sides of politics—on the PCCC when putting forward individuals for these positions is very important. That is something on which this bill has failed. It is unfortunate that other recommendations made by the PCCC in its reports have not been acted on or implemented to date.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In February this year, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice introduced the bill into the Queensland parliament and referred it to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. The bill's primary objectives include: a review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act to develop uniform provisions and clarify the application of privileges under the act; to establish journalist shield laws; and to implement a requirement for the Crime and Corruption Commission to seek the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions on corruption offences arising from a corruption investigation.

This bill introduces a raft of reforms amending various acts and fundamentally is designed to improve the operation of the CCC. Without a robust integrity system, the risk of corruption, misconduct and inefficiency increases, undermining the very foundation of public trust. An effective monitoring

system holds individuals accountable without subjecting individuals to unsubstantiated defamation and reputational damage. It is not just a matter of good governance; it is essential for maintaining the public's faith in our systems of government.

This bill primarily responds to various recommendations across three Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee reports relating to the activities of the CCC. It also responds to a recommendation of the commission of inquiry relating to the CCC, established by this government, which found that, despite the passage of time since the 1989 Fitzgerald report, the CCC held a central role in Queensland's integrity landscape and there was a requirement for legislation to modernise its powers and functions.

One of the key reforms in this bill is to enhance the oversight of decision-making in corruption investigations by requiring that the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions be sought about a decision to bring charges arising from a corruption investigation. Recent inquiries have highlighted the incredibly complex operating environment for the CCC, particularly in the investigation of corruption allegations and the harm that can eventuate if, after a prosecution has been commenced, criminal charges are subsequently withdrawn.

I saw this myself as a member of the PCCC and during the inquiry into the CCC's handling of the Logan City Council matter. We have also had councillors present to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. The effect it has had on their lives is very real. This needs to be balanced with other prosecutorial considerations. Having additional scrutiny over the decision to prosecute ameliorates this risk and contributes to the reputation of the CCC. This additional and external oversight will ensure decisions are made with the requisite guidance. The amendments make it clear that legal professional privilege will attach to the ODPP's written advice and to confidential communications between the CCC and DPP.

As part of the chapter 3 and 4 review, the government gave consideration to the application of journalist shield laws to the CCC. The identity of a journalist's confidential sources is protected under the Evidence Act; however, the Evidence Act does not currently apply to the CCC outside of search warrants. When introducing the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Attorney-General noted that a review of the applicability of journalist shield laws to the CCC would take place in the future as part of the government's review of the Crime and Corruption Act.

This bill delivers on our commitment to establish a statutory framework under the Crime and Corruption Act to protect the journalist-informant relationship known as 'shield laws'. The bill will create a qualified journalist privilege applying in CCC investigations and hearings, consistent with the approach contained in the Evidence Act 1977. In practice, it will mean that claims of privilege will be initially considered by the CCC. Where a person claiming journalist privilege disagrees with the decision of the CCC, they will have the right to apply to the Supreme Court to ultimately make that determination.

Submitter feedback on this aspect was mixed. While the Queensland Law Society was supportive of the amendments relating to journalist privilege, Australia's Right to Know coalition, ARTK, criticised aspects of the shield law, suggesting that the bill was inconsistent with recent case law that the confidentiality of sources was paramount. In response to those concerns, the department noted that the bill does not require a journalist or relevant person to comply with CCC directions if this would disclose the identity of an informant. Further, journalist privilege may only be overridden if in the public interest, where this public interest outweighs any likely adverse effect of the disclosure.

The bill also makes several amendments relating to production powers to require production of a document or thing outside of a hearing applying to a crime investigation, a specific intelligence operation, a corruption investigation as well as witness protection functions. There were 11 submitters to this bill who gave qualified support for the bill. The LGAQ, for example, stated—

Overall, the LGAQ welcomes changes that implement recommendations of the PCCC Inquiry and CCC COI. It should never be forgotten that people's lives were destroyed and the reputation of our chief corruption watchdog was brought into ... disrepute.

This bill is responsive to recent reviews into Queensland's integrity framework and sets the CCC up with the powers, functions and responsibilities that are required to meet both current and future demand. Like my colleagues, I would like to thank committee colleagues, the chair, the deputy chair, all of our secretariat and all of the submitters who came along and gave their stories and helped us to form the insights of the report. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.40 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution regarding this bill, which implements amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act emanating from a range of reports—and there seems to have been a lot of them—going back to 2016, and that was with the PCCC. This includes

clarifying what special privileges are affected by the act such as legal professional privilege, establishing journalist shield laws and implementing a requirement for the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC, to seek the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions on corruption offences arising from a corruption inquiry. This last provision was to address issues arising from the previous prosecution of several Logan City councillors which saw the CCC charge these councillors with fraud only to have the DPP later drop the charges due to insufficient evidence.

The bill still provides for exceptional circumstances where they do not have to consult with the DPP. This was queried by the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society who stated that they could not identify any justification for the exemption. The department replied that it was designed for an emergency situation such as where an immediate arrest is essential and that they must subsequently still consult with the DPP as soon as practicable.

There were no submissions opposing the bill. However, as we have heard, the fact that it has not addressed key issues impacting the CCC doing its job is concerning. Some have requested certain provisions be changed, with the Law Society stating that the government should have waited until they could also address the CCC's reporting powers, which were the subject of a separate inquiry.

A statement of reservation raised the fixed seven-year appointment of the chairperson and commissioners that was previously set by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee diminishing the required bipartisan approval. In addition, there is a request to reform the current definition of 'bipartisanship' for committee decisions, which is defined in the act as a majority not achieved solely with government members and, of course, could be achieved by crossbench members voting with government.

The argument is that these decisions are not bipartisan if they do not have the support of the opposition. It is often interesting to consider what is the crossbench because sometimes we are called opposition and other times not. It all gets very interesting. Having the opposition, this side of the House, on board with decisions is vital and, as we heard during the youth justice reform inquiry, this was a constant call on major issues from across Queensland, that to move forward we need that real bipartisan agreement. I think we all agree on that. However, any change should not have the effect of disenfranchising the crossbench vote, which is also vital. Maybe what we need is tripartisanship to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders. Again, that is why we constantly request a review of committee and estimates processes. I have my fingers crossed that at the beginning of the next term that is exactly what will happen.

I want to thank the chair, the member for Toohey, as well as fellow committee members, our secretariat and all who made submissions and participated in the inquiry of this bill.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.43 pm): I am very pleased to contribute to this debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The bill represents an important body of reforms to the Crime and Corruption Commission's functions and, as deputy chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I am particularly pleased to see some of the key recommendations being implemented. I note the member for Theodore's comments earlier about all of the 'good members of the PCCC'. I think he was talking about his committee, but I was hoping he might have thought about good members of the PCCC like the chair, and I acknowledge the member for Scenic Rim.

The bill also responds to recommendations in the report of the Fitzgerald-Wilson commission of inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission, which I might refer to going forward as the CCC COI, and the CCC's report *Culture and corruption risks in local government: Lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council*, which I am quite familiar with. It might also be better known as the Windage report. The bill was referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for consideration, with a report issued on 5 April 2024. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

A key recommendation of the Fitzgerald-Wilson commission of inquiry and of the PCCC before I was a member was that the CCC be required to seek advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions prior to the consideration of bringing a prosecution in relation to a corruption investigation. Recommendation 25 of the CCC COI report states—

The *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* be amended as necessary to give effect to the following changes:

- a. Other than in exceptional circumstances, before a charge is laid by a seconded police officer during, or following, a corruption investigation, the Crime and Corruption Commission must seek the opinion of the Director of Public Prosecutions concerning whether a charge may properly be brought having regard to the two-tier test in the Director's Guidelines.

- b. Notwithstanding any other law or any other provision of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, if the Director of Public Prosecutions advises that a charge should not be brought, the seconded police officer must not charge contrary to that advice.
- c. If the Director of Public Prosecutions advises a charge may properly be brought and a decision is made by the seconded police officer not to charge, the Crime and Corruption Commission must report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner about the decision made.
- d. If, because of exceptional circumstances, charges are laid without the Director of Public Prosecutions having first provided its opinion on whether charges may properly be brought, the Crime and Corruption Commission must, as soon as reasonably practicable, report to the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to the charge laid and obtain the Director of Public Prosecutions' opinion about the soundness of the decision to charge.

Recommendation 26 of the CCC COI report stated that the CCC and the DPP should develop a memorandum of understanding outlining the practices and procedures for the referral of matters and the provision of advice, including timeframes. Recommendations 27 and 28 of the CCC COI report require that the CCC report to the minister, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the parliamentary commissioner regarding the arrangement for the provision of advice by the DPP to the CCC and about the effectiveness and utility of the memorandum of understanding, including timeframes and timeliness of the advice provided by the DPP.

The benefit of this approach is outlined in the Fitzgerald-Wilson inquiry report and would provide the CCC with expert advice regarding the prospects of a successful prosecution and, accordingly, reduce the possibility of withdrawn or failed prosecutions. Corruption prosecutions are usually high profile and a person's reputation is still harmed even if a prosecution is discontinued. There will always be situations where seemingly meritorious prosecutions will be withdrawn but, by requiring Director of Public Prosecutions' advice prior to the consideration of charges, the chance of failed prosecutions will be reduced. I think our recent history and experience would show that to be a very sound recommendation made by that commission of inquiry and one that I certainly reflect upon in my experience of having to deal with prosecutions that were ultimately withdrawn.

The largest and most technical body of work in the bill is the review of chapters 3 and 4 of the act. These chapters contain most of the CCC's key powers, such as the power to coerce evidence and hold hearings, and provisions regarding privilege and reasonable excuse. It has long been recognised that these chapters of the act require rationalisation and consolidation. The problems with the chapters have arisen effectively due to the merging of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Queensland Crime Commission in 2001 and the resulting integration of those two bodies' governing legislation into the Crime and Corruption Act. This means that the CCC's powers are couched in very duplicative terms as various discrete but similar powers are retained in the act, each with application only to certain functions of the CCC. The reworked chapters are more concise and consistent, with broad application across most of the CCC's functions, meaning better presentation and support under that very important chapter of the act. Additionally, the new provisions include various practical improvements such as making permanent the COVID-era arrangements for remote appearances and electronic notices. It is good to see those reforms being made wherever they can as we go forward.

One of the most important reforms arising from the review of chapters 3 and 4 is the introduction of a qualified journalist privilege. This privilege—a shield law—means that a journalist cannot be compelled to reveal a confidential source during a CCC hearing or investigation unless it is in the public interest to do so. These new shield laws are substantively consistent with current provisions of the Evidence Act, which applies to the courts, though there are some necessary procedural differences. Claims of journalist privilege are considered in the first instance by the CCC, with a right of appeal to the Supreme Court. However, a matter may also proceed directly to the Supreme Court if the CCC is unable to consider the matter without first accessing the privileged material that is the subject of the dispute. Where the Supreme Court decides that a claim of journalist privilege is established, the court may order the journalist or relevant person to produce the document, thing or information, or answer the question, if satisfied that the public interest in the informant's identity being disclosed outweighs: any likely adverse effect of the disclosure on the informant or another person; and the public interest in the communication of facts and opinions to the public by the news media and the ability of the news media to access sources of facts.

The bill makes various other miscellaneous amendments, including providing criteria for prescribing entities as units of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act, thus bringing them within the CCC's corruption jurisdiction, and permitting the transfer of records of the Connolly-Ryan inquiry to the State Archives. I understand this will free up some important space here at the Queensland parliament. As members will appreciate but, not many people in the public will, all

of the documentary records of this parliament are stored here onsite—indeed, beneath this chamber—and freeing up that space is very important, and the Connolly-Ryan inquiry papers going to the State Archives will provide that opportunity.

Other miscellaneous amendments include: ensuring that inspecting entities can report on contraventions of telecommunications interception warrant conditions or restrictions; requiring that at least two of the CCC's three ordinary commissioners must have a demonstrated interest and ability in community affairs, public administration and organisational leadership; and providing for a single non-renewable appointment term of seven years for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and ordinary commissioners. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.53 pm): In rising to make some comments on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, I want to acknowledge the work undertaken by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in this term of parliament. In my role chairing that committee, I have become quite familiar with many of the reforms that will be implemented through this bill arising from the 2021 five-year review of the CCC's legislation. In that process, there was obviously a review of recommendations from the 2016 five-year review which had not been implemented—in 2021 the committee determined in its report to not adopt some of those 2016 recommendations after having considered the matters again—and the 2021 inquiry into the investigation and dismissal of seven Logan City councillors.

Some of the matters which are dealt with in this bill certainly came to the fore and I will discuss a few of them, starting with the recommendation which will be implemented in this bill that at least two of the ordinary commissioners of the CCC have a background in community engagement and community service. This is a commonsense reform to the CCC to ensure that the commissioners, who are essentially the board for the CCC, have a broad range of skills and experience. I also want to touch on the changes to tenure requirements for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and commissioners of the CCC and acknowledge that a recommendation was made by the PCCC that there be a single fixed non-renewable term for those positions. This was seen as important so that there could be no question or perception that people acting in those roles may be acting in a way so as to ensure their reappointment. Ensuring they can serve only one term takes away that actual risk or perception of risk.

The implementation of this recommendation in the bill differs somewhat from that recommended by the committee in that it mandates that there must be a seven-year term. As set out in the statement of reservation, the reason that I have expressed some reservation with this provision is that, unique to public sector positions, the CCC chairperson and commissioners are appointed following a bipartisan recommendation process and that process goes not only to the person to be appointed to the role but also to the length of that tenure. Essentially, by mandating in legislation that it must be a seven-year term, it makes that bipartisan decision-making process a little bit more difficult in that it is essentially a yes or no to both the person and the term. There is no room for discussion or bipartisan negotiation about that which should be able to be done because the PCCC, unique to the committees of this parliament, has a very specific monitoring and oversight role of the CCC and, as a result and through that legislation and the bipartisan support requirement, should be able to have that input into the process, but this bill takes that away.

I want to also reflect on the memorandum of understanding that has been entered into between the DPP and the CCC—and it is good to see—in relation to the laying of charges and the process for obtaining advice from the DPP before charges are laid under the CCC's corruption power. The section 49 amendments set out in this bill go into that and legislate further in relation to the process that the CCC has already undertaken. There has been some concern about the exceptional circumstances carve-out from the requirement for DPP advice before charges are laid under that corruption power. Those concerns are well founded, because there is no definition of exceptional circumstances and it also leaves the fear that mistakes that were made and which were highlighted quite plainly by the Logan City Council report may be made again in the future because there is that ability in the legislation for that to occur. This is something that I know the PCCC will continue to look at into the future to ensure that mistakes that were made in the past are not made again. A range of other amendments are being put in place from the 2016 review, from the 2021 review, from the Logan City Council review and from the commission of inquiry by Fitzgerald and Wilson. However, there is nothing from the Holmes review in this bill, so I cannot include that.

The point to be made, which has been made very well by the member for Clayfield—and I want to associate myself with the comments he made earlier in the debate—is that the pace of change for this legislation is glacial. It is very slow. It has been more than eight years since the 2016 review by the PCCC was handed down, yet only now are we seeing debate on the floor of this House and changes

to legislation that should have been put in place many years ago. Even things arising from the 2021 review have been out there for more than three years, and we go further with the Logan City Council and the Wilson and Fitzgerald inquiry. The pace of change has been too slow for problems that have been identified over many years.

When it comes to the corruption power, neither this bill nor any of the foreshadowed amendments pick up on the most important issue affecting the CCC today, which is in relation to public reporting on corruption matters. This problem has arisen as a result of a Queensland Court of Appeal decision that the CCC was unable to publicly report on corruption investigations except in particular circumstances. That decision was handed down two years ago and 11 months ago a High Court decision confirmed that decision. It found that our Queensland laws do not allow public reporting on corruption matters in the way that has been understood to be the case ever since the CJC was put in place by Mike Ahern and the National Party government in 1989. That was the understanding.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection: it was a great government, led by a great man—Mike Ahern—that implemented the Fitzgerald inquiry lock, stock and barrel. I thank the member for Logan for the interjection because it gives me the opportunity to mention Premier Mike Ahern and the members who implemented the Fitzgerald recommendations lock, stock and barrel. That is in stark contrast to members opposite who are failing to give back to the CCC the power to publicly report—power that everyone always thought they had. Where is the Bill Gunn of the Labor Party of Queensland today? Where is the Mike Ahern of the Labor Party of Queensland today? Where are the people opposite who will stand up and say the right thing and give back to the CCC their power to publicly report?

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Members, there is way too much interjection. I will start warning people in a minute.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Before you assumed the chair, your colleague deputy speaker provided advice to the member for Maroochydhore about straying into content in relation to a private member's bill. From what I can hear from the member for Scenic Rim, that is occurring again. I would urge you to remind members of their obligations in terms of relevance to this bill and save their contributions for later.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. Member for Scenic Rim, I know you know this bill inside and out. I ask you to stick to the bill.

Mr KRAUSE: In making some closing comments about the bill, again I point out that the pace of change for CCC legislation in Queensland has been absolutely glacial. It has been eight years since the first five-year review was handed down and only now are we seeing changes being debated in parliament to give effect to those recommendations. While we are not opposing the bill, those points need to be made, as do other points in relation to the public reporting power. I make that point, and it is entirely relevant to the bill, because with all of the changes that are being implemented in this bill, as worthy as they are—I do not completely agree with all of them, but on the whole it is a bill that we can agree with—without the public reporting power for corruption it has particular limiting effects. That is another question for another time, but it is relevant to the changes that are being made in this bill and the usefulness that they will have for the CCC in the context of the legislation that they have in place right now.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.04 pm): Having an independent anti-corruption body or authority is a key feature of a modern democracy and it is one of the key reasons why I got involved in politics in the first place. In the eighties, anybody with a set of eyes could see that there was something very dark in the state of Queensland. Certainly the absence of an independent corruption authority was one of the things that allowed corruption to flourish during that time. One of the reasons why I and so many others got involved in politics was to have a cleaner state, to have a corruption-free state as a goal and to have integrity restored to government for the Queensland people.

Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate. Like me, he understands that era very directly. The reforms from the Fitzgerald era established the then CJC, now the CCC. Such bodies are essential to the effective working of politics and government. That is an important thing. It is important to note that, like any institution, the CCC is not infallible. It is an institution that needs to remain on point and, where necessary, reform to ensure that its integrity is maintained and that its effectiveness remains as strong as it can possibly be, which is what this bill seeks to achieve. The bill

seeks to achieve some reform over time and also some reform in relation to certain events. It is essential that we do this to ensure that it is an effective independent body that has no fear nor favour but has clear powers that are reasonable and that ensure that its role is effective over time. I see this bill very much in that light.

The bill contains a package of reforms responding to various recommendations from the PCCC, the report of the Fitzgerald and Wilson Commission of Inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission, and also the CCC's *Culture and corruption risks in local government: lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council (Operation Windage)*, commonly known as the Windage report. The bill was referred to the relevant parliamentary committee for consideration, with a report issued on 5 April this year. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

A key recommendation of the CCC's commission of inquiry was that the CCC be required to seek advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions prior to the consideration of bringing a prosecution in relation to a corruption investigation. The bill sets out a clear and practical process for obtaining that advice. Under the bill, before a prosecuting authority can commence a prosecution for a corruption offence arising from a corruption investigation, the CCC must seek the written advice of the DPP on whether a person should be prosecuted and, if so, for what offences. The CCC must provide the Director of Public Prosecutions with a report on the corruption investigation and include all relevant information known to the CCC. This includes compelled materials and is not limited to material that would be admissible in a prosecution.

Where a prosecution is commenced without first seeking advice because of exceptional circumstances, the CCC must seek the DPP's written advice as soon as reasonably practicable. The CCC must give a copy of the DPP's written advice to the prosecuting entity as soon as reasonably practicable after it is received. The prosecuting entity may need to take steps consistent with the advice, for example, amending or withdrawing the charges before the court. Where the Director of Public Prosecutions provides written advice to the CCC that a prosecution should be commenced and the prosecuting authority declines to commence the prosecution, the CCC must inform the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the parliamentary commissioner.

Obviously, some of this refers to the Logan case, which was not a moment of glory for the CCC, one might say. It tries to remedy the processes that were lacking. Let us be frank: the careers of a whole range of people were ruined because of a charge of corruption that was subsequently withdrawn. The careers of many of those people never recovered, which is a very serious thing. We have to ensure that the mistakes that were made then are not made in future because the rights of people like them in that situation need to be respected.

The benefit of this approach, as outlined by the CCC commission of inquiry, is to provide the CCC with expert advice regarding the prospects of a successful prosecution and, accordingly, reduce the possibility of withdrawn or failed prosecutions. Corruption prosecutions, of course, are generally very high profile and an individual's reputation can still be significantly harmed, as in the case of Logan, even if a prosecution is continued or fails.

As is the case across the entire criminal justice system, to be fair, there will be some situations where seemingly meritorious prosecutions will be withdrawn but, by requiring the Director of Public Prosecutions' advice prior to the consideration of charges, the chances of futile corruption prosecutions being pursued will be reduced. I think that is deserving of support and is a good feature of the bill. The new provisions include a requirement that a memorandum of understanding be developed between the CCC and the DPP to operationalise these amendments, and the Attorney-General has advised that this has occurred in advance of the legislation's commencement.

The review of chapters 3 and 4 of the act was a large and complicated body of work. Its key objectives were to rationalise the existing legislative provisions to set out the coercive powers available to the CCC when performing its functions with a view to developing uniform provisions with generic application to CCC functions, where appropriate; to clarify which privileges are abrogated or unaffected by the provisions of the act, with the objective of rationalising claims that may be made in the exercise of the CCC's powers; and to streamline processes and procedures, where possible, to minimise confusion, reduce inconsistencies and improve operational effectiveness.

Another feature of this bill that is important to note is the introduction of a qualified journalist privilege. This privilege, often referred to as the shield law, means that journalists cannot be compelled to reveal a confidential source during a CCC hearing or investigation unless it is in the public interest to do so. These new shield laws are largely consistent with current provisions under the Evidence Act, though there are some necessary procedural differences. Claims of journalist privilege are considered

in the first instance by the Crime and Corruption Commission, with a right of appeal to the Supreme Court. However, a matter may also proceed directly to the Supreme Court if the CCC is unable to consider the matter without first accessing the privileged material that is the subject of the dispute. This is a very important reform.

The nature of democracy means that there will be friction between the media and members of parliament. That is just part of the robust system that we have, but it is important that journalists are protected to do their job fully and properly. This is a really important reform by this government that is progressive and respects the role of the media to scrutinise without fear or favour. I certainly support that.

There are a couple of minor provisions in the bill. One I want to refer to specifically is permitting the records of the Connolly-Ryan inquiry to be transferred to the State Archives. No doubt my predecessor, Matt Foley, a former attorney-general and former member for Yeronga and Yeerongpilly, would be interested to hear that the voluminous nature of that inquiry has become a physical problem in the parliament and that that is being sought to be rectified in this bill. It was a notorious inquiry—a real failure of an inquiry and an embarrassment—but, seemingly, its great contribution has been to place the archives here in all sorts of strife and we have to legislate to get it out of the building. I note that point, and I thank the former member for Yeerongpilly and Yeronga for his role in opposition at that time in terms of that notorious inquiry.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.13 pm): As we participate in the second last sitting week of this 57th Queensland parliament, it is no surprise to see that the *Notice Paper* is absolutely crammed. This government has consistently handed in late and sloppy homework and now it finds it has left many of the most important pieces of work until the last minute. No bill could be considered more untimely or overdue than this one.

The LNP will not oppose the bill and, in fact, the bill will go through. I do not intend to speak at length, especially after the excellent speech by the LNP shadow minister, the member for Clayfield. I do want to protest the culture of cover-ups that has marked this Labor government's time in power. This bill represents the Labor government's attempt to address multiple reports and recommendations dating back to 2016. Talk about overdue homework! Some of the homework in this bill is eight years old.

I refer to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, tabled in parliament on 20 June 2016. The bill also addresses PCCC report No. 108, titled *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council; and related matters*, which was tabled on 2 December 2018. These tabling dates are making a point for me.

This is a government that is based on a culture of cover-ups and deceit. It pays lip-service to integrity, but when there are major issues that are glaringly obvious to everyone else it is in no hurry to do anything about them. The latter report is vital. People across Queensland are disgruntled with the way that local government is having to operate under Labor's laws.

In the bush, local government is absolutely vital if communities are to receive services, and the best way for councils to work well is to be allowed to work in a collegial and open way. Under Labor's laws, people with their own political agendas are incentivised to lodge endless complaints about councillors with the OIA. I hear that it took about two weeks for the first such lodgement against one of Gregory's newly elected mayors.

Mayors and councillors cannot do their job with this shadow of fear and harassment hanging over them. The Labor government argues that it is necessary to protect us from corrupt councillors, yet it seems to me that the bulk of complaints are trivial or, all too often, proved wrong. An example is the complaint lodged against former Barcaldine mayor Sean Dillon that he had brought Queensland Health into disrepute through a critique of aspects of Queensland Health's plans to deliver COVID vaccines in his shire. His constructive criticism proved to be correct and this time-wasting complaint should never have been accepted. It was in no way misbehaviour or anything else. Sean Dillon was simply doing the job his ratepayers had elected him to do, and he was doing it well, even though he trod on a few bureaucratic toes.

There will be long-term consequences for the quality of local government in Queensland if we continue down a road where words count more than records of achievement. I have spoken about this many times. We are finding it harder and harder to get mayors and councillors to stand in rural and remote areas because of this. They are questioning why they are spending so much time doing the job

and then being criticised and hauled down to Brisbane, having to fly from places like Windorah, to receive a complaint that should never have been put forward. We have lost good quality people from the positions of mayors and councillors because of that. It is time—

Mr Stevens: You can't say 'ranga'.

Mr MILLAR: No. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I know the councillor and he is a good bloke. Tom Tate, the mayor, is a good person. They had a simple exchange of complimentary words.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: Yes. It is an absolute disgrace. The whole Logan City Council saga was a disgrace as well. It is even more of a disgrace that this bill today is still addressing aspects of the report and the recommendations tabled in 2018. The LGAQ, in its submission, said—

Queenslanders deserve to have a corruption watchdog that is unbridled from its recent failings, not a pile of reports that simply gather dust.

Yes, we must absolutely have the strongest integrity laws if we are to ensure that Queensland is not a nest of corruption, yet this government not only has been slow to act but also has muddled priorities.

In July 2023, the *Courier-Mail* reported that the CCC had started recruiting eight professionals for a new corruption prevention and engagement unit to help Queensland's public sector agencies prevent corruption internally. This is the same agency that refers complaints from whistleblowers back to the department that they are complaining about—often the same department that employs the whistleblowers. We should be protecting and thanking whistleblowers, not setting them up for reprisals.

Greg McMahon, the Secretary of the Queensland Whistleblowers Action Group, said in the same article that whistleblower protection has not been addressed properly since Tony Fitzgerald's watershed inquiry raised concerns 30 years ago. We are still in the same position over a year later and although this bill affects journalist shield laws it does not give a blanket protection by any means.

In their submission to the committee, the Australia's Right to Know Coalition raised the issue that the bill, as drafted, means the CCC will have to make preliminary decisions about whether journalist privilege arises in a given case. They make the point in their submission—

As the investigatory body seeking disclosure of the document or information in question, the CCC—colloquially—has skin in the game. The CCC's interests will, by definition, always be aligned with seeking to overturn the privilege claim.

This is absolutely correct and glaringly obvious. The bill places the CCC in an unending conflict of interest when it comes to judging journalist privilege. The Queensland Law Society raises a similar issue with the undermining of professional legal privilege.

The bill will also change the tenure of the CCC appointments. In the LNP's statement of reservation, appended to the committee report, our members noted that the PCCC has recommended that the term of appointment not exceed seven years. Instead, the bill provides a fixed tenure of seven years for the positions of chairperson, deputy chairperson or ordinary commissioners. This is a very different outcome. Not only might it cause recruiting difficulties, the ability for the PCCC to change the length of the proposed term of their positions when the committee is assessing applicants is important to ensuring the bipartisan nature of the employment.

Finally, the government's lack of commitment to integrity is never more clear than the fact that they have put off critical changes needed to remedy the reporting powers of the CCC. The Labor government could have moved such amendments as part of this bill or it could have agreed to pass the LNP's private member's bill, introduced by the member for Clayfield, which has been sitting before the House for more than a year. Instead, they have chosen to continue the great Labor tradition of cover-ups—

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, on relevance. The member is now talking about a private member's bill and not the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I am listening closely to the member for Gregory. I have given you a bit of leeway, but I will call you back to the bill.

Mr MILLAR: That is the last I will say of it. With reservations being expressed about journalist privilege, legal privilege and whistleblower protections Queenslanders should not expect sunshine from this bill.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.22 pm): I rise today to support the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which was introduced by the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory and member for Maryborough, no more quarrelling across the chamber please.

Ms PEASE: I rise today to support the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was introduced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice earlier this year. This bill was subsequently referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, which recommended that the bill be passed without amendment.

This bill introduces a series of reforms aimed at enhancing the operation of the Crime and Corruption Commission. We have already heard today how vital the CCC is to Queensland's integrity framework. It is paramount that it can operate with impartiality, fairness and transparency. This bill primarily addresses various recommendations from three Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee reports related to the CCC's activities. It also responds to a recommendation from the Commission of Inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission.

A key reform of the bill is the enhancement of oversight in corruption investigations. It requires that the DPP's advice be sought before deciding to bring charges arising from a corruption investigation. This bill will require that, where a prosecution is commenced without first seeking advice because of exceptional circumstances, the CCC must seek the DPP's written advice as soon as reasonably practicable. The CCC must give a copy of the DPP's written advice to the prosecuting entity as soon as reasonably practicable after it is received. The prosecuting entity may need to take further steps consistent with advice—for example, amending or withdrawing the charges before the court.

Recent inquiries have highlighted challenges the CCC face in relation to corruption investigations. They also underscored the harm that can result if criminal charges are withdrawn after prosecution has commenced. This reform will restore a greater level of oversight and confidence to witnesses and employees and statutory officers engaged in these corruption investigations.

The government has also considered the application of the journalist shield laws to the CCC. Currently, the Evidence Act protects the identity of a journalist's confidential sources, but this protection does not currently extend to the CCC. This bill proposes to introduce amendments to provide for better protections of a journalist's confidential sources in relation to CCC investigations. The bill would amend the CC Act to apply a qualified journalist privilege consistent with the Evidence Act. The amendments provide that where a person claiming journalist privilege disagrees with the decision of the CCC they then have the right to apply to the Supreme Court to decide their claim. Whilst confiscation related investigations are not included in the new process for dealing with claims of reasonable excuse, including privilege, journalist privilege is applied to confiscation matters. Existing provisions under the Evidence Act will continue to apply to the execution of search warrants by a CCC officer, including a police officer seconded to the CCC under the CC Act.

The amendments also provide that claims of journalist privilege will be initially considered by the CCC. Feedback on this aspect was mixed. Australia's Right to Know Coalition expressed concerns, arguing that the bill was inconsistent with recent case law emphasising the paramount importance of source confidentiality. In response, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General noted that the bill does not require journalists or relevant individuals to comply with CCC directions if doing so would reveal an informant's identity. Journalist privilege can only be overridden if it is in the public interest and if this outweighs any likely adverse effect from the disclosure.

Eleven submitters provided qualified support for the bill. For example, the LGAQ stated that they welcome changes implementing recommendations from the PCCC inquiry and the Commission of Inquiry relating to the CCC. We have heard here today and through various inquiries that the need for the public to be confident with the operations of the CCC and corruption bodies really matters to our communities.

I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to doing the work to progress this. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge all those who have spoken before me and to thank the committee which did significant work in bringing this bill before the House today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.28 pm): I wish to contribute to this debate. It is of great importance in this state that we have a standing royal commission in the form of the CCC. We know that the CCC is a great legacy of the reforms of the late eighties. It is also the stained legacy of the most proven corrupt political party in Queensland's history, the National Party—in fact, the most proven

corrupt political party in the entire country, the National Party. Ultimately, that is the legacy that the National Party stands on when it comes to this state and moving forward. In recent times we have seen that legacy continue—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: I hear those opposite. They want to talk about letting the sunshine in. Let's let it in.

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

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Interjections must be made from a member's own seat and the member for Nanango is not in her seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the member for Nanango interjecting. Apparently it was not the member for Nanango, so that is not a point of order. Member for Bundaberg, before you resume, I have given you a little bit of leeway but please stick to the bill.

Mr SMITH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will of course stick to the bill. There was some interjection over there, so I will take the interjection that was talking about letting the sunshine in.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you just cannot take an interjection and talk to that. I ask you to stick to the bill, please.

Ms Pease: Yes, you can.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will take your guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Lytton, I just made a decision and I will not have that reflected on. I am listening closely to the member for Bundaberg.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I do appreciate your guidance and your advice. It is important that we are able to have a conversation about the importance of the CCC in ensuring that their powers are fair, that their powers are quite strong and that their powers are quite vast but that they do protect people right throughout this state.

When we reflect upon what happened with the Logan City Council matter, it is important that we reflect on the CCC's role and that we reflect on the importance of the changes in this legislation around seeking advice from the DPP. This is important because, as the member for Miller rightly pointed out previously, any charge or allegation of corruption against an individual is life-changing. It puts personal pressures upon people. It puts financial pressures upon them to defend themselves. For those who are seeking public office or seeking to be re-elected to public office, we know that any allegation of corruption can be of serious jeopardy to them being able to achieve what it is they are seeking to achieve. We saw the necessity for this amendment.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SMITH: I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. I will not continue to reflect on it but I will take it. We saw the importance of making sure that the CCC seeks advice from the DPP. That is what this piece of legislation does. It is a key recommendation of the CCC commission of inquiry that the CCC be required to seek advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions prior to the consideration of bringing a prosecution in relation to a corruption investigation. The benefit of this approach, of course, is outlined in that commission of inquiry. It provides the CCC with expert advice regarding the prospects of a successful prosecution.

That is absolutely important because of the measure we have in this state and within the western judicial system of 'beyond reasonable doubt'. That is why we have to ensure that our crime and corruption watchdog is charging people where they believe there is a likelihood of successful prosecution, especially when it comes to corruption and especially when it comes to allegations against those in public office, because we know the damage that can be done. If people do not trust their elected leaders then they will not vote for them.

We on this side of the House know how important it is to have integrity, to have the trust of the people of Queensland. The member for Scenic Rim asked: where is the Bill Gunn on this side of the House? Where is the Mike Ahern? We found out in the last couple of weeks where the Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen is on that side of the House. Little Joh is over there—\$200,000 of hush money. We know absolutely about little Joh.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, I let you stray a little bit, but I am going to direct you back to the bill now or I will sit you down.

Mr SMITH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think that speaks to the importance that the general public, the people of Queensland, must have faith and trust not only in their government, not only in their elected representatives, but also in the watchdog that ensures we can eliminate corruption or at least seek it out and end it so that we can continue to move forward as a good and positive state. That is why this measure—to ensure advice is sought from the DPP—is very important.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SMITH: If those opposite want to interject, they should speak louder. I will come right back. I quite enjoy it. That is why we are seeking that measure.

It is important that journalists play a key role. In fact, if we reflect on what triggered the Fitzgerald inquiry in the first place, it was the Masters documentary—I believe it was on *Four Corners* at the time—that highlighted the illegal casinos that were underway and the corruption by the police and by the then government at the time. Do members remember that government? It was led by the most proven corrupt political party in Australia's history—the National Party. Remember when the National Party did exist?

It is important that we provide shield laws for our journalists because our journalists play a vital role in democracy. One of the most important reforms that has arisen out of the review of chapters 3 and 4 is the introduction of a qualified journalist privilege. This privilege, commonly referred to as a shield law, means that a journalist cannot be compelled to reveal a confidential source during a CCC hearing or an investigation unless it is in the public interest to do so. We know that the public interest must always come first in anything that we do in our role as legislators or as representatives of our electorates. It is the people who drive the determination of this state forward. It is the people who drive the good policy and good legislation that is put forward in this House. These new shield laws are substantively consistent with the current provisions of the Evidence Act which apply to the courts.

It is important that our journalists have that protection so that if they write a story—maybe about a member of parliament who was found in contempt or a member of parliament who is alleged to have committed corruption—they know they have the right to wonder why some different political parties side up so strongly to different stakeholder groups when it comes to the policies they put forward. What would be an example of this? An example would be the importance of a journalist being able to report if a member of parliament were to take confidential committee papers and give it to, let's say, the Queensland Resources Council and then allow the Queensland Resources Council to edit that document.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are straying way away from the bill. I understand that you are talking about journalists and their rights, but please come back to the bill. While I have interrupted you, you used some very unparliamentary language about another member before. I am not going to repeat it but I ask you to withdraw.

Mr SMITH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you have the call. I am listening closely.

Mr SMITH: Imagine if journalists in this state did not feel confident to write about matters that were directly in the public interest. Imagine if they did not feel confident to expose, as Chris Masters did all those years ago, the corruption that was embedded in this state. Imagine if journalists did not feel they had the confidence and ability to write stories about how some members of this House might be deliberately swayed by releasing confidential documents. It is so important that shield laws are in place, so that we can be strong, safe and protected. It is also important that we understand why one side do not want to support progressive mining royalties.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Southern Downs, maybe you can bring us back to the bill.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.38 pm): There have been a number of things raised. A lot of it has revolved around the Fitzgerald report and the Fitzgerald inquiry. I have a few things to say that are entirely relevant to the bill. For inspiration, I need go no further than the statement of reservation provided by the opposition members of the committee in this matter. They raised a number of glaring issues. Obviously we are going to support this bill, because it is by and large bringing in things which at length must be brought in in order to keep our important anti-corruption institution relevant and able, but not everything that we want or need is provided for in this bill.

Firstly, there was the perplexing and troubling development where, in spite of the recommendations of the PCCC, the tenure for appointment to the positions of deputy chair and chairperson of the CCC is not going to be done on the basis of up to seven years but a fixed seven-year term. That undermines bipartisanship, which is a very important element of the PCCC and the CCC. It

goes right back to the original recommendation of Fitzgerald that there be genuine bipartisanship and an ability for the opposition of the day to have an effect on these very important matters so that a government in a unicameral parliament like ours does not call all of the shots on anti-corruption measures.

There is also the matter of bipartisan support for PCCC decision-making. I will read an extract from the statement of reservation directly into the record because it is so succinct. It states—

The Government rejected recommendation 2 of the PCCC's 2021 5 year review ... to reform the definition of 'bipartisan support' to ensure such decisions are genuinely bipartisan. In the past the drafting of this definition has been manipulated by the Government to have the PCCC approve appointments to the CCC that were not supported by the Opposition.

That is a flagrant breach of the spirit of the institution of the CCC and its forebears as envisaged by Commissioner Fitzgerald in his landmark report of 1989.

I also heard members on the government side wax lyrical about the Fitzgerald inquiry and give us a history lesson about what occurred there. I heard names like Matt Foley. If I remember rightly, Matt Foley, as a Labor Party man, actually had leave to appear before the commission. Where is Matt Foley now when we see the government trampling over bipartisanship in the control and oversight of the CCC?

Following on from what the member for Bundaberg was saying about Fitzgerald and how it was important to have the institution strong and progressive in order to safeguard democracy in our state, if I remember rightly—and I am seldom wrong about these things—I think Fitzgerald said that an electorate denied information cannot be taken to have approved that of which it was unaware. Where is the report in relation to Jackie Trad and what about the suppression—I can see it is going to happen but I can get it in—of the CCC?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you have been in here and seen members pulled away from that particular subject. I would ask you to stick to responding to other members or talking to the bill, please.

Mr LISTER: If I may, I will respond to a number of members on my side, including the member for Nanango, in saying that we ought to see that report, but I will move on.

The observation has been made by many on this side before me that the pace of reform has been glacial. We have heard about there being eight years between the recommendations and seeing some of them appear here in legislation before us at five minutes to midnight from a government that is very tired and lacking in ideas. Why is that? It is because the Labor Party, contrary to its pious protestations that it is the guardian of integrity in ensuring governments are held to account, does not like the work of the CCC when they were in government. They are never in a hurry to implement measures, necessary though they may be, which may involve them being scrutinised and having to disclose what goes on behind the scenes. That is what it is all about.

Despite all of the protestations from the government side of the House that they are leaders in terms of integrity, that is codswallop. I would say to the people of Southern Downs that if you want to look at a government that does not have integrity there is a virtuoso example of one in this House: the Miles Labor government. We have seen so many times when they have failed to release to the electorate through parliament or other mechanisms information which is important for the people to have in order to hold the government to account, and that goes back to what Fitzgerald was saying. It was fundamental to his recommendations that the electorate must be informed and there must be mechanisms to ensure that the government of the day does not have the ability to stymie debate or withhold information which is relevant to the electorate and thereby dominate the electoral system. I think I will leave it there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr LISTER: Was that a request for me to keep speaking? I can continue. When I was 12 years old I went and sat in the gallery of courtroom 24 in the District Court, which is where the Fitzgerald inquiry was being held. It was very interesting. I challenge anybody on that side of the House to a debate with me on the implications of Fitzgerald and what his report said. I will be watching to see if there are any more government speakers ahead of me or after me and hold them to account for what they might say to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.45 pm), in reply: I begin by thanking all members for their contributions to the debate on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. This bill brings to fruition several major bodies of work relating to the Crime and Corruption

Commission, but it is not the first and only piece of legislation to alter the Crime and Corruption Act over the 10 years we have been in government. Listening to the debate from the other side, you would assume that nothing has been done in this space. In fact, it was the Labor government when we came in in 2015 that quickly changed the crime and corruption legislation to give it more independence, to ensure more bipartisanship in relation to appointing the chair, and to ensure that it had the broadest scope of corruption investigation functions, because they were narrowed by those on the other side when they were in government.

In response to a recommendation of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, the government established a commission of inquiry to inquire into certain matters relating to the CCC. This was the second time in Queensland's history that the Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC QC considered the modus operandi of fighting corruption in this state. The commission of inquiry made a total of 32 recommendations directed toward addressing key risks in the use of seconded police officers by the CCC in its corruption functions as well as achieving important strategic and operational improvements. These improvements included the new process—which is the subject matter of the bill—for independent oversight by the Director of Public Prosecutions of the decision to lay charges arising from a corruption investigation before a prosecution may proceed through the court system.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Tony Fitzgerald and the Hon. Alan Wilson QC once again on behalf of the government for the significant contribution they have made to ensuring that the CCC may continue to serve Queenslanders for the coming decades as its leading integrity and crime-fighting body.

The bill also implements the government's response to several recommendations of the PCCC. The PCCC, which is a continuation of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee and the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, had for decades conducted many reviews and made countless recommendations. All of these represent significant and important pieces of work, and I thank the PCCC and the secretariat staff who support the committee for all of their work and the critical role they play in Queensland's integrity landscape.

Significantly, the bill completes the PCCC's recommendation for a review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act. The result is a set of comprehensive and cohesive amendments to the act to streamline the coercive power and privilege provisions relevant to the CCC's performance of its functions. Included in these amendments are new provisions applying journalist shield laws to the CCC to ensure the protection of the journalist-informant relationship subject only to the public interest.

The bill also implements a number of other PCCC recommendations, including in relation to the tenure, qualification and appointment of CCC officers and the scope of the investigative function of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner. The parliamentary commissioner assists the PCCC in ensuring the accountability of the CCC, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parliamentary commissioners past and present and their office for the important role they play.

I would like to respond now to some of the matters raised by honourable members during the course of this debate. In relation to the member for Clayfield's query regarding the MOU between the CCC and the DPP, I did say in my speech that the MOU had been completed but I can provide even more detail. I am advised that the final MOU was signed by the chairperson of the CCC on 25 July 2023, and the MOU was signed by the Director of Public Prosecutions on 1 August 2023.

I note comments regarding the time it has taken to complete this body of work. The review of chapters 3 and 4 was a highly complex and significant body of work that has been progressed alongside other important legislative priorities. In addition, the PCCC in its 2021 report made some comments about the review of chapters 3 and 4 which required a reconsideration of some previously settled positions. Other CCC related work was also a contributing factor to the timing of the bill, including work required to develop the government's response to the commission of inquiry relating to the CCC.

The PCCC acknowledged concerns raised by stakeholders about a proposed extension of the CCC's powers to hold coercive hearings and suggested that the department take these into account in progressing the review of chapters 3 and 4. Generally, the PCCC indicated that it was inclined to recommend that there be no further abrogation of the rights of individuals through the review of chapters 3 and 4. However, the work already done on the review was re-examined in light of the PCCC's comments in report No. 106.

I would also like to restate that the government is committed to full implementation of the government's response to all outstanding PCCC recommendations. These are significant reports and represent significant bodies of work. As I acknowledged in my introductory speech, this government is aware that our work is not over and that there are a number of important PCCC recommendations still

to address. As I indicated at that time, this work will continue, in consultation with the CCC and other stakeholders, alongside various other reform activities underway to enhance the integrity framework in this state.

In relation to the issue of tenure, I note that the bill amends section 231 of the Crime and Corruption Act so that a commissioner holds office for a fixed, non-renewable term of seven years. The requirement for a specific fixed term of seven years, as opposed to allowing for single non-renewable terms of discretionary length, is designed to give certainty and also enhances the independence of appointments. In taking this view, I disagree with the assertion in the statement of reservation to the committee report on the bill that a fixed term will not only 'potentially limit the pool of applicants for such positions, but it also significantly reduces the usefulness of the PCCC's 'bipartisan support' mechanism'.

A fixed seven-year term will provide applicants for the position of commissioner with clear parameters as to the term of appointment at the time of application. Quite contrary to the concerns raised in the statement of reservation, the certainty of a longer term of appointment is arguably an attractive feature for prospective applicants. It will also remove altogether the prospect of political argy-bargy occurring in relation to the appropriate length of an appointment, which may risk undermining confidence in the CCC's leadership team. Again, to counter the comments in the statement of reservation, logically, if a person is suitable for appointment to the role of commissioner, they do not become unsuitable just because the term of appointment is fixed. The provision is similar to the term of another Queensland core integrity position, that of the Auditor-General. Under the Auditor-General Act 2009 the Auditor-General is also appointed for a fixed seven-year, non-renewable term.

I will also respond to comments regarding the PCCC's recommendations in relation to an amendment to the definition of 'bipartisan support of the parliamentary committee'. I note that the PCCC recommendation was made in the context of consideration of section 228 of the Crime and Corruption Act which requires bipartisan support of certain commission appointments. Changing the definition of bipartisan support as recommended would apply the requirement for bipartisan support beyond these commission appointments to all decisions of the PCCC which require bipartisan support under the Crime and Corruption Act. This is why the government did not support the PCCC's recommendation in the government response to report No. 106. I note that the statement of reservation does not acknowledge the broader application of the term beyond commission appointments.

All in all, this bill will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CCC and provide further oversight and accountability in a number of critical respects. As I stated in my second reading speech, however, this government is keenly aware that work in relation to the CCC is not over. There are a number of PCCC recommendations that remain to be implemented and, indeed, a program of ongoing integrity reform work that will impact the CCC. Integrity work is not 'one and done'. It requires constant calibration. This is particularly so in the case of the CCC, which is vested with extraordinary powers to uncover major crime and corruption across our state, the instances of which are not static but constantly evolving as new methodologies and trends emerge. This government is committed to ensuring that the CCC has the powers and resources it needs to fulfil its crucial role and that the public can have confidence in its ability to do so effectively, impartially and, above all, in the public interest.

Before I conclude in relation to those comments, I want to go to some points raised by some members in this debate. References to transparency, accountability, scrutiny and integrity were used a number of times by those opposite, but that is why it is important to have frameworks. Other than a couple of members on the other side—and I want to particularly acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Southern Downs—members did not remember why these recommendations came about and why this particular bill is before the parliament. It is because of the shortcomings and failings in the way the CCC had exercised their powers.

It was recognised by the PCCC, by a commission of inquiry, that some restraint needed to be put in place and some oversight of our oversight body needed to occur to ensure the public can have confidence in the work they do, because when they get it wrong it has fundamental implications—and I acknowledge the member for Gregory's contribution here as well—on people's careers, their personal reputation, their livelihood, their relationships and their mental health. It is really important that there are parameters so that when they get it wrong we have an obligation to address that, and that is what this bill does. For all of the hyperbole of those opposite when they made their speeches on this bill talking about those issues, it is disappointing that the majority fundamentally missed what this bill was seeking to address—that is, the damage that was done by the failings.

I definitely agree with the member for Southern Downs when he talked about the electorate being informed. I hope he has that conversation with the Leader of the Opposition about transparency and making sure the electorate is fully informed of important public interest matters. We will have more conversations about that.

It is important we make sure that when comments are made and reports are made they are accurate, for the reasons I just said. Making statements that are inaccurate can have serious consequences. We all have obligations to be accurate in our reporting, especially when we are considering the bill before us and the reason this bill came about. That is why I want to go back to the member for Clayfield's contribution in this very debate. When the member for Clayfield was reflecting on me and the government, he said that when I was previously attorney-general I had an 'attempt at changing laws relating to the CCC and the provision of information'. The member for Clayfield actually said on the record today that in August 2020 I allegedly—and I put the word 'allegedly' in—

... wanted to introduce gag laws to stop the reporting of matters reported to the CCC. The paragons of virtue on openness and transparency in August 2020, months out from an election—is there a habit forming here?—wanted to change legislation to stop the CCC reporting on matters that had been referred to it. It outraged journalists and led the *Courier-Mail* to publish a completely blank front page of their statewide paper highlighting the Orwellian overreach of the then arrogant Labor government.

First of all, I did not seek to stop the CCC reporting on matters. That is a completely false statement by the member for Clayfield. I want to remind the House—because the member for Clayfield specifically went to this in the debate today—of what actually happened in 2020. It arises out of a report from July 2020, *An investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of a school principal*. The CCC said—

The CCC recommended—

talking about previous reports—

that a proposed new offence be established in relation to publicising allegations of corrupt conduct during a local government election period or publishing that a complaint has been, will be or may be made to the CCC against a councillor or candidate during a local government election period.

The CCC recommends this proposal be implemented and extended to the State election period.

It then goes on to say—

The CCC recently said, in a media statement:

'It is the CCC's longstanding position that it is always the preference for complaints and other correspondence relating to assessments and investigations to remain confidential so matters can proceed without allegations being aired publicly. Publication of a complaint or correspondence may compromise how effective inquiries undertaken by the CCC can be, especially when potential witnesses have advanced warning. The publication of a complaint can also lead to unsubstantiated allegations being aired publicly, and may give the appearance a complaint is motivated for political gain or other reasons.'

At paragraph 670, the report then states—

The CCC repeats this observation in relation to this matter.

So, let's be clear, when the member for Clayfield accused me today of trying to gag the CCC and to stop the CCC reporting on matters back in 2020 and referring to us as arrogant, I was in fact acting on the CCC's own recommendation of what they wanted, and they wanted to restrict the publication of complaints that are referred to them and particularly around elections. That is just another example of why it is important to ensure reports and statements are accurate and to understand that there are consequences when you make false claims about people's reputations. That is what this bill is actually about. I remind those on the opposite side of that fact.

Lastly, I want to again thank all the members for their contribution in the debate. I would like to thank the officers of the CCC, the Director of Public Prosecutions and other stakeholders who contributed to the development of this bill, in addition to all the stakeholders who participated in the committee process and the committee members and its secretariat.

Turning now very briefly to amendments I am proposing to the bill, I would like to make it clear that since the Miles Labor government changed the sessional orders to compel shadow ministers to publish their diary extracts, we have seen that those opposite have been having many meetings with lobbyists. If it were not for the actions of this government enhancing integrity measures, this parliament and Queenslanders would never have known the secret meetings those opposite have been having with lobbyists and would never have known who is lobbying those opposite who would one day be in government when they are formulating their policies. In fact, I heard one of the members on the other side claiming that it is because of them that there is reporting. The fact is that it was them in government who tried to gag any organisation or business that received funding from government. They were not allowed to speak up at all. We all remember that.

I am advised that across the public data available, there has been over 70 meetings that the Leader of the Opposition, shadow ministers and opposition members have had with lobbyists over the past financial year, and this is only what we could find. There could be more that we are not aware of and that is why we are moving this amendment today to ensure any future meetings that those opposite have with registered lobbyists that fall within the definition of 'lobbying activity' are reported on the public register. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 30, as read, agreed to.

Clause 31—



Mrs D'ATH (5.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 31 (Amendment of s 205 (Legal assistance))

Page 53, line 2, '205G(b)'—

omit, insert—

205G(1)(b)

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

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [[1540](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [[1541](#)].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 31, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 32—



Mrs D'ATH (5.04 pm): I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 32 (Insertion of new ch 4A)

Page 61, line 15, '205G(b)'—

omit, insert—

205G(1)(b)

3 Clause 32 (Insertion of new ch 4A)

Page 93, line 28, '205G(b)'—

omit, insert—

205G(1)(b)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 32, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 48, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs D'ATH (5.05 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

4 After clause 48

Page 119, after line 6—

insert—

Part 2A Amendment of Integrity Act 2009

48A Act amended

This part amends the *Integrity Act 2009*.

48B Amendment of s 45 (Who is an Opposition representative)

- (1) Section 45—
insert—
- (ba) an opposition spokesperson;
 - (bb) an opposition assistant spokesperson;
- (2) Section 45(ba) to (c)—
renumber as section 45(c) to (e).

48C Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2—
insert—

opposition assistant spokesperson—

- (a) means a member of the opposition appointed by the Leader of the Opposition as an opposition assistant spokesperson for a particular area of public business or policy; and
- (b) includes a person appointed to a position mentioned in paragraph (a)—
 - (i) whether the title of the position includes the words 'opposition assistant spokesperson' or 'shadow assistant Minister' or another description; and
 - (ii) whether or not the person is remunerated for holding the position.

opposition spokesperson—

- (a) means a member of the opposition appointed by the Leader of the Opposition as the main opposition spokesperson for a particular area of public business or policy; and
- (b) includes a person appointed to a position mentioned in paragraph (a)—
 - (i) whether the title of the position includes the words 'opposition spokesperson' or 'shadow Minister' or another description; and
 - (ii) whether or not the person is remunerated for holding the position.

As I foreshadowed in my second reading speech, it is proposed to move this amendment to address integrity issues and to close a loophole in the lobbying framework where lobbying of opposition spokespersons and opposition assistant spokespersons is not required to be disclosed by registered lobbyists. That is because those representatives fall outside the current definition of an opposition representative in the Integrity Act. The amendments will include opposition spokespersons and opposition assistant spokespersons in the definition of an opposition representative under the Integrity Act.

These amendments ensure the lobbying framework remains focused on transparency for the public around lobbying of those government and opposition members with decision-making or potential decision-making powers. As a result, registered lobbyists will need to disclose any lobbying activity with shadow ministers and shadow assistant ministers. This aligns with the disclosure by lobbyists already of any lobbying activity with the Premier, ministers and assistant ministers and their staff members and the Leader of the Opposition and staff members and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The amendments also complement changes to sessional orders in March this year and existing requirements under the Ministerial Handbook and Queensland Opposition Handbook for the publication of diary extracts.

Amendment 4 inserts a new part into the bill to amend the Integrity Act. That part consists of clauses to amend section 45 of the Integrity Act to include opposition spokespersons and opposition assistant spokespersons in the definition of opposition representative and amend the dictionary in schedule 2 of the Integrity Act to insert definitions of opposition spokespersons and opposition assistant spokespersons.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 49 to 61, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.07 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.08 pm): I move the following amendment—

5 Long title

Long title, after '2001,'—

insert—

the Integrity Act 2009,

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first. The question is—

That the report of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee be adopted.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.09 pm): I rise as the chair of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee to report on the estimates hearing held into the appropriations for the parliament. Specifically, I want to thank the committee members: the members for Mermaid Beach, Whitsunday, Coomera, Macalister and Mount Ommaney. I want to thank the other members who attended, including the member for Glass House, who shall no doubt be speaking in this debate. He was enthusiastic to attend. I also thank those who appeared before us including Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Laurie.

This morning when I saw a group gathered under the stained-glass windows and reflected on the long list of members whose names are displayed in the hallway, I felt the great responsibility we have in this place to scrutinise the appropriations for the democratic institution that we preserve in this place. It is not just the physical building; it is also the hardworking staff, from the Speaker and the Clerk down, who facilitate the debates we need to have in this place. The appropriation for parliament is a great responsibility.

In the hearing we talked about the accessibility of this place, being the house for all Queenslanders. My late father, Des Power, was a teacher of the deaf. I am particularly passionate about Auslan and the language that deaf people in Australia, through two dialects—the Sydney and Melbourne dialects—have developed from British Sign Language and other influences. It was great to see that the Speaker had gone out of his way to use his connections to create a new youth parliament for young deaf people to use Auslan in this place and to have a simultaneous translation. I note that this will not include the deputy chair because his Auslan skills are not up to it, but I grew up with Auslan. My father was on the committee that gave the name Auslan to Australian Sign Language. I grew up amongst the community that created deaf theatre, deaf speeches and activities so I was constantly surrounded by this. The deaf community gave an enormous amount to my father and to my family. We were inspired by them as part of the diversity of this country.

I note initiatives to bring the parliament to others, for example using Minecraft. The Speaker encouraged young primary school children to show interest in the parliament by creating a virtual Minecraft parliament which people could attend. I think it is very important that the appropriations provide for committees to engage with the entire estimates process, which has been held for so many years, but also that we continue to make it more accessible to more people.

I want to thank Hansard, who were appropriated for in this budget. I thank the audio and broadcast team—I thank Lindsay every time—who do a fantastic job to make sure we have clarity of sound. I thank our committee. I am sure the deputy chair will join me in thanking Tim and Melissa for the excellent work they do in supporting our committee.

Parliament is for the people. This appropriation to the parliament is something that I endorse because it involves so many more people in the process of this parliament and makes it more accessible to so many more people. This, of course, includes the community of the deaf in Queensland.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.14 pm): I, too, rise to make a short contribution to consideration of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. It is normally a rather dry affair, but this year we uncovered a number of interesting facts that I will come to in a moment. At the outset, I also thank Mr Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament and all of the parliamentary staff for the amazing job they do in maintaining the democratic function of the institution of parliament and in supporting our roles as members of parliament through our electorate offices and staff.

I come back to what we uncovered at the hearing. Firstly, we discovered evidence of CFMEU activity and bullying here on the parliamentary precinct. I asked the Clerk of the Parliament whether there had been any incidents during the renovation of the Annexe here at Parliament House and whether staff had felt threatened or intimidated by any workers or subcontractors operating on that project. The answer was—

There was an incident very early in the project. It occurred around the same time as regional parliament was occurring in Cairns. We had the intention initially to establish a tradies cafe on level 7 of the Parliamentary Annexe which would service all of the contractors on site during the course of the refurbishment. Whilst we were in Cairns for the regional sitting it came to my attention—

that is, the Clerk—

that there had been some verbal stouthing with some of our staff up on level 7—that is, our catering staff—and so I directed that the cafe be shut and it was never reopened.

I went on to ask whether any action had been taken against the individuals who undertook that threatening or intimidating behaviour, other than simply shutting the cafe. The Clerk went to say—

The incident involved what I would call a verbal altercation, if you like. It did not get to any criminal stage so there was no criminal complaint. There were discussions with the contractors about the fact that we were shutting it up because of the activities of the people at the time and I am unaware of what other action has taken place.

Then I asked simply—

Were you aware if the members involved were members of the CFMEU?

The Clerk replied—

I am aware that they were, yes.

Even this institution of parliament is not exempt from the intimidating behaviour of the CFMEU.

We also heard that ministers Ryan, Scanlon and Fentiman—the ministers for police, housing and health—are repeat offenders when it comes to responding in time or appropriately to questions on notice. Alarmingly, we unearthed that the total cost of the Supermarket Pricing Select Committee was \$153,681. That is nearly \$154,000 to tell the government to keep doing what they are doing. That is an outrageous amount of money for what was nothing other than a PR exercise—

Mr Janetzki: A vanity project.

Mr POWELL: A vanity project—I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South—from this Premier, who has lost his way and certainly has lost the support of the people of Queensland.

Page 1 of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland Service Delivery Statements states—

Our purpose is to independently support, promote and strengthen the Parliament to fulfil its democratic functions.

In 2024-25, the Parliamentary Service will work towards its objectives to:

- support the Legislative Assembly (and its committees and Members) in fulfilling its functions within the institution of Parliament

Our parliamentary officers must be increasingly alarmed at the ongoing diminution of respect for the institution of parliament occurring under this increasingly desperate Labor government. We did not get the opportunity to debate the business program motion this morning but, when it comes to the democratic functions mentioned in the SDS, it should be noted, despite increasing sitting hours this week, the government is set to push through about nine bills.

The SDS goes on to talk about the need to 'safeguard, promote and strengthen the important institution of parliament'. It is hard to do that when three bills have been introduced and debated urgently in about 40 minutes. Those bills have not been subject to committee examination or public consultation. There is no strengthening of the important institution of parliament when bills are regularly amended by amendments irrelevant to the bill being considered. Indeed, whole bills are regularly passed as amendments to irrelevant bills. Our parliamentary officers may strive to ensure our democratic foundations are safeguarded, promoted and strengthened, but this tired, third-term Labor government are turning this House into a legislative sausage machine. They are showing new levels of disrespect for parliament, disrespect for the committee system and disrespect for Queensland.

Page 1 of the SDS lists a key deliverable this year being to prepare for the transition from the 57th Parliament to the 58th Parliament following the scheduled election. I say to the people of Queensland: you have an opportunity to ensure this Labor government, which disrespects the institution of parliament, is shown the door at the October state election and elect a Crisafulli LNP government that will restore the democratic functions of this vital institution.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (5.19 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Cost of Living and Economics Committee report into the estimates hearing of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2024. This report deals with the appropriations which have been allocated to run the people's house, the Queensland parliament, which of course is not just a parliament; it is a workplace for so many. It also serves as a hotel for members, a dining precinct for visitors and stakeholders and a destination for students to learn about democracy. Of course, it is a place for our democracy in Queensland to thrive not only in this chamber but also in the committee rooms across the parliamentary precinct.

As other members have done, I also thank the hardworking and dedicated parliamentary staff, past and present, for the work they do on behalf of all Queenslanders. We acknowledge that the days can be long sometimes, but on behalf of the Miles Labor government I wish to thank you for your service. I also take this opportunity to thank the chairs of each of the parliamentary committees for their strong stewardship in their roles, ensuring that questions can be asked and equally that they can be answered. I also wish to thank the members of parliament who are on the committees for their work. As a minister, we attend the hearings for three or four or so hours, but as committee members, they sit there all day—and this year longer than previously—and so I thank all of them for their efforts.

This year under the new Miles Labor government we sought to increase the integrity and scrutiny measures and opportunities available to members during the estimates process. By way of motion in this very chamber, we increased time for many of the ministers, including the Premier, who attended for four hours. We quarantined time for non-government members, increasing their overall time to 70 per cent, and also required that crossbench time was apportioned equally. We increased the ability for crossbench members who were not on committees to ask questions on notice before the hearings regardless of whether they were on the committee. We also removed the requirement for crossbench members to seek leave to attend the hearings.

We saw an increase in questions on notice before the hearings with some of the crossbench members taking that very opportunity. I am advised that approximately 1,280 questions were asked during the two weeks of hearings. Of that, I am advised that 241 questions were asked by government members and 1,039 questions—

Mr Power: How many?

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. A total of 241 questions were asked by government members and 1,039 questions were asked by non-government members. I am sure the member for Logan has done the maths and he would be correct if he calculated that around 19 per cent of questions were government questions and 81 per cent were non-government questions.

I am further advised that of the total time utilised for questions, approximately 25 per cent was used by government members and approximately 75 per cent was used by non-government members. Despite what anyone says, these numbers speak volumes. There was more time and more questions asked by non-government members of this House than government members. This is right and this is appropriate as estimates is about asking the executive questions and holding them to account. I am advised the member for Thuringowa was the most generous chair, providing non-government members approximately 82 per cent of time for questions as opposed to 18 per cent of the time for government members to ask questions.

Whilst I will not go through each committee, I again thank the chairs for their stewardship of this important democratic process, ensuring that non-government members got 71 to 82 per cent of the time during the hearings. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.24 pm): As a long-term member of the currently called COLEC, formerly the Economics and Governance Committee, I am pleased this afternoon to say that at this year's estimates there were some very positive outcomes. For me, the most positive outcome of all was the movement—as far as I can remember the only time it has been moved—to the Monday, sitting as a standalone estimates investigation of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. That enabled a much better examination of the parliamentary expenditure for the year ahead and also enabled the COLEC on the following day to have a little less time in the saddle, as it were, to investigate both the Premier and the Treasurer on their estimates process. That was a very positive move that I hope stays in place for years to come for this particular committee.

The second positive aspect that I would like to mention in relation to this year's estimates committee is the fact that the crossbench and the opposition were allocated 70 per cent of the questions, which limited the Dorothy Dixier questions coming from the government side, which are basically ministerial statements for the ministers, to 30 per cent. I believe that was also a very positive step forward in this year's estimates process.

We had the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament itemise their very busy scheduling in relation to the fantastic \$68 million expenditure on the upgrades of the Parliamentary Annexe and offices for staff, in particular parliamentary staff, and also accommodation areas for the members of the parliament. There was also the accounting for \$12 million towards new staffing arrangements in the 93 electorate offices to assist with the extra workload. I understand that has been designed through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to assist local members to better carry out their job representing the people of their communities.

However, as the Manager of Opposition Business mentioned earlier, there was great exposure in relation to a \$153,000 inquiry that basically seemed to produce no results. It was also a great opportunity to hear from the Clerk how the CFMEU had infiltrated the parliamentary precinct and continued their notorious activity in the very hallowed halls of this fabulous House that we protect from bad behaviour on the parliamentary precinct at every opportunity through the fabulous Ethics Committee, represented by wonderful members.

We have been very well served by our Parliamentary Service staff on this particular committee. I would certainly like to thank our newly inducted senior officer Tim Horne for his great work, ably assisted by Mel, in delivering at all times excellent reports for the committee that allows it to do its very important business. Again, I would like to congratulate the Clerk on his staffing and the wonderful job they do in supporting members right through from the accommodation for the officers to the many services including for me particularly; I am very much into the IT help from the Parliamentary Service. I was actually scammed the other day and they had to clean all my computers and things like that.

I am very appreciative of the work the parliamentary staff do. We cannot thank them enough. I know all members support and appreciate the great work they do for them. I am very pleased that this year's estimates for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill was a very sound success.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Debate, on motion of Mr de Brenni, adjourned.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 11 October 2023 (see p. 2926).

Second Reading

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

In his introduction to the report titled *Report of a commission of inquiry pursuant to orders in council*, otherwise known as the Fitzgerald report, the chairman, Tony Fitzgerald, said—

Another recurring theme is the need for a free flow of accurate information within a society. Such a flow of information is needed if public opinion is to be informed. Public opinion is the only means by which the powerful can be controlled.

However, there is a conflicting right of individuals to privacy. In some circumstances, such privacy results in the secrecy which allows corruption to breed and official misconduct to escape detection.

Today is decision day for the Miles Labor government. Today Premier Steven Miles either stands for openness and transparency in government and supports this very simple and straightforward bill or he stands for cover-up, complacency and political cowardice and refuses to support the bill. That is the decision for Premier Miles and the Labor government today.

Here is the question for Premier Miles and the Labor government: do they support the Crime and Corruption Commission reporting on investigations or not? Do they support releasing the reports of past investigations by the CCC into the actions of Peter Carne and Jackie Trad or not? If they do not, why not? Is it because each report is into the public administration of the Labor government? The question is: what is this government so afraid of that the Palaszczuk government and ministers of this government approved funding for Jackie Trad to take the CCC to court to try to stop the release of the CCC's report? Why is this government afraid to do what the CCC chair, Mr Barbour, said as recently as estimates this year needs to be done? Why, despite protestations and promises made at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, has this government continued to delay taking action? The answers can only be that it is a protection racket by a desperate government.

I turn to the submissions that were made to the bill, and I want to thank the committee and those submitters to the bill for making those submissions. There were only three submitters to the bill, noting that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General made no submission. The issues raised were very minimal. Retrospectivity of the bill was an issue raised by former Labor MP Glen Milliner, who was the member for Everton and Ferny Grove from 1977 to 1998, and he opposed the passage of retrospective legislation to enable the publication of reports made by the CCC. He was concerned about the passage of retrospective legislation and said it is 'rarely done and should only be considered in extreme circumstances'. The CCC countered this perspective by informing the committee in its response that it has been historically done in cases where the intent is curative or validating, which is exactly the circumstance we find here.

Amendments to reverse the 2018 amendment to section 49 of the CC Act were also raised. It was raised in the public hearing that, while the bill addresses some of the recommendations to reverse those 2018 recommendations, it did not implement the requirement for the CCC to seek the advice of the DPP prior to bringing charges arising from the corruption investigations as stated in the explanatory notes. I have today circulated amendments in my name to cure this situation and I also note that the government addressed this in its bill earlier today.

The Crime and Corruption Commission in its evidence to the committee was highly supportive of the bill and stated in the public hearing that it just wants the problem fixed. It also stated that the review commissioned by Premier Miles was in its view not needed. The CCC also suggested amendments to the bill, including explicit provision that the commission may report at any time before, during or after the conclusion of an investigation, noting that this power is held by other similar types of bodies in Australia. It wants clarification on what can or must be included in public reports, consistent with section 149(2) of the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 of the Commonwealth, and an inclusion to retrospectively validate the preparation of the reports, not just the publishing of the reports, to ensure the CCC is protected in that respect and authorised to do what it has done, and the amendments I have circulated address these matters.

Not only did the CCC support the bill at the committee stage as the report reveals; as recently as estimates on 26 July Mr Barbour, the chair of the CCC, reiterated his support for the bill. I asked him—

Would you like to see legislation introduced and for the matter to be regularised or rectified as soon as possible?

Mr Barbour responded—

I would, provided what is introduced is appropriate.

Then I asked—

In that respect—I think you have probably answered this—is the delay in getting that rectification or that rectification legislation frustrating to the CCC?

Mr Barbour's response was—

I think it is frustrating beyond just the CCC. I think it is frustrating to parliament. I think it is frustrating to the Queensland community. I think it is not in the public interest. I think there could have been a far speedier resolution to the matter than what there has been. Certainly our concerns about the process and our concerns about recommendations that have been made in the review by the former chief justice, Justice Holmes, have been made clearly to the Attorney.

Here it is as plain and as simply as it can be said—

The private member's bill is a very brief and very clear bill designed with one specific intention in mind, and that is to put the Crime and Corruption Commission back into a position which it and everybody else dealing with the commission understood to be the position for almost 30 years. As I indicated to the committee considering that bill, there are certainly areas that could be improved in relation to the bill.

I accept that. He continued—

However, from our perspective it does the job. It allows us to publicly report. It retrospectively endorses and clarifies the situation in relation to previous reports that have been prepared. That was what we understood would be an appropriate response to the decision in Carne. When that decision came down and I urged for a quick and immediate response, it was with such a bill in mind.

Mr Barbour, in response to a question about the Holmes commission of inquiry, said—

We cannot effectively, in my view, fulfil our obligations, fulfil our statutory responsibilities, give confidence to the community, to parliament, to elected representatives if we are prohibited from making effective public reports that contain commentary, that contain opinion, that contain recommendations.

His view was supported by the parliamentary commissioner, who, in evidence to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in February, said—

In terms of the nature of the amendments, as I said, the bill that has been put forward is one way to do it.

He went on to say—

I think the common view from Mr Barbour—and it is a view I hold—is that the act does require amendment to allow the CCC to report on matters that it wants.

There is no good reason this bill cannot pass. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good. We know what the problem is. We know how to fix it. The obligation of the elected representatives in this place is to ensure the law works as intended and as understood for the 26 years leading up to the High Court decision in 2023. A failure to act leaves Queenslanders in the dark. A large number of corruption investigations where no prosecution is recommended but where valuable anti-corruption and public administration lessons can still be learned will be kept secret. A failure to act will mean those wrongly accused in investigations or who have had their name tarnished will not have the opportunity to have a public report clearing their names published. A failure to act will effectively mean the antiseptic of sunlight will not be shone into all corners of government administration and ultimately corruption and maladministration will creep back into the halls of power and Queenslanders will pay the price.

A failure to act will condemn the Miles Labor government as the party of secrecy and cover-ups in this state. It is in the interests of all Queenslanders that this bill passes and takes effect without delay. It is time for the government to respect the request of the CCC chair, Mr Barbour, seeking urgent legislative amendments.

I want to refer to commentary made by a very respected source, the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament. In a paper he published a little while ago, he said—

It has long been alleged that the CCC has been used by governments as a 'clearing house'. Issues of public concern are sent for investigation and when no criminal conduct is found, governments then imply there was no wrongdoing—even though wrongdoing that falls short of criminal conduct is often revealed.

He went on to quote Aristotle—

To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that it is, is false, while to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true.

Unless and until the statute is remedied, for anyone to say that the CCC has investigated and no outcome has occurred and therefore there was no wrongdoing is not necessarily speaking the truth. The public is capable of handling the truth. The test for this Labor government is this: will it act in the interests of Queenslanders and support the prompt passage of that bill or will it act out of self-interest and delay and ultimately reject it? Tonight is the test for this Labor government.

Speaker's Ruling, Same Question Rule

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, before I call the next speaker, the member for Clayfield has circulated amendments to the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023. I refer to the Speaker's ruling tabled out of session on 1 July 2024 where the Speaker considered the application of the same question rule with respect to the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023 and the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The Speaker has now considered the application of the same question rule with respect to the amendments circulated by the member for Clayfield.

Amendment No. 1 circulated by the member for Clayfield seeks to insert a new section 49A into the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 relating to reporting on corruption investigations. This amendment deals with substantially the same subject matter as clause 7 of the government bill, which seeks to introduce new sections 49A to 49G that contain similar provisions relating to reporting on corruption investigations. As a result, amendment No. 1 enlivens the same question rule and is out of order.

For completeness, the Speaker also notes that amendment No. 1 is outside the long title of the private member's bill so, even if it were in order, leave would be required for this amendment to be moved.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.42 pm): I rise to speak on the private member's bill. In doing so, I would like to thank the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for its consideration of the bill. I take this opportunity to thank the stakeholders who made submissions and appeared before the committee. The committee made one recommendation, that is, that the bill should not be passed. I confirm that the government will not be supporting the private member's bill for reasons that I will outline.

Despite what the member for Clayfield says, it is not a simple, black-and-white answer to the question: do you support reporting by the CCC or not? We do absolutely. The Premier has put on the public record a number of times that this government supports the CCC having the powers to report. However, we have just spent the past three hours debating a bill that came about because of recommendations arising from the failings of CCC decisions. That had significant reputational damage. It damaged people's livelihoods. It had very significant impact. A matter of an hour or so ago, this parliament, across all sides, agreed that there needed to be parameters put in place to address those failings yet the member for Clayfield comes in here and says that this is a simple and straightforward bill. It is simple, but it is reckless and being so simple makes it flawed and open to challenge.

The whole reason we are here is because the High Court found that the legislation did not prescribe a reporting power when it comes to corrupt investigations. It is not a case of just putting it back the way it was because there was no framework for what it was. In fact, the same situation happened in New South Wales. They did not just give them carte blanche powers and say, 'Here, you always reported in the past so we'll give it back to you.' They actually put parameters in place.

I am disappointed that the member for Clayfield did not, at any point in the past 10 minutes, actually speak to the Holmes report. He completely disregarded the report of the former chief justice into what those powers should look like. He made no comment whatsoever. He just said that it is simple and that the CCC wants it. I have the utmost respect for the Crime and Corruption Commission and the chair of the commission, but in my time as the Attorney-General there have been occasions when the CCC have wanted powers that we have not granted because we have an onus to ensure that we get the balance right. When an oversight body has the strongest powers of any oversight integrity body in this state but with very little oversight of itself and its actions then we have a responsibility to make sure that the framework is balanced. That is what the opposition's private member's bill fails to do. The bill does not provide a proper framework.

The amendments have now been circulated. Only three hours ago they carried on about amendments being circulated at short notice in relation to the previous bill. We now have amendments that are suddenly trying to put some sort of framework around reporting, but they fundamentally fail to do that. I take members to the comments of Catherine Holmes in the executive summary of her report. When it comes to framing reporting powers and public statement powers, she says—

There is no easy answer to the questions involved, no simple solution to determining how the Commission may report and make public statements which would apply across all circumstances.

The review looked at every jurisdiction across this country and internationally, as well as previous reports and reviews. Ms Holmes states—

It has become clear over the course of the Review that a 'one size fits all' approach, giving the Commission an unlimited discretion to report and speak on investigations, whether the kind of conduct investigated is minor or serious, individual or systemic in nature, whether in fact any evidence of corruption has emerged, whatever the status of the individuals concerned—elected or employed—is not the answer.

I repeat: it is not the answer. Did those on the opposite side explain why they disagree with that statement? Did they learn at all from the New South Wales experience? Clearly not.

I take the chamber to page 179 of the report, which states—

... anti-corruption 'watchdogs' are generally exempt from the very accountability mechanisms that are otherwise regarded as inherent to a properly functioning integrity system. They are free from ministerial direction, exempt from freedom of information requirements, can maintain confidentiality of information, need not provide reasons for decisions, and their decisions are not subject to merits review. Their increase in independence is accompanied by a decrease in accountability.

The report goes on to state—

There is a real tension between the independence watchdogs enjoy and the mechanisms that hold these watchdogs to account. This tension must be recognised. It is not enough to simply say, the judiciary guards the guardians.

That is what the member for Clayfield says. He says you can still go off to the court. He says that the solution is that the judiciary guards the guardians. The report continues—

Judicial review is limited in its ability to hold watchdogs to account. These unique limitations must be acknowledged and addressed in our evaluation of mechanisms for keeping our watchdogs leashed.

That is stated in the report.

Queensland needs to have a fearless commission that is thorough, rigorous and robust, but it must have adequate checks and balances to preserve its own reputation and trust with the public and to ensure it is not abusing its extensive powers. That is why the member for Clayfield's private member's bill fundamentally fails. It fails to address any of those key issues. In fact, it has chosen to go against what is the normal rule of law when it comes to creating good law by making this really about a couple of individuals.

As Ms Holmes herself observed in relation to the private member's bill in her report—

Legislation should ordinarily be of general application. Ad hominem legislation is generally to be avoided unless it is necessary, and it is not necessary in this case.

Did the member for Clayfield address that? No. Although it adds in procedural fairness and does not explain what that looks like, it also then says, 'By the way, any investigation that started before or after this bill does not have to apply procedural fairness.' Not only that, a bill of this parliament names two individuals and a public servant. That is extraordinary! The bill says that this applies to any investigation, so investigations we do not even know about. It says, 'No, you don't have to apply procedural fairness. You don't have to give them a right to comment on any negative comment that might appear in those reports.'

The member opposite also failed to acknowledge that every other jurisdiction in this country has parameters around reporting. These include an inability to report on findings of guilt or recommendations about prosecution or findings of corrupt conduct unless serious or systemic; obtaining the advice of the DPP for disciplinary offences, making sure it is not interfering with those matters; and reports not including findings or suggestions of criminal or civil liability. These parameters are in just about every other jurisdiction in this country, but those opposite failed to put any of those parameters in place.

The member for Clayfield says that tonight is the night—this is a test of the government's integrity, transparency and accountability. I say that this is a sign of what you would get with an LNP government. If you look at their statement of compatibility on human rights, you will see what they think of human rights. That statement is an absolute joke. They do not believe in parameters. They have always overreached. They overreached when they were in government. They would overreach if they got back into government. They have overreached on this private member's bill. They should not be given power because, when they are given power, they abuse it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I remind all members that if they want to interject they need to be in their allocated seat.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023. This private member's bill is not as straightforward as the member for Clayfield would like us all to believe. The Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, in its report No. 6 of the 57th Parliament and tabled on 11 April 2024, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill not be passed.

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights, in accordance with the Human Rights Act.

On 11 October 2023, the member for Clayfield introduced the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill into the Queensland parliament. The main purpose of the private member's bill was to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to: remedy a deficiency in the reporting powers of the act, as found by the High Court in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*, to explicitly allow the Crime and Corruption Commission to table and publish reports on its corruption investigations; and reverse a 2018 amendment that omitted the Director of Public Prosecutions from section 49 of the act.

Stakeholders and subscribers were invited to make written submissions on the bill and the committee received three substantive submissions. A public hearing was held on 27 March, followed by a public briefing with the member for Clayfield. The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the bill included: the reporting powers of the CCC; the tabling of reports; the omission of the DPP from section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act; procedural fairness and natural justice; and certain provisions operating retrospectively. When the member for Clayfield presented the bill to parliament on 11 October, he said—

The bill addresses the deficiency in the law identified by the High Court in the recent decision of the Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne. Specifically, it addresses the deficiency in the reporting powers of the act found by the High Court. The bill also reverses a 2018 amendment that omitted the Director of Prosecutions from section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act. It reverses the 2018 amendment, and this reversal was recommended by both the PCCC in its report No. 108, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council*, and the commission of inquiry relating to the Crime and Corruption Commission that has recently reported.

It is stated in the opposition's statement of reservation to the committee report—

While the need for this Bill has been well ventilated and the position of the Opposition on this matter been made clear, the Opposition Members do not agree with the recommendation of the Committee's report and want to highlight, once again, the opportunity to pass the Bill and remedy the deficiencies of the Crime and Corruption Act highlighted by the High Court decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*...

...

It was made abundantly clear this Bill is necessary and urgent to ensure the CCC can operate to its full potential and mitigate against corruption risks.

It was noted by the Opposition Members the Shadow Attorney General has flagged his agreement with suggested amendments to the Bill by the CCC and appreciate his openness to take on these changes.

The Opposition Members firmly disagree with the recommendation in the report for the Bill to not be passed, and urge all Members to support it at their first opportunity.

There are five main issues with the bill. The first is the lack of safeguards. Under this bill, the CCC will have no limit or safeguard on its ability to table a public investigation report, beyond the requirement to provide an opportunity for an adversely affected individual to comment under section 71A. Secondly, there is no prohibition on prejudicing investigations, prosecutions or disciplinary proceedings. This private member's bill will place no restrictions on the CCC's reporting power in relation to matters that are currently before the court or are the subject to investigation by another entity. This means that the CCC could, without recourse, irretrievably prejudice a criminal prosecution.

Thirdly, this bill misses the opportunity to survey contemporary anti-corruption practice. The bill does not take advantage of the learnings of other Australian jurisdictions. This might include measures to safeguard human rights and protect against the prejudicing of ongoing prosecutions.

Fourthly, in relation to fundamental legislative principles and human rights, by specifically naming three individuals and depriving those individuals of a right of reply under section 71A, the Nicholls private member's bill arguably breaches the following fundamental legislative principles: is consistent with principles of natural justice; and does not adversely affect rights and liberties, or impose obligations, retrospectively. It also breaches the following human rights: recognition and equality before the law; and privacy and reputation.

Fifthly, the bill incorrectly addresses the recommendations of the PCCC and the commission of inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission. The explanatory notes state—

The Bill will also reverse a 2018 amendment that omitted the Director of Prosecutions from s.49 of the CCC Act ... The reversal of the 2018 amendment was recommended by both the PCCC (Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee Report No. 108, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of former councillors of Logan City Council*; and related matters ...

This is inaccurate. The PCCC report, at recommendation 3, states—

The committee recommends the Queensland Government review section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Furthermore, consideration should be given to a requirement that the Crime and Corruption Commission obtain the recommendation of the Director of Public Prosecutions, or a senior independent legal advisor, before exercising (through seconded police officers) the discretion to charge serious criminal offences (including disqualification offences under the Local Government Act 2009) in the exercise of its corruption function.

The CCC commission of inquiry final report states, at recommendation 25, that the Crime and Corruption Act be amended to give effect to a list of highly prescriptive measures, including that a memorandum of understanding be entered into.

The government's Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill addresses these recommendations comprehensively. On the other hand, the private member's bill merely removes the stipulation at section 49(5) that the definition of 'prosecuting authority' does not include the Director of Public Prosecutions. Since the introduction of the bill, the government announced in February 2024 that it had commissioned an independent review, to be led by former chief justice Catherine Holmes, into the reporting powers of the CCC. Accordingly, it would be inappropriate and premature for the committee to make a recommendation in relation to the private member's bill.

As the Attorney-General stated in her contribution, the report of the former chief justice is worth repeating here. It states—

It has become clear over the course of the Review that a 'one size fits all' approach, giving the Commission an unlimited discretion to report and speak on investigations, whether the kind of conduct investigated is minor or serious, individual or systemic in nature, whether in fact any evidence of corruption has emerged, whatever the status of the individuals concerned—elected or employed—is not the answer. The number of variables involved has made it necessary instead to propose a range of circumstances for reporting and making statements.

It is also important to remember that while the work of anti-corruption commissions is vital ...

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.01 pm): It is an absolute honour to rise to support the member for Clayfield's private member's bill—the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023. The LNP want it. The CCC want it. The Queensland public want it. Democracy calls for it, but the Labor Party will not allow it. Why? Why will they not allow it so close to the election?

I listened to the Attorney-General and the Labor Party's new-found love of CCC procedural fairness. On this side of the House we know that the Labor Party has continuously used the CCC as their political football over the years. That is the Labor Party way. I get back to the question I asked: why would Labor Party not want this bill passed? It is two words—Jackie Trad. It is a protection racket for Jackie Trad.

This bill was introduced by the member for Clayfield, our shadow Attorney-General, because a whistleblower came to me and told me that Jackie Trad had commenced a secret legal action in the Supreme Court to hide the CCC investigation into the appointment of Frankie Carroll, the former under treasurer of Queensland. The Labor Party were absolutely surprised when I raised the whistleblower's information in the House and then we were surprised when we found out that not only had the taxpayer been funding this secret legal challenge of Jackie Trad but also Shannon Fentiman, the attorney-general at the time, had signed off on extra indemnities and legal assistance. This was a conflict because the attorney at the time, Shannon Fentiman, was best friends with Jackie Trad. They went skiing together in Whistler. In fact, Minister Fentiman failed to update her pecuniary interest register when she came back. She failed to declare the gift when she was with Jackie Trad skiing in Whistler.

We had the attorney-general at the time issue ministerial indemnity—which we had no problem with at the time—but then it went further. The then attorney-general gave particular and special approval for Jackie Trad to go to the Supreme Court, which should have been a private action and paid for by Jackie Trad, to cover this report up.

The CCC have said this bill does the job. Everybody has said that this bill does the job. I have listened to the Attorney's contribution and the 10-minute contribution of the member for Toohey—every second word trying to understand what he means—and I cannot find any reason given by the Labor Party as to why this bill should not be passed by 7 pm tonight. It does the job. The only reason the Labor Party will not support this bill being passed tonight is that they are hiding the Jackie Trad report before the election. The only reason the Labor Party do not want this bill passed tonight is that they want to hide the Jackie Trad report before the election.

Queenslanders ought to know what is in the Jackie Trad report. I am sick to death of the Labor Party saying, 'The threshold of corruption may not have been met.' Since when has that ever stopped the Labor Party getting corruption reports from the CCC? They may not reach the level of corruption, but people learn lessons from it. People learn what politicians ought to do and ought not to do. I suspect Queenslanders would learn a lot from this report if they saw it. I suspect we would learn a lot about the appointment of under treasurers because we learned a lot from the last CCC report involving Jackie Trad and the appointment of the Brisbane South State Secondary College principal, which Jackie Trad personally involved herself in.

If the High Court had made its decision before this then none of these reports would have been released—the Brisbane South State Secondary College report, the Cross River Rail report, the Ipswich City Council report, the Barbagallo report. None of them would have been made public. If the

whistleblower had not come to the opposition we would not have known that Jackie Trad had a secret application in the Supreme Court to hide this report. The Labor Party owe it to Queenslanders to release that report. I have called many times in this House for the government to release that report.

The Attorney-General complains about this bill tonight, but what is her plan and what is the Labor government's plan? They have not offered a solution to this. They said that former chief justice Catherine Holmes did a report. They only commissioned Catherine Holmes to delay this issue and kick it in the long grass to get it after the election. The report on Jackie Trad and the report on Peter Carne should be made public. The CCC should get its teeth back because it has lost its bite. The Labor Party are not convincing me or anyone in this House that they have a profound love of CCC procedural fairness. It is fair if the Jackie Trad report were released because I think Queenslanders would learn a lot from the release of the Jackie Trad report.

I call on Premier Miles, the Attorney-General and the Labor government to stop protecting Jackie Trad. I know she had a meeting last Monday night with Minister Fentiman at Minister Fentiman's union. It was circling the wagons against the Premier. I know they are in those discussions. I know Shannon Fentiman is best mates and mentee of mentor Jackie Trad. Put that aside and put the public interest first and vote for this bill before 7 pm tonight and bring transparency, openness and accountability back to the CCC and back to government in Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House of the ruling in the last sitting week that all warnings issued in the afternoon session are voided at 6 pm. There are no members currently under a warning.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no reason for celebration, member for Currumbin. It is a time to reflect on behaviour and strive for better.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.08 pm): When we look at the last 30 years, the support for the independent corruption watchdog has been consistent on this side and has been undermined every time the opposition has come into power—on the two occasions they actually got there. We saw the Borbidge government attack the CJC and saw the resignation of Ken Carruthers. It was a mess throughout that short 2½ years of maladministration under Borbidge and Sheldon. The Newman government—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It is the old gang back again—the member for Clayfield and the member for Kawana. They had the biggest majority in political history and they lost after one term. Absolute geniuses are over there leading the charge still 10 years later. The LNP have learned absolutely nothing. They have not even renewed their people in a decade and they are putting the same incompetence forward in the member for Kawana and the member for Clayfield.

We remember the necking of the PCCC in the middle of the night. We remember them cutting the powers of the CCC. We remember the criticisms of Tony Fitzgerald. We remember the incompetence and the crisis and the dramas by incompetent people over there who still run the LNP opposition—from the leader down. Their leader is in hiding. They cannot find him. It is six days in a row that the Leader of the Opposition has refused to stand up to media on a parliamentary sitting day—six days in a row. It must be a record. Now we are looking at seven days and maybe eight days. He wants to be premier but he is afraid to face the gallery and answer questions, but I digress.

Let me get back to this private member's bill put forward by the member for Clayfield. We all remember his record of Strong Choices. How did that go? It did not go too well, did it? Fortunately this government kept our assets in public hands. What we have here is a political confection masquerading with a lot of political spin, which is again in the traditions of the LNP, nobbling and undermining the integrity of an independent corruption authority in this state. What we are seeing here is their attempt to undermine the important role of the CCC to not be a commentator and not in any way be or be seen to be a political player. It is important that the corruption watchdog is above that. They have always had parameters that have been in law and in regulation, and obviously that needs to continue. They should not have unfettered power; they should have strong powers but appropriate powers. What the opposition are proposing here is essentially trying to overturn a High Court decision which the CCC lost because there was a matter about a particular report.

There is a particularly punitive part in particular to two individuals in this proposed bill from the LNP that is absolutely against their human rights. These are two people who have had no findings against them. There are no findings of any misconduct. There are no findings against them, and these

reports occurred subsequent to those investigations. The rights of people to not have that sort of thing taken out from under them for political gain—which is what the opposition is clearly doing here—shows once again the lack of respect for people’s rights and for due process.

One of the key problems with this bill is the lack of safeguards. The CCC’s ability to report pre-Carne was not unfettered, as it required the cooperation of the PCCC by way of issuing a direction under section 69(1)(b). While in practice the CCC tended to cooperate, this provided a level of oversight, with the PCCC to decline to issue a direction to table the document if it believed it necessary to do so.

Under this proposed bill, the CCC will have no limit or safeguard on their ability to table a public investigation report beyond the requirement to provide an opportunity for an adversely affected individual to comment under section 71A. There are no matters to which the CCC must have regard to issuing a report, meaning it does not specifically need to consider whether it is in the public interest to do so. I have an issue with that and I think any reasonable person would. As explored in the Holmes report, this can lead, and has led in the past, to deleterious outcomes.

The second matter here is that there is no prohibition on prejudicing investigations, prosecutions or disciplinary proceedings. The private member’s bill put forward by the LNP will place no restrictions on the CCC’s reporting power in relation to matters that are currently before the court or are the subject of investigation by another entity. This means that the CCC could, without any recourse, irretrievably prejudice a criminal prosecution. That sounds unlikely but it is possible, and it is something that should not be possible. We have seen the CCC on a few occasions not cover itself in glory. I think particularly of the Logan council matter. We have to be mindful that the CCC is not infallible. It can and is subject to making errors like any authority and any institution, and that has to be considered when we make laws.

There is also a missed opportunity here to survey contemporary anti-corruption practice. The bill does not take into account the advantage of the learnings of other Australian jurisdictions, as reflected in the Holmes review. While Queensland was a trailblazer in relation to anti-corruption practice, there have been significant advancements at the state and Commonwealth level which could provide useful concepts for importation into the act. This might include measures to safeguard human rights—obviously the Human Rights Bill has been passed by this government—and protect against the prejudicing of ongoing prosecutions. As can be seen in the Holmes report, there is a tremendous amount to be learned from other jurisdictions in an evolving space both here in Australia and also internationally.

There are also fundamental legislative principles and human rights here at risk, particularly the naming of three individuals and depriving those individuals of a right of reply under section 71A. This bill arguably breaches the following fundamental legislative principles in terms of consistency with principles of natural justice and does not adversely affect rights and liberties or impose obligations retrospectively. It breaches the following human rights in terms of the recognition and equality before the law, and privacy and reputation. The explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility provided by the member for Clayfield do not adequately engage those issues. In fact, the explanatory notes are flagrantly inaccurate. The PCCC at recommendation 3 states—

The committee recommends the Queensland Government review section 49 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Furthermore, consideration should be given to a requirement that the Crime and Corruption Commission obtain the recommendation of the Director of Public Prosecutions, or a senior independent legal advisor, before exercising (through seconded police officers) the discretion to charge serious criminal offences (including disqualification offences under the Local Government Act 2009) in the exercise of its corruption function.

There are very substantial problems with this bill. Once again, it is an incompetent bill by an opposition that does not know how to do its job properly. When it comes to choosing appropriate laws in this state, there is the Holmes report or something cobbled together by the member for Clayfield given his record as former treasurer of this state. I know which one I am going to choose. I think I know which one any reasonable member would choose. The experience and the reputation of Catherine Holmes is indisputable. She is one of the greatest legal figures in this state. Her report was a significant contribution to making sure that our laws are fair and just.

I put that report up for scrutiny and consideration against this cobbled together political stunt from the member for Clayfield and his mate the member for Kawana. We have seen this show before, 10 years ago. We have seen this show before. It is a stunt. It is shallow. It is consistent with the LNP undermining the integrity and the independence of the corruption watchdog in this state for over 30 years, and they are just doing it with the election in mind. That is all this is about. It deserves to be voted down. It is incompetent and not justifiable.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak on this private member's bill with my experience as a member of the PCCC over the last few years now and, therefore, as a member of this House who has had the opportunity and the benefit of seeing the work of the CCC, both the wonderful work they do and of course what can happen when reports or allegations are made that cannot be properly supported. I am sure all of us in this House agree that it is important for the CCC to have a clear idea of their powers. That is why the Attorney-General requested the Hon. Catherine Holmes to undertake a review to form a path forward for suitable legislation.

The terms of reference for the Holmes report included the following: the reviewer is asked to examine the issue of the ability of the CCC to publicly report and make public statements in performing its corruption functions and prevention function so far as it concerns corruption, particularly in relation to the investigation, assessment, consideration or disposition of individual corruption matters whether ongoing or concluded; and arising from the examination of these matters, the reviewer is to make recommendations on appropriate legislative amendments to enable the CCC to publicly report and make statements in performing its corruption functions and prevention function so far as it concerns corruption. The Holmes report makes the following observation in its preface—

This report endeavours to reconcile the different public interest considerations which apply in identifying what reporting and public statement powers would appropriately be conferred on the Crime and Corruption Commission. There is no easy answer to the questions involved, no simple solution to determining how the Commission may report and make public statements which would apply across all circumstances.

It has become clear over the course of the Review that a 'one size fits all' approach, giving the Commission an unlimited discretion to report and speak on investigations, whether the kind of conduct investigated is minor or serious, individual or systemic in nature, whether in fact any evidence of corruption has emerged, whatever the status of the individuals concerned—elected or employed—is not the answer. The number of variables involved has made it necessary instead to propose a range of circumstances for reporting and making statements.

It is also important to remember that while the work of anti-corruption commissions is vital, it can be accompanied by a human toll; which requires safeguards to protect individuals who may be caught up in the process.

I note from my work on the committee and the public hearings our committee held, both with the CCC and the parliamentary commissioner, that the welfare of witnesses is an increasingly important issue raised, including in hearings with the parliamentary commissioner in our public sessions. That is also something that has been followed up with the CCC. The welfare of witnesses and others appearing before the CCC is a significant issue that is gaining increasing recognition. It is good to see that the Holmes report recognises the significant impact on a person's mental health being named in a report or even just being a witness to an issue can have on that person. Of course, beyond the impact of mental health we have also seen previous instances of huge and long-lasting impacts on a person's career.

My views on this particular aspect of the issue and the Holmes report are very much informed by my entry into the PCCC, as I joined the PCCC right in the middle of the Logan inquiry. Members will recall that the Logan inquiry essentially dealt with the aftermath of charges laid against the Logan councillors, and repercussions for those councillors and the CCC continue to be felt to this day. To be clear, the Logan inquiry forms no part of this legislation, but in my view it demonstrates why it is so important that the CCC gets things right. That means having the right safeguards in place.

As a member of the committee I have to say that, as we weighed up our deliberations and the report we ultimately put before the parliament, I felt a great deal of responsibility in the recommendations that we made to carefully weight all of the issues presented and be reasoned in the recommendations that I supported. It was not lost on me that the recommendations I made or supported could have a negative impact on the careers of those within the CCC, which was why it was so important that those recommendations be reasonable and balanced. It was clear that the initial investigation into the Logan councillors had a significant impact on both the careers and the mental health of the councillors affected, and those impacts likely continue to this day. As Catherine Holmes herself notes in the report, it will not make everybody happy. How could it? In the words of Ms Holmes, 'They set up a workable regime which balances the considerations of human rights protection and the desirability of public sector transparency and accountability.'

I would also like to address the issue of public statements. It is not properly addressed in this private member's bill, but in my view it is a vital part of what a fitting piece of legislation should be. Under the heading 'Can the Commission make public statements?' the Holmes report continues—

The Commission should have a general discretion to make public statements but only for limited purposes, for example, to inform the public that a referral is not warranted (if the matter is already in the public domain and the subject of the investigation agrees).

For particular situations at the earlier stages of investigations where there is a higher risk to reputation and a fair trial, the Commission should only be able to make a public statement if there are exceptional circumstances. No person should be named unless reasonably necessary.

In this circumstance, I turn my mind to the CCC's decision in 2022 to publish the Operation Workshop report into apparent adverse activity that occurred within the Integrity Commissioner's office. For months those opposite asked, 'What's on the laptop?' The inference from the opposition was that the Premier was engaged in retribution against the Integrity Commissioner and that her office had involvement in a raid on the Integrity Commissioner's office and may have gone so far as to delete information. The CCC had a very different view of what happened and went so far as to write a report to clear up what they referred to in that report as misinformation in the public domain, courtesy of those opposite. In their explanation of why they elected to release their report, the CCC noted—

- i. Whether there was any improper disclosure of information by an officer working in the Integrity Commissioner's office
 - ii. The circumstances surrounding the 'raid' on the Integrity Commissioner's office and the 'seizure' of laptops from that office
 - iii. The information security arrangements in relation to the confidential information held by the Integrity Commissioner.
5. In relation to those three matters, the investigation concluded that:
- i. There was no evidence of improper disclosure.

I will repeat that again: there was no evidence of improper disclosure. The report continues—

- ii. The circumstances in which these laptops were retrieved from the Integrity Commissioner's office were entirely ordinary, and the descriptions of 'raid' and 'seizure' do not reflect the reality of what occurred. Further, the circumstances in which one laptop was 'wiped' are wholly unremarkable.

Under the changes proposed in the Holmes report, these reports would continue to be able to be released. I think this is really important. In my view, members of this House have a responsibility to verify the information they release into the public domain. Under the recommendations made by Catherine Holmes, the CCC will be able to continue to shine a light on misinformation like this should it make its way into the public domain. Sadly, the bill before the House does not grapple with these very issues and I cannot support it.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise to support the LNP's private member's bill moved by the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Clayfield, because Queenslanders deserve honesty, transparency, openness and integrity from their government. They are not getting this from the state Labor government. Instead, this government is failing Queenslanders when it comes to the simple expectation of being honest and acting with integrity. That is why the LNP opposition had to bring this private member's bill to this House.

This bill addresses the deficiency in the law identified by the High Court in the case of the Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne. Specifically, it addresses the deficiency in the reporting powers of the act found by the High Court. Essentially, the effect of this judgement is that the CCC is not able to report on corruption investigations. The LNP's private member's bill will fix this. The LNP's bill will also reverse a 2018 amendment that omitted the Director of Public Prosecutions from section 49 of the CC Act—a move that was previously recommended by the PCCC and the commission of inquiry relating to the CCC.

The LNP put this bill to parliament in October last year. In fact, in February this year—five months after we tabled this bill—the Premier announced a review to be led by Justice Holmes, at which point the CCC actually stated that they did not think this review was necessary and instead just wanted the law changed to fix the problem. The Labor Party engaged this review in order to kick it into the long grass, to delay these legislative changes, to delay the CCC getting the power they need to report on corruption.

If the government were truly serious about integrity, they would pass this bill tonight. There is no good reason for this bill not to be passed. The Premier can choose to continue to gag the CCC ahead of the October election and cover up corruption reports, or he can choose integrity and he can pass these laws. It is as simple as that. These are laws which the CCC chair himself says are required and will allow them to do the job of being an effective corruption watchdog. During estimates, when asked about the LNP's bill, the CCC chair, Mr Barbour, said—

The private member's bill is a very brief and very clear bill designed with one specific intention in mind, and that is to put the Crime and Corruption Commission back into a position which it and everybody else dealing with the commission understood to be the position for almost 30 years. As I indicated to the committee considering that bill, there are certainly areas that could be improved in relation to the bill. However, from our perspective it does the job. It allows us to publicly report ... That was what we understood would be an appropriate response to the decision in Carne.

The chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission went further. During estimates he stated that he wrote to the Attorney-General on the day of the High Court decision and indicated the need for urgent legislative amendment to correct this issue. He went on to say during estimates that he discussed this several times with the Attorney-General in the lead-up to the review being announced—so many times that in fact he could not be sure of the number. Further, in estimates, when asked what is the effect of this government continuing to delay to bring these laws in, Mr Barbour stated—

I think it is frustrating beyond just the CCC. I think it is frustrating to parliament. I think it is frustrating to the Queensland community. I think it is not in the public interest. I think there could have been a far speedier resolution to the matter than what there has been. Certainly our concerns about the process and our concerns about recommendations that have been made in the review by the former chief justice, Justice Holmes, have been made clearly to the Attorney.

It could not be more clear than that. There is absolutely no reason for this Labor government not to pass these laws today other than wanting to continue to gag the CCC and to hide corruption reports that might be made public before the next election.

Today we see that Treasurer Dick is at odds with the Premier on this also. When asked whether the CCC should be able to provide critical commentary about politicians, Mr Dick said, 'Of course, they have done so in the past; they will do so in future.' When pressed further on his contradictory position to the review recommendations—which were, I might say, endorsed by Treasurer Dick's and Premier Miles's cabinet—Mr Dick said that he would need to 'go back and see what Holmes actually said before I respond to that'. That is more chaos and crisis from this Labor government.

Multiple reports could be released right now if these laws are passed but this Labor government does not want that. If the Premier and the rest of his government do not support these laws, Queenslanders will know that his desperation has reached the point where he will do anything to cling to power, including keeping potential corruption reports secret. There is an integrity crisis ripping through this Labor government because for the last four years those opposite have been fighting to keep secret a CCC report into former deputy premier and treasurer Jackie Trad. What is worse, they have been using taxpayers' money to do that. That is taxpayers' money to keep secret a CCC report into former deputy premier Jackie Trad.

Queenslanders will not see the Trad report, they will not see the Carne report and they will not see any future reports about investigations into the failed forensic lab nor the Parole Board president's alleged misuse of funds. This will keep secret any findings from an investigation into the potential misuse of taxpayer funds on Minister Boyd's watch because they cannot be released without changes to the law today. Maybe that is why this government will not vote in these laws—because they want to keep secret those corruption reports that relate to Minister Boyd and allegations into the Parole Board president's alleged misuse of funds. This is a protection racket for Labor ministers.

On behalf of Queenslanders, the Premier must explain why he is silencing our state's corruption watchdog in the lead-up to the election. Corruption is seeping through the foundations of this Labor government. If the Premier will not pass this bill today, he will be making it very clear to Queenslanders that he has no intention of mopping up corruption within the government or within his own party. We deserve a government that is truly invested in openness and transparency. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, and that includes transparency, accountability and restoring integrity to government.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.36 pm): I rise to speak against the private member's bill, the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill, which was introduced into parliament by the member for Clayfield in October last year and referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for consideration. The member, when introducing the bill, stated that this bill was to strengthen the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Act—powers that were tested in the 2023 High Court case of CCC v Carne. I want to provide some background information to the genesis of the bill and the Carne matter—all of which has already been comprehensively documented and reported on publicly.

The Carne matter relates to a complaint made to the CCC about Mr Carne, a statutory office holder at the time in 2018. The complaint related to alleged corrupt conduct and was investigated by the CCC. The CCC determined that no criminal prosecution would be pursued. The CCC provided a report on its investigation, including the evidence it considered and recommendations to the PCCC, and requested that the PCCC provide this report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for tabling under section 69(1)(b) of the CC Act. This section provides that a research report or other report that the parliamentary committee directs to be given to the Speaker can be tabled, which then makes the report public, even though the CCC has not themselves been able to have the powers to publish that report.

Mr Carne and the CCC both pursued this issue of the publishing of reports into corruption through the courts, with the High Court ultimately finding that the report was not a report for the purposes of section 69(1) and that parliamentary privilege did not apply. This bill introduced by the opposition is in response to this and argues that there are issues that are fundamental to openness and transparency within Queensland's corruption watchdog and the operation of parliamentary privilege, which is essentially the things that we can say here and the degree of protection offered under privilege.

Since the introduction of this bill, the Queensland government announced an independent review into the CCC's reporting powers in February this year in relation to corruption matters following the High Court's decision in the Carne matter. This review was an acknowledgement of the impact that the Carne case would have on the CCC's reporting powers. I think the CCC identified around 32 corruption investigation reports and 256 media releases related to corruption investigations over the past 26 years which it said would or could have fallen foul of the Court of Appeal's decision in the Carne case.

The three-month independent review was led by former Queensland chief justice the Hon. Catherine Holmes ACSC and was completed in May this year. As the former chief justice states in her preface to the report—

A 'one size fits all' approach, giving the Commission an unlimited discretion to report and speak on investigations, whether the kind of conduct investigated is minor or serious, individual or systemic in nature, whether in fact any evidence of corruption has emerged, whatever the status of the individuals concerned—elected or employed—is not the answer.

The bill before us seeks to provide the CCC unfettered powers to report on any corruption investigation by amending: section 35(1) of the Crime and Corruption Act to add that the CCC may perform its corruption functions by reporting to the Legislative Assembly under section 69 regarding complaints about corruption notified to it; and section 64 of the Crime and Corruption Act by inserting a new provision that provides, to remove any doubt, section 64(1) applies to a commission report about its corruption functions, and includes the ability to report about its investigations whether or not a report has been made under section 49 and whether or not criminal proceedings or disciplinary action has been commenced. The independent Holmes report did not take this view. Holmes arrived at the view that the CCC should be granted greater reporting powers, but there should be appropriate safeguards that balance the public's interest with the detection and uncovering of corrupt conduct, while recognising the human impact that these investigations have, particularly when the CCC determined that there is no finding of corruption. Accordingly, the Holmes report found in recommendation 3 that—

The Crime and Corruption Commission should have a discretion to prepare a report on a completed investigation for the purpose of confirming that allegations of corrupt conduct are unfounded.

The Holmes report, in fact, makes 16 recommendations in an attempt to reconcile the different public interest considerations and to set the CCC up with appropriate legislative powers and functions to meet its demands, including recognising the critical prevention function that the CCC has in drawing from its investigations to build the capabilities of the Queensland Public Service. Under this bill, the CCC would have no limit or safeguard on their ability to table a public investigation report beyond the requirement to provide an opportunity for an adversely affected individual to comment under section 71A. We have seen examples of where public reports about individuals inferring there are issues of corruption—where in fact that has not been proven—have not only had an incredible human toll on that person and their family and community but also have actually eroded the reputation and efficacy of the entire integrity system.

The bill before us also seeks to clarify the process for the CCC to table reports to parliament by amending section 69 of the Crime and Corruption Act to report directly to parliament rather than through the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission, the PCCC. The Holmes review agreed with this view and recommended that section 69 of the Crime and Corruption Act should be amended so that the CCC may give a report prepared under one of the recommended reporting powers to the Speaker for tabling, in addition to tabling through the PCCC. This recommendation has been accepted by government.

The bill before us also speaks to retrospectivity by the insertion of a new section to ensure that all previously tabled reports have been validly tabled and published, and the insertion of provisions to ensure the new provisions apply to any new or ongoing corruption investigations and any unpublished commission reports. The Holmes review took a more nuanced view of this, finding that the CCC ought to have the powers to prepare, table and otherwise publish reports that fell within the guidelines of the Holmes recommendations 2 to 10 and that they should operate retrospectively. The government has accepted this recommendation.

The Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee ultimately did not recommend that the private member's bill be passed at that time, given that there was an independent review underway. That review has concluded and it has been presented to the government. It has made 16 recommendations and those recommendations are the subject of ongoing legislative development by the government.

The LNP have attacked the government's response to the private member's bill and also disagreed with the independent reviewer, the Hon. Catherine Holmes, in her assessment of the CCC's current and future powers and functions. It was not the government that removed these powers; it was the High Court that found that the legislators had not provided that head of power in the first place. Our government has responded by establishing an independent review led by a highly credentialed reviewer who undertook consultation with the CCC, the Human Rights Commissioner, the ODPP, the LGAQ, directors-general, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Law Society and various other stakeholders, and has arrived at the model recommended. The government is drafting amendments to its bill to reflect those recommendations. Accordingly, I will not be supporting the private member's bill today.

I also wish to highlight that this is the only private member's bill introduced by those opposite in almost four years. They have had four years to demonstrate their ideas. They could have introduced bills on the things that matter to Queenslanders—things like cost-of-living relief or their ideas on how to respond to a housing crisis. They could have introduced a bill on crime and community safety, but they have not.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This has nothing to do with this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Thank you, member. The point of order is relevant. I was listening to hear where you were going with your contribution. You started off on a point which may have been relevant, but you have strayed beyond that so I ask you to come back to the title of the bill.

Ms BUSH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Not a very demure comment by the member for Clayfield.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In that respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, you made the ruling on my point of order and the member for Cooper has actually shown disrespect for the chair by having a comment at me regarding your ruling on a point of order, and I take personal offence to it as well. It was a valid point of order that you endorsed.

Mr Whiting: She said—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you. I do not need assistance across the room, member for Bancroft. I will take some advice in relation to the matter. Member for Cooper, the commentary, while not helpful, I would not perceive as a reflection on the chair. However, the member has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BUSH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. This is the first private member's bill introduced by those opposite—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers, I am going to warn you and I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary remark.

Ms BOYD: I withdraw.

Ms BUSH: This bill has been introduced with a pure focus on uncovering information held by the CCC for political purposes, rather than focusing on the big issues affecting Queenslanders right now. We can certainly see where the priorities are and, accordingly, I will not be supporting this bill today.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (6.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the private member's bill of the member for Clayfield and the LNP's shadow Attorney-General, shadow minister for justice and shadow minister for CBD activation which was introduced into the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland parliament on 11 October 2023 and was referred to the then Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its careful consideration of the matter.

From the outset, I would like to make plain that I do not support the bill put forward by the member for Clayfield on behalf of the LNP opposition for a number of reasons, but primarily because the Queensland government established an independent review into the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission led by the highly respected judicial officer, the Hon. Catherine Holmes. The

legislation which has been borne out of that report, I dare say, has been so superior in its drafting while ensuring the Crime and Corruption Commission has the powers it needs to do its job. As such, I will not be supporting the bill, but I have supported the bill introduced by the government.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the committee for their efforts during the hearing—Peter Russo, the chair and member for Toohey; Jon Krause, the member for the Scenic Rim; Steve Andrew, the newly independent member for Mirani; Don Brown, the member for Capalaba; and Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera—and the hardworking secretariat, who make life immeasurably easier for all of us.

The member's bill has raised several points that need to be unpacked: inserting a new section 35(1)(k), which expressly includes as a function of the CCC 'reporting to the Legislative Assembly under section 69 about complaints about, or involving, corruption made or notified to it'; replacing section 49(5) to specify that if the CCC reports to an entity under section 49(2) it may also report under section 64; inserting a new section 64 which explicitly declares that the CCC has the power to report on any corruption investigation or matter regardless of whether a report has been made under section 49, or whether a prosecution and disciplinary proceedings have arisen; replacing section 69 with a more streamlined process for the tabling of types of reports whereby they are tabled directly by the Speaker, with a copy going to the PCCC and the minister; replacing section 71A with enlarged requirements in relation to the provision of reports to persons about whom adverse comment will be made; inserting transitional provisions to validate reports that were previously tabled under section 69; and specifically authorising the release of two reports, with the subject individuals excluded from the operation of the new section 71A.

There are clearly a number of difficulties with the approach proposed by the member for Clayfield. Firstly, there is the completely erroneous implication that at some point the CCC was possessed of the ability and mandate to report with almost limitless freedom prior to Carne. This has never been the case, as it required the working collaboration of the PCCC inasmuch as it required the issuing of a direction under section 69(1)(b)—putting aside, of course, that this arrangement itself was found to be beyond the powers provided by the act.

It is self-evident that the PCCC has a good record of cooperation in this regard, but it is equally evident that this very same ability provided a level of oversight, with the PCCC able to decline to issue a direction to table the document if it believed it necessary to do so. The member for Clayfield's private member's bill creates a scenario whereby the CCC will not be constrained by any limits or indeed have any safeguards on their ability to table a public investigation. In the words of Omar Khayyam, the famous Persian philosopher—

The moving finger writes and having writ moves on

Nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line

Nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.

This is a very nice way of saying 'you can't unsee a report, no matter how flawed it might turn out to be'. Yes, certainly there would be a requirement for the CCC to relay an individual's submissions under section 71A, but by then the damage is done. This is more alarming when understood in conjunction with the idea that, under this private member's bill, the CCC does not have to pay regard to any matters before issuing a report of this type. I note Ms Holmes' comment in her report—

Accepting the significance of the Commission's obligations of fairness, impartiality and regard to the public interest, some caution is nonetheless warranted. Those obligations in s 57 of the *Crime and Corruption Act* are expressed at too high a level of generality to provide concrete guidance to the Commission. For example, it is not clear how the Commission is to weigh the public interest in transparency against the competing public interest in respecting privacy and reputation, if indeed the Commission regards that as an aspect of the public interest. Moreover, powers that must be exercised in the 'public interest' are typically treated as conferring a very wide discretion, involving a value judgment to be made by reference to undefined matters, confined only by the subject-matter, scope and purpose of the Act. There is justifiable concern about how the Commission has exercised its perceived powers in the past, quite apart from the issue of its misapprehension that it was entitled to report publicly at all. More than reliance on a statutory statement of principle in general terms is needed.

Ms Holmes continues—

The prospective consequences of public reporting for individual rights are significant. The Commission's factual conclusions in the course of an investigation are not binding, but, obviously, they can have an enormous impact. As the High Court observed in *Ainsworth v Criminal Justice Commission*, although an integrity body's report may have no legal effect or consequence, it may nonetheless have 'the practical effect of blackening [its subject's] reputation'. The right to privacy is likely to be severely impaired and other rights—to the presumption of innocence, and to a fair trial—too may be adversely affected.

With the lessons learned in the Holmes report, we fully understand that now, as ever, outcomes like this can be disastrous, and once the report genie is out of the bottle it is impossible to put back in. While it is not directly related to the issue of public reporting, I believe that the significant damage that arose from the CCC's conduct during the Logan council matter lends credence to this view.

The member claimed in his opening remarks to the committee that the LNP believes that the Queensland public values transparency and integrity in government. A cynical person would claim that they demand the same transparency from party leaders trading insolvent, but that is a discussion for another time.

The private member's bill is a deeply flawed piece of legislation. That is tinged with a hint of tragedy, as it represents the single private members' bill put forward by the LNP this term—one bill in four years. What a titanic effort: near on \$200,000 a year each, for one bill. Congratulations. The private member's bill is a deeply flawed piece of legislation. It is not based on an objective review of contemporary anti-corruption practice, it does not have sufficient regard for human rights and it does not appropriately address the recommendations of the PCCC or the CCC commission of inquiry. It is not a good law, and it should not be supported.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.56 pm): This bill, as we have heard, addresses a long-running issue with the operation of the Crime and Corruption Commission, CCC, which can be summarised as: the CCC has always believed that it has the power to issue reports to parliament on corruption investigations and the High Court has determined that it does not. The background is that the CCC investigated a 2018 complaint into the Public Trustee. It made no findings of corrupt conduct and provided its report to parliament for public release. The Public Trustee applied to the Supreme Court and then all the way to the High Court, with that court finding that the CCC did not have the power to make public its report through parliament. The report of the CCC investigation into the once deputy premier also cannot be provided to parliament for publication due to this court decision. Thus, the purpose of the bill is to amend the CCC legislation to explicitly allow the CCC to table and publish reports on its corruption investigations and to make this power retrospective, in which case it would apply to the abovementioned reports.

The first question is: should the CCC be allowed to table its reports? The government established an inquiry after the court decisions on the CCC reports, headed by Hon. Catherine Holmes. The Holmes inquiry looked at what she described as 'the competing public interest and human rights factors around CCC reporting'. She made three relevant findings on what should be able to be reported on. First, the CCC should be able to report on investigations where a person has been found guilty, disciplined or found to be corrupt. Second, reports on investigations where allegations are determined to be unfounded can be reported but the individual investigated not identified. Third, the CCC should be able to report on corruption allegations about elected officials even if the person is not found guilty; however, reports must not include critical commentary, opinions or recommendations based on their conduct.

There are behaviours that fall far below community expectations but do not rise to the level of criminal or disciplinary conduct. However, they could improve the integrity of government operations and surely the CCC should be able to comment and make recommendations. Government reports often make recommendations for improvements. An example is the transport accident investigation board into aircraft accidents. These deliberately do not address criminal issues yet do provide critical commentary, opinions and recommendations based on the conduct of pilots, air traffic controllers and others with the intention to improve operations to avoid accidents in the future. Our CCC reports should play a similar role and recommend how to make improvements for the future. With the Holmes inquiry recommendations problematic, this bill's restoration of the CCC powers, I believe, is appropriate.

The second question is: should the law be applied retrospectively? The practical impact of this would be that the Public Trustee and the Deputy Premier reports could be made public. Making laws retrospective means acts which were once legal can be made illegal after the fact. The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel state that it is a fundamental legislative principle reflecting common law presumption that parliament intends legislation to operate prospectively rather than retrospectively, although they say it has sometimes been justified, for example, in child protection.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bolton, adjourned.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2509.

Appropriation Bill**Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee, Report**

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The House will now consider the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.01 pm): I rise today to give my contribution to the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee report on the estimates proceedings. Before I begin I want to thank all members of the committee for their work and our secretariat for how they helped a very long day run as smoothly as possible. Of course, the same can not be said for all visiting members. Yes, the member for Mudgeeraba knows who I am talking about. After a number of warnings everyone seemed to behave themselves and we got on with the day. Can I add, as the Leader of the House has pointed out, it was indeed the health committee that gave the most question time to non-government members—82 per cent of the day to non-government members and 18 per cent to government members. To my fellow chairs I say someone has to win. We always hear about them asking for more questions and they certainly had the opportunity to do that.

Of course, the committee has the primary areas of responsibility of health, mental health, ambulance services and women, and the environment and the Great Barrier Reef, science and innovation, agricultural industry development, fisheries and rural communities. Five minutes—or 3½ minutes—is not going to be enough to talk to each of them. While I will not get the opportunity to talk about all three areas, I will reserve my comments for the areas of health and, of course, my favourite topic, ambulance services, which are delivered by our hardworking frontline QAS staff each and every day across this great state. I see the QAS capital program had \$28 million planned for construction and replacement of ambulance stations, which I hope I can get to.

On health broadly, the theme of the day was access to care closer to home and that is one that should be celebrated by our Miles Labor government. Those satellite hospitals have seen 52,000 people. That is incredible. Our urgent care clinics—I have one in Kirwan in my electorate of Thuringowa—are state funded as well, and there are also the nurse-led clinics that are popping up all across the state. These facilities are reducing the impact on our emergency departments greatly, and in Townsville alone we are seeing over 300 people a day attend. That is just not sustainable in an aging and growing population. Whether it be the nurse-led clinics, the urgent care clinics, the satellite hospitals, the pharmacy scope of practice, which is something our committee considered some time ago—and we are seeing free vaccinations for meningococcal B and the paediatric RSV prevention program—it is just incredible the things we are doing as a government to help Queenslanders right across our state.

We see in my own hospital and health service a \$530 million commitment and 143 additional beds and in Kirwan a \$40 million redevelopment of the Kirwan health precinct. I say thank you very much to the health minister for getting behind that. In Townsville city fellow members will know we have the new ambulance station at Burdell about to be opened and, of course, the Kirwan Ambulance Station. I will have some more news later on in the week on something else I am working on in my electorate of Thuringowa.

In QAS quite broadly, there are 188 additional ambulance operatives in the 2024-25 budget including 80 specialised positions in the QAS Clinical Hub and Falls Co-Response Program and commencing construction and design for the redevelopment of a number of facilities such as the Gold Coast Operations Centre at Coomera; planning for the replacement of the Southport, Pimpama and Beenleigh ambulance stations; relocation of the Springwood and Sandgate ambulance stations; and commissioning 155 new replacement ambulance vehicles.

One of the other things that got my attention was when the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow health minister came in and talked about QVAD and a part 9 investigation. We fought hard to get voluntary assisted dying in this state. After those questions I thought, 'This is really interesting. Where is the opposition going with this? Will they use the review that is due in 2025 to pull a lever and further restrict access to VAD? Will they use that part 9 investigation'—I know it is with the coroner at the moment so we cannot talk to that. I thought, 'Will they use this to further repeal or restrict access for people for whom we fought hard in this parliament to provide choice for end of life?' I will fight every day to make sure we retain those laws in this state for terminally ill Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee estimates report 2024. The estimates process is a vitally important one in our democracy. At its very core the process is about transparency, scrutiny and, dare I say, letting the light shine in. That does not always happen, though. It should, but it does not always happen. Enter the Minister for Health. In she came to the committee hearing with about a third of the hospital performance data that is normally published. There was no data on the performance of elective surgery across Queensland and no data on the waiting lists for those Queenslanders needing to see a specialist doctor. For the previous two years the health performance data has been formally released on the day of the estimates hearing. This year only a third of it was available to be scrutinised. Splitting it up in this way is unprecedented and the director-general said just as much throughout the course of the hearing. It is easy to see why the minister was not so keen to have those numbers out in the open. They have since been released and it has now been shown that Queensland has its longest elective surgery waiting list ever recorded: 62,000 patients. That is unprecedented.

That is no way to govern, but it is not a one-off. There is a penchant for avoiding scrutiny. I want to point out another example to the House detailing the shambolic and contemptuous way the Labor Party—those opposite—treat this important process. In a question on notice asked to the committee, opposition members asked for the amount of ambulance lost time between April and June. That metric, hidden in the shadows for many years, has only come to prominence throughout this term of government because of the opposition's pursuit of Queensland's health crisis. We started asking questions on notice for that figure and who could forget when the minister all of a sudden tried answering it in a different way earlier this year to try to muddy the waters? I table coverage of that sorry saga for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 April 2024, titled 'Minister blasted for data' [[1542](#)].

When we asked the question for lost time ahead of the estimates hearing, this was the response we received—

Performance data for April to June 2024 will be released as part of the next quarterly data report.

Honourable members will see that response in prehearing question on notice No. 6. That response to that question on notice was shared by the committee secretariat at around 12.30 pm the day before estimates. Lo and behold on that same night around nine o'clock the performance data started getting uploaded to the website—without the information we requested, of course. That is downright tricky and sneaky and wrong. That is a blight on the parliamentary scrutiny which should be a hallmark of this process. That is a pathetic way to govern.

Is it any wonder that the people of Queensland are just absolutely fed up with the way those opposite operate? They treat this place like they own it. The level of hubris is outrageous. The actions we saw throughout the estimates hearing by those opposite are the actions of those who think they are above scrutiny—a blatant disregard for rules and processes and transparency—and that is the hallmark of this year's estimates committee. That is how Queensland is being run by those opposite, and that comes at a cost.

The cost is the Queensland health crisis and the crisis is having fatal consequences, with the Queensland Ambulance Service commissioner confirming during the committee hearing that Queenslanders are more likely to die from a heart attack now than 10 years ago because of deteriorating ambulance response times. That was a startling revelation to come from the hearing which proves that the Queensland health crisis is only getting worse under Labor. The survival rate of a heart attack unwitnessed by a paramedic has fallen to levels that are worse than the Anna Bligh era—I repeat: worse than the Anna Bligh era—despite all of the advancements in technology and medicine, despite the billions and billions of dollars of investment by those opposite, despite more paramedics and more ambulances. Despite all of that, health outcomes in Queensland are actually getting worse and in this

case it is literally a matter of life and death, and it is not the fault of the health staff—the hardworking paramedics, the doctors, the nurses and the other allied health professionals; it is the fault of a tired, self-obsessed, desperate third-term Labor government that has completely lost its way.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (7.10 pm): I thank the House for providing the opportunity for me to contribute to this debate on the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee's estimates report. Estimates is an important opportunity for members to ask ministers about their portfolios and the proposed expenditure, and there is plenty to talk about when it comes to our record \$28.9 billion investment in Queensland's health system. I want to thank the member for Thuringowa for so expertly chairing proceedings as well as all of the other committee members for their considered questions and contributions.

Queensland Health is one of the biggest agencies within government, and I am so proud of the work that our frontline doctors, nurses, allied health staff, wardies and administrators do every day because, as I said at the hearing, our frontline health heroes deserve backing, not belittling, and support, not scorn. Imagine my surprise when the LNP used estimates to belittle our amazing health workers and spread fear about our world-class system—but, really, the whole thing was like groundhog day. The Leader of the Opposition was there peering over the shoulder of the member for Mudgeeraba the whole time, giving her directions on how to do her job. I have to wonder: is that because he does not trust her or is it because he is planning to sack her from the frontbench if elected in October?

There he sat peering over the top of the member for Mudgeeraba, stuffed with so much repressed anger and ego that he had to interject 19 times when he asked only 12 questions. His anger and rage were palpable every time he did not get the answer he wanted or when his question was ruled out of order. He was spluttering and stuttering, but he still thought he was doing a better job than the member for Mudgeeraba—and I cannot say that I blame him, particularly given her track record in the hearing. After her clanger a few years ago calling health workers 'duds', one would think she maybe would have learned her lesson, but apparently not because she came into estimates and said that our senior doctors and nurses in the state were underperforming.

Let's talk about underperforming. The LNP did not ask a single question about our new nation-leading cancer plan, not one question about our plan to train and retain the workforce and—get this—not one question about women. There was not one question about the Office for Women and what we are doing to make sure women have economic independence in this state. One would think that, given their issues with women—as in there are hardly any of them—and the Leader of the Opposition's commitment to have women controlling the state's economic levers, as he so says, they would at least ask one question about women, but nothing.

What we did hear plenty of during estimates, though, was the whingeing and whining from LNP members that they somehow did not get enough time to ask their questions. As the member for Thuringowa has quite well put, I am advised that across the committee non-government members asked 82 per cent of the questions and had 85 per cent of the total question time, and they still could not ask a relevant question. If that is not enough time for members of the LNP to ask questions of ministers, I do not know how to help them. Not only did they not ask any relevant questions; they called our health workers underperforming and they failed to actually address the issues that affect women and girls in this state.

It is somewhat ironic that the LNP is saying that the estimates process was not transparent enough, given the Leader of the Opposition's record when it comes to transparency. We have heard about that this week and I have no doubt that we will continue to hear about the Leader of the Opposition's lack of transparency about his small business record. Despite all of the bluff and bluster from the opposition about transparency, the Leader of the Opposition still refuses to be up-front with Queensland. His latest excuse—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, it is very difficult to be irrelevant in a debate as broad as the estimates, but you are being completely irrelevant in discussing the opposition leader. Please confine your contribution to the bill and the estimates hearing.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, unlike most committees, the Leader of the Opposition made an appearance at the health committee and failed to ask any relevant questions and instead interrupted 19 times and, as I said, was pointing out to the member for Mudgeeraba what her job was. I would say that the Leader of the Opposition again failed to ask any relevant questions and failed to be transparent and up-front with Queenslanders about what his plan would be for the health system, because he

refuses to say what he would do and he refuses to put a dollar on the table for how he would fix some of the pressures our health system is under, so that means we can only judge on his record, which is to cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.16 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee's estimates report. Estimates proved that the government has wasted 10 years and continues to fail the agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors and has failed rural and regional communities. Estimates failed to alleviate concerns about the government's sale of the Queensland agricultural colleges. After five years it remains shrouded in a lack of transparency. I raised that the successful tender for the former Longreach site went to a proponent that is not going to continue the educational component of the site. At a time when skills and labour shortages continue to cripple Queensland's agricultural industries, this is a significant concern. It demonstrates the government's lip-service to agricultural education and skills training. Not only is there a photo of the minister proudly locking the gates of the college; the college has essentially not retained a training component and was given away. In effect, that component is free. How can this be justified in the middle of an agricultural skills shortage?

The QATC ceased operations in 2019. Staff redundancies were taken care of and the asset sold in 2021. The government provided no reasonable explanation why another \$4 million has been allocated to finalise long-term decisions regarding the colleges. That \$4 million is in addition to the \$4 million capital grant and \$2.7 million capital project commitment two years ago and another \$4 million capital grant and \$2.1 million capital project commitment last year. We are told that the Emerald college has been earmarked for emergency accommodation, yet a whistleblower has informed the LNP that the accommodation on the site cannot be used as it is unsafe.

Estimates again highlighted the government's failure to competently deal with biosecurity risks. We know that fire ants are not surrounded, the biosecurity budget has been cut, the northernmost biosecurity defence facility at Coen was closed and Queensland faces significant risks of biosecurity outbreaks that could cripple industries. Last year we were told that fire ants were surrounded; now it is an arc. The government has no idea how many high-risk businesses are in the infested area and has no idea of the annual cost for business to comply with the minimum biosecurity requirements. Increased costs are being off-loaded onto businesses and ratepayers.

From 1 July, local councils are responsible for managing fire ants on their land including parks, sporting fields and reserves. Last July the Auditor-General recommended that Biosecurity Queensland could better assist councils to regulate biosecurity risks. Other than providing baits, the government refuses to help local councils dealing with extra costs such as having to employ staff. Gold Coast City council ratepayers now fund 13 additional staff to deal with fire ants. It is ratepayers who are funding this, not the state government. The Auditor-General found that the fire ant program lacked data to support its plans, does not report on outcomes and does not report on how many fire ants are eradicated, how many they are trying to eradicate or how many they have failed to eradicate.

Questions remain about the government's commitment to the forestry industry. Promises are made, media events are manufactured and headline figures are announced but they always lack clarity. Five years ago the former premier announced the timber action plan. It was never delivered. A two-year study into sourcing future timber supplies was due at the end of 2021, but there is nothing. In June this year the Premier and Treasurer committed to the new Sustainable Timber Industry Framework. The minister responsible did not warrant one line in a media statement that was released by the government's media unit. There was not one word from the minister. How can Queenslanders trust anything this government announces when they know that commitments are made but never delivered? The minister could not answer where the \$200 million budgeted allocation for the framework is. The minister could not even answer over how many years it is supposed to be delivered. Given the previous history, the industry is justifiably sceptical at the latest announcement.

For several years fishers have been blindsided by decisions made with no consultancy and transparency. The estimates hearing again failed to alleviate serious concerns about data integrity and a lack of transparency about fish stock assessments, special fishing licences and compensation packages for the industry.

The estimates hearing confirmed that the government has failed the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors. It is also failing regional and rural communities and failing Queenslanders.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the current debate. I want to thank the chair and members of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee. In particular, I want to thank the secretariat. Twelve hours is a long time for anyone to sit

at a table. I know that some other committees sat for a little more than 12 hours. As someone who has spent a bit of time on both sides of the estimates table, I think it is probably easier for those who do two or three hours than it is for those who do 12 hours. It is a busy day and I recognise that it is for all members of this House, even those members who spend time at different hearings. However, it is an important process. The process of estimates is our process in this House. We do not have a senate. This is how we scrutinise the budget. The estimates process is the Queensland process. Therefore, I take a bit of offence when people try to run down that process.

I acknowledge the chair and member for Thuringowa. As we have heard, he allowed well over 80-odd per cent of the time for non-government members to ask questions. I know that following previous estimates hearings that has been a battleground as we went through the reports and debated who got how much time and who should have had what. My observation was certainly that there were a number of times when opposition members did not use their 80-odd per cent as effectively as they probably could have.

I acknowledge the ministers. The three ministers who appeared in front of us were the Minister for Health, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, and the Minister for the Environment. All three ministers were well and truly across their briefs. All three ministers have been ministers for a while. It certainly was not their first estimates hearing. I acknowledge their directors-general and all the senior public servants who appeared. Certainly with a portfolio the size of health, that means a big room full of people have come from all over the state.

I acknowledge the amount of work that the public sector and the departments put into estimates preparation. I have seen the amount of work that goes into estimates preparation by a department, with all of the briefings, the folders and getting everything together, taking questions on notice, being prepared for a range of things, bringing in people from all over the state, particularly with very operational departments such as our emergency services and, in this situation, the health department. Often you will have CEOs of the HHSs sitting in the back of the estimates hearing while still managing their HHS, sometimes by remote control. I acknowledge the work that they do.

As I said, a lot of work goes into the estimates hearings. It is our process. It is the Queensland process. Instead of running it into the ground, members of this House should be supporting it for what is: a truly good opportunity to scrutinise information and to scrutinise the budget. Members opposite got 80-something per cent of the time to ask ministers and directors-general questions for hours and hours. If they can find a better way to scrutinise a portfolio then I am all ears.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.24 pm): This is the 10th and hopefully final budget of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. After a decade it is clear that they have run out of ideas to better protect Queensland's natural environment. The Treasurer did not even mention the environment in his budget speech, probably because there is very little new funding included in this year's budget. Stakeholders said that this budget lacks a vision for our environment. In my short time I will highlight some of the topics I questioned the minister about at the estimates hearing.

The No. 1 priority for the environment portfolio should be to protect and properly manage more of Queensland. Our conservation area is the lowest proportion of any part of Australia that is protected, at just 8.59 per cent. The minister again could not provide a timeline for when Labor's expansion target would be met so we must judge this government on their record of delivery. The minister even confirmed that the government does not agree with the doubling by 2030, as many stakeholders were led to believe. The budget revealed that over the last decade just 0.79 per cent of our state's land area has been protected by the Palaszczuk-Miles government.

One method of conservation that I have been asking about for several years now is OECMs and the potential for properties categorised under this framework to be added to our protected estate. The department confirmed that Emeritus Professor Marc Hockings found that up to 20 million hectares might be appropriate for assessment, although that was before the national framework was finalised. I will be interested in following that up further. However, we cannot just increase the estate through a recategorisation in that way. Nature refuges need to be part of the solution. They give us the opportunity to get the balance right between our environment and agricultural production.

The inadequate management of our current private protected areas has been jointly raised by the Queensland Conservation Council, AgForce, NRM Regions Queensland and the Pew Charitable Trusts in a letter to the minister, but their calls have gone unanswered. The tiny amount of funding currently provided to landholders is not giving them a genuine incentive to join this program. At the hearing we found out that over the past financial year, out of 574 across the state, just 19 landholders

had put in an expression of interest for the small amount of NatureAssist grant funding available. This lack of a genuine incentive means only 52 landholders looked at having their property become a nature refuge over the same period.

On the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro proposal—a project with no feasibility study, let alone a business case—not much has changed. It is still not a coordinated project, which means that the EIS process has not even started nearly two years after it was announced by the government. The minister has not visited the site despite committing to do so at last year's estimates hearing. It is a hydro hoax.

We found out that the millions of poppers collected by Queenslanders through COEX are no longer being exported to India. Now they are going even further around the world to Spain. Last year we were assured that there was no issue with the exporting of these items to India because there was no evidence they were not being recycled. That begs the question: why are they now going to Spain? We learned there is no date for the opening of the facility that was coincidentally announced when these issues were revealed 18 months ago, despite claims that it would be open by June this year.

On organic waste recycling, which is essential if Queensland is to lift its game and not have the worst recycling rates of any state in the nation, we found out the minister has not met the key organisations WRIQ, AORA and the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association, who urgently wrote to the minister over a month ago—

Ms Linard: Look at my diary. I met them all a month ago.

Mr O'CONNOR: It was not after the letter was written, Minister, and you confirmed that at the hearing, but that is okay. It has been more than a month since they asked to meet on this urgent query to resolve the issues on how the government has 'done all it can to make the FOGO industry in Queensland unviable'.

In terms of the Premier's luxury accommodation for the BIO conference, four nights of his accommodation could be equivalent to the amount given to six Queensland companies to go to the same conference, which was \$16,662. On PsiQuantum, the department which oversaw the quantum strategy was not even consulted on the decision to invest in that company.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise to speak about the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee estimates hearing. It was great to hear from ministers about the new Miles Labor government's achievements. Firstly, in health, Queensland has seen record spending under the Miles government. Unlike those opposite, who only want to cut, sack and sell, we are committed to investing in our healthcare system. That is why we have built seven state-of-the-art satellite hospitals around Queensland, including one in my local area at Eight Mile Plains, to provide urgent care closer to home.

We heard they are taking pressure off our emergency departments at QEII and Logan Hospital by providing free walk-in care for non-life-threatening conditions such as fractures, infections, minor burns and head injuries. Already, we have seen hundreds of thousands of patients throughout Queensland at these satellite hospitals for things like dialysis, cancer therapy, allied services and mental health services. It is something that has been very popular with the community.

We also heard about the expanded Logan Hospital program, which is delivering hundreds of additional beds, more operating theatres, more surgical theatres and more procedure rooms. I have been lucky enough to tour those new wards and beds with our fantastic staff from QEII Hospital and Logan Hospital, and I know how much of a difference they will make to the lives of people in my local area.

Since 2020, we have hired an extra 11,180 frontline staff. That is in stark contrast to the LNP, who sacked 4,400 health workers when they were last in government. Unlike those opposite, who look to belittle and scorn our healthcare heroes, we stand up for our frontline workers. It was disappointing that, during the estimates process, we heard the shadow minister for health saying health workers were underperforming. This is the same shadow minister who referred to health workers as duds. We have heard members opposite say that public servants have nothing to fear if they are elected. Health workers need only listen to the words of the shadow minister for health—someone who thinks you are a dud or an underperformer—to know what you have to fear. It does not take much to go a little bit further and say that you will be looking at cuts, sackings and mass redundancies, just like when they were in government last time.

In contrast, the Miles Labor government is committed to our hardworking Queensland Health and Queensland Ambulance Service staff. We have a record health budget of \$28 billion. It is designed to direct our resources towards the most critical areas of need, and that includes \$130 million for 268 new ambulance staff to support the busiest ambulance service in the country. Queensland has the busiest

and the best ambulance service on the mainland, and it is the only one on the mainland whose service is free. It is the opinion of those on this side of the House that that ambulance service should remain free. That should not change. That is something that might be up for grabs if those opposite are elected in October.

A key part of the Miles government's investment is the \$1.73 billion in the Queensland Cancer Strategy, which will revolutionise and strengthen cancer care for the thousands of Queenslanders who are diagnosed each year. It will make coordinating appointments and treatments much easier and allow people to take ownership of the supports they want to use.

The Miles government is doing what matters for Queenslanders and will always back our hardworking frontline health workers. I thank each and every one of our amazing healthcare staff for the hard work that they put in to keeping Queenslanders and people in my community healthy and safe. Personally, as the member for Stretton, I do not think health workers are duds and I do not think they are underperforming. I think they are doing a fantastic job at QEII, Logan and Eight Mile Plains, and so do all members on this side of the House.

In relation to the environment, Queensland's natural environment is one of our major assets, and this government is committed to protecting it. It was great to hear that we are developing enhanced protections for the ecologically, culturally and economically significant Lake Eyre Basin. It was great to hear that achievement from the Minister for the Environment. It is something that members on this side of the House are very proud of because it is a vital part of Australia's largest drainage system.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.34 pm): I rise today to address the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee estimates process. While the opposition does not oppose the passing of the 2024-25 budget, it is crucial to acknowledge the clear limitations and troubling patterns that have emerged under this government's tenure. The estimates process, once again, has been marred by obfuscation and a lack of transparency. Instead of providing the clarity that Queenslanders deserve, the current government continues to shroud its failures. Labor has been in office for nearly a decade and it is concerning that this government has been unable to reassure Queenslanders that its policies are effectively addressing the challenges we face.

From the cost-of-living crisis to the health crisis, the crime crisis and the housing crisis, this government has failed us time and time again. The budget, rather than offering genuine solutions, presents only bandaid measures that fail to address the underlying causes of these issues. Simply directing government funds at problems, many of which have arisen from the government's own actions or inactions, will not provide the long-term solutions Queenslanders need. This budget was an opportunity for the government to chart a new course, to fix the errors of the past and to assure Queenslanders that their concerns would be met with decisive action. Unfortunately, this budget does none of that.

The health crisis continues to worsen under this tired, third-term government. This was evident through the hearings. We have world-class health professionals in Queensland, but the government continues to let them down and no longer listens to them and has not been listening for a long time. In a move that can only be described as evasive, the health minister released only partial hospital performance data for the June quarter the night before the committee hearing. This government spent three-quarters of a billion dollars last year to tackle ambulance ramping, yet ramping remains at nearly 45 per cent across Queensland. Queensland has endured the worst six months of ambulance ramping on record. The minister had committed to reducing ambulance ramping to 28 per cent within 12 months of taking over the portfolio. Not only has that target not been met; ramping is worse than ever.

The minister refused to release performance data for elective surgery and specialist outpatient services. This is the first time that such data has been split in this way, and the only conclusion we can draw is that this was done to avoid scrutiny during the hearing. This follows the trend of shrouding the truth from the public.

The agriculture sector is another area where the government is letting Queenslanders down. The opposition remains deeply concerned about the government's decision to sell off Queensland's agricultural colleges. We raised concerns during the hearing about the successful tender for the former Longreach site which went to a proponent who has no plans to continue the educational component of the site. At a time when skills and labour shortages are crippling Queensland's agricultural industries, this remains a significant concern.

The government's mishandling of the Fire Ant Eradication Program and its inability to engage effectively on issues relevant to rural communities have only added to the uncertainty facing our agricultural sector. The government failed to provide any information on funding of the Sustainable

Timber Industry Framework, and this raises serious doubts about whether the government can deliver on its commitments, especially given its failures to deliver on the two-year action plan promised back in 2012.

The hearings have revealed many shortcomings in government policies and little evidence that the government knows how to overcome these challenges. Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders deserve a government that is transparent and accountable and delivers on its promises. Queenslanders deserve better than bandaid solutions and political posturing. They deserve a government that is committed to transparency, accountability and effective service delivery. Unfortunately, this budget and this government fall well short of these expectations.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (7.39 pm): I rise to reflect on this year's estimates proceedings and the ensuing committee report for my portfolio of agriculture. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the committee chair, the member for Thuringowa, for his work in managing proceedings. I would also like to thank the other members of the committee who participated in the estimates process—the deputy chair, the member for Southport, as well as the members for Barron River, Stretton and Mirani. I would also like to thank the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Graeme Bolton, and the entire team for their efforts. They put a lot of effort into estimates. Members get a period of time to scrutinise the good work of the government. That is what we are here to do. The opposition has the right to examine the government through the estimates process. The support of the entire department is greatly valued. I put on record my sincere gratitude for the work they do. In the same vein, I would also like to thank the CEO of QRIDA, Cameron MacMillan, and his team for their participation and support through the estimates process.

To my shock and despite all the significant topics in agriculture the opposition could have inquired about during the estimates process, the member for Gympie went back in time to ask about the QATC Longreach Pastoral College sale. That was a matter that was resolved halfway through 2023 when the tenders were awarded and the property was sold through a thorough process. Members would think that if this matter were so pertinent that it would have been the opposition's first question at estimates last year. Once again, it is groundhog day.

I note the estimates proceedings for the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee saw 82 per cent of the time committed to non-government questions, which is a good outcome. While I do not have the exact timings for my portfolio, I imagine the time devoted to non-government questions was largely reflective of the whole. This is a prime example of the Miles government's commitment to transparency. This becomes even more apparent when compared with the previous Newman LNP government which held estimates for seven committees on the same day in 2014, making it almost impossible for the opposition and the crossbench to hold them to account.

I note the LNP's statement of reservation makes scurrilous claims of concealment of the estimates process. When it comes to concealment, the LNP really needs to look within. The Leader of the Opposition is refusing to answer questions about his failed business, SET Solutions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, I have already made a ruling on what is relevant. It is a very broad scope but it does not include observations about the opposition leader. Please confine your contribution to the appropriations under consideration and the committee report.

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will seek some guidance from you as I am reflecting on the opposition's statement of reservation where they referred to the process as concealment. That is not the matter I am prosecuting today.

Liquidators suspect the Leader of the Opposition made the company trade while insolvent. Concealment is the name of the game of the opposition leader. He did not update his register of interest to include the \$200,000 liability to creditors, either.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I have advised you of my ruling on that. I have already made a ruling once for a speaker before you. You are to confine your contribution to the appropriation and this particular committee report. I will let you know that one last time otherwise I will ask you to sit down.

Mr FURNER: I thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will move to some reflections and comments made by the member Gympie, the shadow minister for my portfolio area. He referenced the National Fire Ant Eradication Program. Today the member for Logan, the member for Inala, the member for Scenic Rim and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, attended an excellent presentation given by an expert from Texas who referenced the fire ant program they have in Texas. It is very different to what we do in Australia. He commended us on our national program. He commended the work he has seen in Queensland around the eradication of this significant pest.

I take on board the comments of the member for Gympie. It shows his lack of knowledge of this program. I would have thought after the two presentations and briefings he has received that he would have an understanding of the program. It would have been a prime opportunity for him to go along to the presentation today and hear how well we are doing in protecting Australians and Queenslanders.

Mr Zanow interjected.

Mr FURNER: I am not taking the interjection from the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat please, Minister.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, I did not hear exactly who was responsible for those interjections but they were too loud and the minister is not taking them.

Mr FURNER: It would have been beneficial for the member for Ipswich West to come along to the presentation. No wonder he has taken up the program's opportunity to get free bait for the constituents of Ipswich West which Wendy Bourne championed. Well done, Wendy Bourne, for championing that program. I know many other members in this chamber have taken that up.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—Ind) (7.45 pm): I rise to speak to the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee's report on its consideration of the 2024-25 budget estimates. This year's hearing went from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm. It was a great day. That was not long enough for members, especially crossbench members, to properly examine the large portfolio areas. Members did the best they could. I thank the committee chair and the secretariat. We had a good day.

The committee recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill, for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to without amendment. I do not oppose this recommendation, but I lodged a statement of reservation, which was tabled with the report. One thing I left out of my statement of reservation and which I would like to mention here is my concern around the government's frequent machinery-of-government changes which added to the difficulties this year. The changes made it hard for members to compare financial performance, detect long-term trends or assess how well each department delivers its programs and services when their areas of operation are constantly changing. All of this serves to greatly reduce transparency and limit the proper scrutiny of government.

Apart from that, I felt that the committee's estimates hearing was very productive. I was particularly happy to hear from the health minister that Rockhampton will soon be getting a PET scanner—something I have lobbied hard for. According to the minister, the department is now looking for an available space to house the scanner and its radiation shielding before commencing onsite training of the staff. It is hoped that the scanner will be up and running as soon as possible, particularly in light of the minister's advice at estimates that 33,000 Queenslanders are diagnosed with cancer every year—a much higher number than in other states. The minister made reference to skin cancers. I have heard from oncologists that the rates of prostate and bowel cancer in Queensland are extraordinarily high. According to the minister, the department's focus on nuclear medicine and a raft of other cancer treatment programs all form part of the government's response to Queensland's unprecedented cancer rate. However, there was no mention of any research studies or funding programs, either at the hearing or in the budget papers, aimed at finding out why so many Queenslanders are now being diagnosed with cancer. This needs to be an absolute priority of any cancer research program going forward, I believe.

Turning to the environment portfolio, I was surprised to learn that the environment department appears to have had almost no involvement in the decision-making process around the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project, which I am against. It took only a few questions before it became apparent that the department has done no modelling or studies on the project's environmental impacts, particularly on the area's unique platypus and koala populations or the Eungella honeyeater and gastric frog. The minister and departmental staff seem somewhat confused that I would even expect that this might be something that they should have done. They seemed confused that the industrial sized wind projects that are strung out across my electorate might also call for some kind of environmental assessment to be carried out on them in terms of the impact these giant turbines might have on the region's plentiful, but vulnerable, flora and fauna.

Mr Zanow interjected.

Mr ANDREW: I take the interjection from the member for Ipswich West. I was told that the department had no involvement whatsoever with any of these projects and I was referred on to the Queensland planning minister. That is an astonishing response from the department that has been

absolutely relentless when it comes to chasing down small farmers and commercial fishermen for the slightest environmental infraction they can conjure up. Yet, when it comes to these massive private consortiums, hacking their way through our mountains and state forests and blasting mountain tops, all we hear is crickets. The worms in my front yard are making more noise! What this tells me is that the government is perfectly happy to throw the environment and wildlife under the bus when it suits their political agenda. When it comes to the state's so-called 'green' transition, it certainly does suit their agenda. It is shameful.

That said, I would like to thank the chair and other members of the committee again. Many thanks also go to the hardworking secretariat and the parliamentary staff, who all work extremely hard to ensure our estimates run so smoothly. Again, I will say that there just needs to be more scrutiny. If these renewable projects are so good, let the sunshine in. Let us see all the different contractual agreements: what will it mean for Queensland, what is it going to cost Queensland, when does it stop, are they going to piggy-back on to the infrastructure that they are going to put in place—all those powerlines that will run through the Pioneer Valley? How many other dams are proposed to be built there that will destroy that beautiful valley and all those beautiful animals, all that flora and fauna? It is disgraceful.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (7.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee report following the 2024-25 budget estimates process. I would like to begin by thanking the committee chair, the member for Thuringowa, for his excellent stewardship of the estimates hearing again this year. I also thank all members of the committee, committee staff and parliamentary staff who supported the hearing. Again, as I did in the hearing a number of times, and as I do all the time in this House, I acknowledge the work of my director-general, Jamie Merrick, and my department across the environment, science and innovation portfolios. They go to work every day serving the interests of Queenslanders and I think they do an extraordinary job. I welcome the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure be agreed to without amendment.

The 2024-25 budget includes an almost \$1.2 billion allocation for the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation—one of the largest funding allocations in the department's history. Through this significant budget allocation, our Miles Labor government is continuing its track record of protecting Queensland's internationally recognised protected areas, waterways, landscapes and wildlife. This includes an investment of \$48.3 million to grow, maintain and enhance Queensland's protected area estate. The amount of \$39.2 million has been provided to enhance Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's fire management capacity and capability, including: \$18.1 million to purchase additional fire vehicles, fire units and support equipment; upgrade road and fire line networks; and recruit 39 specialist personnel to help the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manage bushfire risk.

We are also investing \$23.5 million over four years and \$6.3 million annually ongoing to continue implementation of our Threatened Species Program, as well as an additional \$31.3 million over four years and \$8.4 million annually ongoing to continue actions under the South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy.

We are continuing to advance Queensland's science and innovation sectors on a global scale and increase the pipeline of STEM talent across the state. This includes investing \$89.7 million over five years across government to deliver the Queensland Quantum and Advanced Technologies Strategy and the Queensland Quantum Academy. At estimates I released the Future Queensland Science Strategy 2024-2029, which provides the strategic vision for Queensland to be world leading in the translation of science for economic impact and social and environmental outcomes. That is the reality of our budget and these are just some of the facts in relation to our 2024-25 budget.

Demonstrating that they will not let the facts get in the way of a good story, or I think a poor story, let me turn to the statement of reservation. This was a stretch. I appreciate that there was not much they could write about because the agency and our government are investing so heavily across the portfolio. I do note the top line here that apparently our government is 'more interested in announcements than action'. I will give my opponent one thing: we are interested in announcements, because in the past 15 months we have seen our emissions reduction target, Lake Eyre Basin protections, Great Artesian Basin protections, gillnet reforms to protect threatened species, the largest ever expansion of protected area estate, Cape York tentative listing in the World Heritage List and an adjacency principle for a project on Curtis Island for ecotourism in national parks. We do make a lot of announcements. That is because we are making a lot of investments and taking a lot of action.

The member for Bonney did not have much to write about, but he did focus on the 17 per cent target. I do want to comment about that and to provide some factual information. He is right: 8.6 per cent is protected in Queensland. For a bit of perspective, there are 193 countries in the world and Queensland is larger than all but 16 of them—not Australia but Queensland. Queensland is extraordinarily large. The fact is that we also have the largest private protected areas in the country. We do have a very ambitious target.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Bonney, order!

Ms LINARD: It must really be difficult for the member for Bonney because those opposite have no target. They have no policy, no plan. The absence of a position is not a position, yet it is the only position those opposite take with regard to the environment. There are 66 days until the election and those opposite have a one-page document that does not mention the word 'conservation' once, does not mention traditional owners, does not mention rangers. They have absolutely no vision for Queensland, and Queenslanders should know it. Only a state Labor government will protect our precious environment.

Ms LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (7.55 pm): When my grandmother was sick with pancreatic cancer before I was elected to parliament and she had to travel to Brisbane every few weeks for treatment, I saw firsthand how difficult it was for her. It was then that I vowed to work to improve access to health care closer to home. I am proud to be part of the Miles government, which is investing in improved health services right across the state.

We have a record health budget year in and year out, delivering more frontline healthcare workers, delivering more services right across the state. I am particularly passionate about making sure there are improved services for regional, remote and rural Queenslanders so that we can deliver the best quality health care no matter where people live in Queensland.

I am particularly pleased that construction is about to start on the brand new \$90 million 32-bed Rockhampton Mental Health Unit, which is included in this year's budget, and also the \$28 million cardiac hybrid theatre. That means that more patients will be able to get that treatment closer to home. It will also reduce the number of flights that people have to take to Brisbane to get that treatment. Work is also due to be completed on the \$10 million new renal dialysis unit at the Capricorn Coast Hospital by the end of this year, meaning dialysis patients will no longer have to travel to Rockhampton multiple times a week for treatment.

I am also pleased to report that 59 additional healthcare workers have been recruited to Central Queensland through the Miles government's Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. This involves an incentive payment for healthcare workers to relocate to regional and rural Queensland. I recently met two new anaesthetists who have started at the Rockhampton Hospital, having relocated from New Zealand and Namibia. Since 2015, I am proud that we have delivered over 104 additional doctors, 482 nurses and 169 healthcare workers to our Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

The Rockhampton Medicare Urgent Care Clinic also continues to see many patients with urgent, non-life-threatening needs. This free clinic is open every day from 8 am to 8 pm and is treating patients without the need to present to the emergency department. It is critical that we are creating these diversions for people to avoid having to go to the emergency department so we can reduce the congestion at the emergency department so that people can get the treatment they need without having to wait for hours on end in an ED.

Queensland Health has also recently launched the \$27 million Queensland Virtual Emergency Care Service, where you can get access to free telehealth treatment for non-life-threatening conditions. I am so excited about this service, particularly as a mum. I know that sometimes in the middle of the night when you have a sick child the hardest thing is getting them into the car to go and find a doctor or a pharmacy or someone who can help or the ED. This service is open online, free every day from 8 am to 10 pm and can be easily accessed by typing 'Queensland Virtual Emergency Care Service' into your search engine. Within two days of the service opening, over 110 people had been treated.

Also, people should not forget that the flu vaccine is still available free for all Queenslanders over six months of age at all GPs and pharmacies. Hormonal contraception and UTI antibiotics are also available over the counter at participating pharmacies, saving the need to visit a GP.

I am really pleased that this record health budget is delivering for Queenslanders right across the state. We are doing what we can to reduce congestion at our emergency departments. We are backing our frontline healthcare workers. We are incentivising and attracting new healthcare workers from right

across the globe. The majority of those who have taken up the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme are from interstate. We are so pleased, particularly in regional Queensland, to welcome those specialist doctors, surgeons, allied health professionals and nurses to our rural, regional and remote communities. We have been desperately crying out for these healthcare workers for a long time. This Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme is a real game changer for regional communities. Two anaesthetists have started work at the Rockhampton Hospital. Surgeries cannot happen without anaesthetists. It does not matter how many surgeons or specialists we have; unless we have anaesthetists no surgeries happen, so welcoming those two anaesthetists was incredibly important. Those nurses and doctors who provide support services to frontline healthcare workers are absolutely critical, and I know that right across Central Queensland we are welcoming all of those frontline health care workers with open arms. I thank the health committee for their work. I thank the health minister for an excellent Miles government budget, and I commend the report to the House.

Report adopted.

Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): The question is—

That the report of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee be adopted.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.00 pm): On 14 June, the Appropriation Bill and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for investigation and report. The committee met to examine the bill for the 2024-25 financial year, and the findings of the committee are included in report No. 16, tabled on Friday, 9 August.

Consideration of the appropriation bills through the budget estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained within the bill committees assist the parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. Members who were not on the portfolio committee attended and participated in the hearing and asked questions. The committee gave leave to members of the opposition and minor parties to participate in the budget estimates hearing. I thank those members for their interest and engagement in the budget estimates hearing.

The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2024 was in relation to: justice and Attorney-General; prevention of domestic and family violence; police and community safety; fire and disaster recovery; and corrective services. At the committee's hearing on 26 July we took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence; the Minister for Police and Community Safety; the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services and other witnesses. Prior to the public hearing the committee provided the Attorney-General and minister with questions on notice in relation to estimates. Responses to all questions raised were received. I thank the Attorney-General and ministers for their fulsome responses to questions from the committee.

The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Queensland's economic performance over recent years has bolstered the government's ability to continue to manage a responsible budget while increasing spending where it matters most. Appearing at her final estimates hearing, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence answered questions in respect of her portfolio's plan for the year ahead. I note particularly the increases in funding to be used to work to end all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence in Queensland and to provide support for victims of crime.

As the committee heard during the examination of the portfolio area for police, the Queensland Police Service continues its positive trend in recruitment to support its service of a growing population. The committee was also advised that the rate of offending in Queensland, including domestic violence offences, is on the decline.

The creation of a new agency, Marine Rescue Queensland, and having it and State Emergency Services under the responsibility of the Queensland Police Service will ensure that these viable agencies are appropriately supported into the future. The bringing together of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Services Queensland under the banner of the Queensland Fire Department will assist in protecting Queensland communities by ensuring that firefighters and volunteers have the best available resources and legal protections. The budget provides them with more facilities and appliances for their important work.

This year's budget has a strong emphasis on responding to disasters. The committee heard about the additional frontline jobs in, and funding administered by, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Funding will be used to rebuild after the challenging disaster season and to fortify our communities against future disasters.

Queensland Corrective Services continues to work to respond to the needs of an increased prisoner population in Queensland. In particular, I note the construction of the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre and the delivery of programs which aim to maximise rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

The opposition members of the committee agree with the passing of the 2024 budget; however, in the opposition's statement of reservation they said—

... the government has failed to provide reassurance that its policies are meeting the significant challenges that face the state—the cost of living crisis, the crime crisis and the housing crisis.

They further stated 'effective service delivery comes a distant second', which I totally disagree with.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (8.05 pm): Firstly, I want to say thank you to the chair of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for repeating the chair's forward in the speech that he has just given, because it has already been published in the document that has been tabled which we are talking on today. That is a mammoth effort, chair, so thank you very much for reading into the record that which is already tabled. Well done you for that piece of inventive work.

In all of that rereading of something that has already been written for him and delivered here, the member for Toohey's foreword to the report is more instructive for what it does not say than what the report itself does say. In this report it is clear that the government has totally ignored the responses to both questions on notice and questions at the committee hearing. Firstly, we got the absurdity of the CCC having to pay the legal costs for long time Labor mate Peter Carne's appeal to the High Court to prevent a report by the CCC into his stewardship of the Public Trustee being made public. How much did all of that cost? A million dollars in legal fees: \$943,993. You will not find that in the report. This included two sums paid in relation to Mr Carne, firstly for the Court of Appeal and secondly in relation to the High Court proceedings. The CCC's own legal costs were \$503,000. As I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, you will not find those numbers in the report.

Another number you will not find in the report is the cost payable to former Labor MP Jackie Trad. Let's not forget the CCC conducted an investigation into the appointment of the then under-treasurer Mr Frankie Carroll beginning almost four years ago. That report has not seen the light of day. Let's also not forget that Ms Trad was granted indemnity by her own Labor mates—not to defend an action, but instead to commence an action to silence the CCC—and not by one Labor MP, not even by two, but by three Labor ministers. Former premier Palaszczuk, former attorney-general Fentiman and soon-to-be former member D'Ath at three separate times have approved or extended paying those fees. Let's not ignore, as the member for Kawana often tells us, the very recent reliable reports of last week's meeting at the AMWU headquarters in Roma Street of at least part of the left faction on that side of the parliament to plot a replacement for the poor old member for Murrumba. He is not even in his political grave and who is out apparently wargaming a leadership tussle: Jackie Trad, Julie-Ann Campbell and AMWU boss Rohan Webb. Is it too much to say there is some connection there?

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am not sure whether it is too much to ask about that connection, but I think there should be a connection to the bill so I would ask that you rule on relevance in relation to this contribution.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Clayfield, you have strayed somewhat. If you could come back to the estimates and the bill, that would be great.

Mr NICHOLLS: What we know from the chair of the CCC's very proper answers to questions is that, despite offers being made backwards and forwards to settle Ms Trad's costs with a counteroffer on 29 April and three follow-up inquiries, there has been no response. What was the comment from Mr Barbour in response to my question? Here is what the transcript said. Mr Barbour responded, 'Can I say I share your frustration.' There has been no resolution of this matter despite almost a third of the year.

Another word that got a lot of airtime during estimates was 'frustration'—frustration in relation to the inability to prepare reports, frustration in the inability to carry out investigations. If there was one thing that came through, it was frustration. That frustration went beyond the CCC and its investigations. It also went to the chair of the Family and Child Commission, who also expressed frustration in his ability to carry out his work. He was very fulsome in terms of what he said was working and what was

not working. What he said was not working was the current government's plan of only monitoring kids for three days when they are exiting detention. What was very clear in his answer was support for the LNP's program to support children for 12 months after they exit detention, at a cost of \$175 million.

In the second round of questions, we exposed the farce that is the Labor government's so-called commitment to implementing the recommendations from the *A call for change* report by Judge Richards. Since that report has been delivered, virtually no action has been taken. Again, we found out from Mr Barbour that he had only been informed the day before of the consideration of the formulation of the members of a committee to consider implementing it—a year after the report was delivered. We are no clearer to having a semblance of an idea of when the DNA debacle presided over by this government will come to an end. There were no clear answers as to when that will occur. The estimates were revealing for what this government has failed to do. This report is the same.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (8.11 pm): I rise to make this brief contribution to the estimates process of 2024. From the outset, I again thank the secretariat and the Parliamentary Service staff for the exemplary way they supported the hearings. It will come as no shock to learn that the committee recommends that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

For DJAG, the proposed budget comprises \$1.343 billion in departmental expenditure and \$563 million in funding to be administered by DJAG on behalf of the state. Our government can very proudly claim that in this one term alone we have increased funding for initiatives including the domestic, family and sexual violence sector, the implementation of the domestic and family violence foundational training modules and support for victims of crime.

Insofar as the Queensland police are concerned, the committee heard that the proposed budget comprises \$3.7 billion in QPS expenditure and \$14.1 million in funding to be administered by the QPS on behalf of the state. The proposed budget expense of \$3.69 billion in 2024-25 is an increase of \$289 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The increase is mainly due to the recruitment of additional police officers, enterprise bargaining agreements and the transition of the SES from the Queensland Fire Department to QPS.

For the Sunshine Coast, I am particularly pleased to acknowledge that a portion of this \$3.6 billion has gone to the brand new police station in Caloundra, greatly increasing the police presence and community safety. Also improving community safety is the soon-to-be-finalised arrangement of a police helicopter for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay—another community safety enhancement for our two regions. It also includes a very exciting investment for Caloundra and the hinterland—the much anticipated PCYC that will add so much to our community, as PCYCs invariably do. I can say with absolute certainty that the community reaction to this announcement has been electric.

Similarly, the Queensland Fire Department were only too happy to discuss the brand new fire station in Caloundra, along with significant rebuilds to the original station in Caloundra and the station in Beerwah. Our Miles government will have opened three brand new additions to community safety in Caloundra. That is a feat the LNP never managed in the previous 100 years of representing Caloundra. A literal LNP century could not match a single term of expenditure from this government.

Strangely, the opposition members were not keen to unpack that fact during the estimates process, but the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Ninderry did bring a certain comedic quality to the hearings. While desperately trying to find some wrongdoing on the part of the Queensland Police Service providing QGAir flights to North Queensland, the Leader of the Opposition stated—

Commissioner, firstly, thank you for providing the honesty that the Premier refused to earlier in the week.

To which Commissioner Gollschewski said—

Firstly, to help clarify, I had these figures because I have asked for them this week. We did not have these figures.

The Leader of the Opposition's clumsy assertion was that the Premier was being dishonest because he could not provide figures that nobody, including the QPS, had available at the time. I mean, honestly, what sort of a party leader would conceal sums of money that they were well aware of but were too afraid to make public because an election was looming? What sort of a party leader would be well aware of obligations around large sums of money—let us say \$200,000, to choose a figure at random—but then hide the details of that money from the people of Queensland—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I will ask you to come back to the substance of the debate.

Mr HUNT: Certainly. Not to be outdone, the member for Ninderry tried to put words into the mouth of the Police Commissioner by saying—

Commissioner ... when did you book your jet and where did you record the direction from the Premier requiring you to attend this trip?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HUNT: You will love the answer. He said—

I did not have any conversations with the Premier, member, if that is what you asking. You mention a 'direction from the Premier', there was certainly no direction.

To attempt to undermine a long-serving police officer like the commissioner is a curious tactic, even for the LNP. Unsurprisingly, it failed, much like the LNP's efforts in estimates more broadly.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (8.16 pm): Before I get to what I had prepared, I might respond to the previous speaker. Firstly, he spoke about the extra police at the new Caloundra South Police Station, which the minister came up and announced recently. They proudly talked about these extra new detectives for Caloundra South, failing to acknowledge that they were just detectives who were moved from Caloundra station to Caloundra South. The CPIU that used to work for me on the Sunshine Coast got told not long before the announcement that they were to pack their bags as they were moving to Caloundra South to work out of there—

Mr Hunt: Ten extras.

Mr PURDIE: Not detectives from the CPIU. The same detectives from the CPIU at Caloundra are now working out of the Caloundra South Police Station. They are just moved detectives, not extra detectives.

This takes me to his next point about how the Premier could not explain the cost of the jets that he and the minister used to fly around the state in tandem during their self-promotion tour. I am pretty sure the Premier should have expected he was going to get asked that question, seeing the interest in that issue from not only the media but also taxpayers across Queensland. To suggest that the Premier could not have got the answer to that question does not pass the pub test.

I return to where I wanted to start. I want to thank Commissioner Gollschewski and his executive leadership team who attended to answer questions of the committee for making themselves available, as well as all the other QPS officers in the background who no doubt packaged up a lot of that information. Going back to the cost of the private jets, we know that the commissioner, who is ultimately responsible for QGAir, would have had that information at his fingertips. The Premier would have had the cost of those jets available to him had he asked the question. I assume that if he had asked that question he would have been given that answer and he could have done that a few days prior. Thanks to the commissioner, he did answer the question and revealed that the cost to taxpayers for that self-promotion tour around the state was almost \$170,000.

There are still some questions to be answered that we never got to the bottom of. One of them is why in the manifest that was received by the opposition under an RTI the details of passengers on that jet were redacted. The commissioner admitted that two of those passengers were Minister Healy, a current minister, and Minister Crawford, a former minister, but we never got to the bottom of why or how the minister decided to redact that information from the public in an RTI document. I would suggest that a minister using taxpayer money to fly in one of two private jets would be information that the public is entitled to hear. There was an answer at the time that maybe the manifest was not necessarily correct, which is in breach of CASA guidelines. Although we did get a lot of answers on the day, and I thank the commissioner for that, there are still a lot of questions unanswered.

After years of this government misleading, or potentially misleading, this parliament on police numbers—the minister also misled Queensland police officers not only at the last election but also at the election before that when he promised 535 police officers and by 2020 had failed to meet that commitment by over 100; he doubled down to another commitment of 1,450—we found out at estimates from the commissioner that, as of a few weeks ago, the minister and this government are 1,147 short of their commitment, increasing police numbers by only 303. I asked the minister at the time does he admit that that was a broken promise, most importantly a broken promise to our Queensland police officers across the state who are fighting a crime crisis, particularly a youth crime crisis, with both hands tied behind their back, thanks to the weaker laws of this government. The minister refused to apologise to our police for yet another broken promise.

What we know now in this place and what communities across Queensland know, and our frontline police know—in Goondiwindi and across Queensland they are operating often at 50 per cent capacity, on skeleton crews—is that this government cannot be trusted when it comes to any further commitments on police numbers in Queensland.

It was also uncovered on the day that victims' details, by a systemic issue—a failure of the system potentially, not of any wrongdoing by the police, in that a QPRIME button is left unchecked—have potentially been given to offenders in court documents. Since that time, the police have identified at least a number of DV victims and other victims, and again the minister would not apologise for that breach.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the discussion on the estimates process this year. I start by acknowledging all of the incredible people who make up Queensland's Public Service, particularly those in the portfolio areas of justice and Attorney-General, police, corrections, fire and emergency, disaster recovery and all of the associated statutory officers who contribute to a safer, fairer and just Queensland.

Estimates is always a great opportunity to reflect on where our government is prioritising funding in Queensland. To begin with, I was really heartened by hearing of the prioritisation of funding in the area of domestic and family violence. At this time, a woman is murdered through intimate partner violence every four days in Australia. As someone who has worked in the field for a really long time, I am even shocked by that number. Thousands more women are having their lives destroyed by intimate partner or sexual violence. We have heard from the Attorney-General that since 2015 our government has invested \$1.9 billion in working to end all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence and that this focus will continue throughout the 2024-25 period. Services are under pressure. We have provided additional funding directly to frontline domestic, family and sexual violence service providers every year, equating to a 20 per cent uplift in core funding.

During estimates, the Attorney-General announced the release of the government's Broadening the Focus strategy that will target people using violence in domestic and family situations and how to support behavioural change. This strategy is a major milestone towards eliminating domestic and family violence. I have long said this is not a women's issue; it is an issue for men and an issue for us all. The Broadening the Focus strategy strengthens our system and community responses to actively hold people using violence responsible for their harmful attitudes and behaviours, and support them to change. Importantly, it has a focus on identifying and working with children and young people using, or at risk of using, violence so we can continue to break that cycle of violence.

The Attorney-General particularised continued and greater support for victims through Victim Assist, the establishment of community response pilots for areas impacted by tragic events and the appointment of the Victims' Commissioner and the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council for victims of crime. These reports can only be five minutes a day which means a lot of content gets left on the editing floor, but each year I do speak to the investment that this government makes in supporting Queensland's victims of crime community. We are a community who often do feel overlooked in the system. It is so critical that the funding provided is targeted towards helping victims to participate, to be heard and to recover from an act of violence. I do commend the government's continued focus on prioritising services and supports to victims of crime.

We heard also from the Minister for Police and Community Safety about this year's total portfolio record budget of \$4.36 billion for the Queensland Police Service, State Emergency Service, Marine Rescue Queensland and the Officer of the Inspector-General Emergency Management.

Recruitment within the Queensland Police Service continues to interest us all and our constituents. We heard during estimates that the Queensland Police Service is, in fact, leading the nation with its recruitment, that the attrition rate has fallen, and that Queensland is one of the few jurisdictions in the nation delivering positive recruitment growth. Of course, it is not just about funding and numbers; it is the programs, people, culture and training that actually make all the difference in keeping our communities safe.

Again it was great to hear the minister announce another innovative program establishing the pilot of a new groundbreaking perpetrator visibility project. It is a great project. We heard it is a collaboration between Microsoft, Griffith University, DVConnect, Domestic Violence Action Centre and the Queensland Police Service. The project will help keep people who use violence accountable and visible to support and response systems by sharing information in real time.

Members would know that I continue to take an interest in the use of watch houses to detain young people, and I was pleased to learn that the Police Commissioner has appointed Deputy Commissioner Cameron Harsley to lead a piece of work that will look at the people and culture in Queensland watch houses. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Cameron Harsley before, and I think he will do an excellent job of that project and really look forward to its findings.

I would like to thank my committee colleagues and all of the bodies and statutory office holders, CEOs and directors-general who attended this year's estimates process. I commend our committee's report to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (8.25 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's report into the 2024-25 Appropriation Bill. For some time now, Queenslanders have told me that this government is out of touch and arrogant, and what we learnt from the estimates hearings is that, as usual, Queenslanders are right. When Queenslanders call for help, our emergency services respond with dedication and bravery, regardless of whether they are paid employees or volunteers. Sadly, that dedication is not matched by this government. For 10 years, Queenslanders have been promised a service that would revolutionise the way help is delivered to boaties in distress, and more than two years ago the minister revealed the name of that service. Despite all the promises and all that time, what was actually delivered were fewer units transitioning to Marine Rescue Queensland and a situation where the transition of coastguard units to the new entity was described as 'delicate' with no guaranteed time frames provided. Clearly, as proven during the hearings, this government's arrogance has resulted in a failure to plan and a failure to consult with the volunteers that we rely upon.

It is not just on the water where this government has failed and has increased the risk faced by Queenslanders. Whilst it is bad enough that we have seen yet another reduction in the number of State Emergency Service volunteers, we learned that virtually overnight more than 3,000 volunteers were relegated to the sidelines because this government failed to manage the transition process. Make no mistake: this government's failure means that, as at 30 June, only 786 of the 5,000 State Emergency Service volunteers had completed initial training—a figure that will send a chill up the spine of Queenslanders staring down the official start of a cyclone season and the threat of flooding.

Regardless, whether they are paid or volunteers, our firefighters save lives and property, but this government is putting their very lives at risk. Twelve months ago I raised the issue of potentially unroadworthy appliances used by our Rural Fire Services, and what we learned during the estimates hearing is that this government has approved the use of these appliances in an emergency response situation, putting both volunteer responders and the general public at risk. Let's put that in perspective. We are asking our rural firefighters to attend a fire in a vehicle that is unroadworthy. But it is not just volunteers that this government is putting at risk because, despite the price that may be paid by staff working at a station affected by carcinogenic materials, the commissioner confirmed that the department has no intention of replacing the fire and rescue station at Ayr.

When it comes to facilities, we learned taxpayers footed the bill for a \$6.8 million station at Bracken Ridge that was destined for demolition before construction commenced, and that Rural Fire Service facilities were not compliant prior to the government taking responsibility for them.

Moving onto corrections, what a debacle that turned out to be. This minister, despite repeated questioning, refused to answer questions relating to the circumstances surrounding the resignation of the former president of the Parole Board. Her attempts since estimates to set the record straight leave a lot to be desired. Who could forget the shambolic performance of this minister who during the hearing could not recall any allegations but just a few hours later confirmed she was advised of a referral? All that Queenslanders have asked for is what they deserve, and that is the truth.

We also learned that the amount of drug related contraband within correctional centres has increased and that cell utilisation was at more than 143 per cent, despite the promises of this government to address that issue. In addition, under this government, the trial of body scanners at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre was delayed and taxpayers have footed the bill for more than \$3 million in travel costs for prisoners.

The estimates process is about assessing the value of the government's proposed expenditure. Clearly, this government does not value the work that our volunteers and employees do to keep us safe. It is Queenslanders who will bear the ultimate cost of this government's arrogance and failures.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (8.30 pm): I rise to respond to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's 2024-25 budget estimates report. I take great pride in the fact that throughout my 10 years as Attorney-General our government has made substantial investments in, and reforms

to, Queensland's justice system. I am proud of the Miles government's commitment to eradicating the scourge that is domestic, family and sexual violence. We continue to implement the large number of recommendations from the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, driving systemic generational change and improving the experiences of women and girls in the criminal justice system. Our determination to rid the community of domestic, family and sexual violence is reflected in the \$1.9 billion that we have invested in trying to end all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence since 2015.

Ms Camm interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member for Whitsunday, your interjections are not being taken.

Mrs Frecklington: Lost for words.

Mrs D'ATH: No, I am not lost for words. I am just absolutely appalled that, once again, the LNP play politics with domestic, family and sexual violence. Make no mistake: we are continuing to invest in reforms and programs that will have a significant positive impact for generations to come. That is why it is important that the Miles government has permanently boosted core funding to our domestic, family and sexual violence services by 20 per cent, yet those opposite still interject. They still carry on on such an important issue. If they want to talk about the *Not now, not ever* report, I am happy to talk about the domestic and family violence legislation that we moved in opposition that the LNP government refused to accept. Action could have been taken well before then, and the LNP rejected it.

Another area in which our government has made significant strides is how we support victims of crime. In less than 12 months the Miles government has increased payments to victims of crime, established the Office of the Victims' Commissioner, created an independent ministerial advisory council and established the Victims of Crime Community Response pilot. The support for victims has been wide-ranging, with the Miles government increasing resources for Victim Assist Queensland and extending support to victims of nonviolent crimes. We are not cutting services or funding or gagging organisations; we are supporting and funding them and giving them the resources they need.

We have heard loud and clear from community legal centres about the pressures being faced by the sector, including workforce shortages. That is why the Miles government has provided the CLCs—gagged by the LNP when they were last in government—with an uplift of over \$12 million. This brings the total funding for the delivery of core services in 2024-25 to \$28.917 million.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I am so glad that in my second last sitting week they still feel the need to interject on me. I am surprised. They obviously are still threatened by me. Feel free to keep going. I am very proud of our legacy and what we will do going forward in government.

We have boosted the Coroner's Court of Queensland to the point that we now have more permanent coroners than ever before—more magistrates, more judges, more coroners, more funding for CLCs and more funding for the prevention of domestic and family violence. We installed all of the diversionary programs that were scrapped by the previous government. This government does not bag CLCs, does not gag them and does not cut funding and training programs that lead to disengaged youth.

Pressures at the Beenleigh and Townsville courts are being alleviated through a variety of measures which we are supporting with funding of \$36 million over four years. As with the Coroner's Court, there have been huge demands on the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. We are providing \$73.1 million over five years to ensure it continues to provide a great service for Queenslanders. Additionally, the Miles government has doubled the investment in the gambling help service system in this budget, allocating an additional \$8.06 million for gambling harm minimisation support and treatment programs.

We have bolstered the support provided to vulnerable Queenslanders, with increased funding of \$5.9 million to the Office of the Public Guardian to enhance its critical functions in providing vital services such as protections to children in care. Furthermore, we continue to protect our children through our strong blue card system, providing extra funding to enhance processing capacity.

I am proud to be part of the Miles government, which has and always will deliver a fair, efficiently resourced and accessible justice system for Queensland. I am so proud of the work we have done over the last 10 years to restore the trust in the justice system that those on the other side destroyed when they were in government.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (8.36 pm): I rise to respond to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's report No. 16 on budget estimates for 2023-24. First, I want to thank the government for amending the standing orders, in response to our efforts, to allow crossbench members to submit questions on notice to all ministers as part of greater efficiencies and for giving the opposition and crossbench greater time allocations at the hearings. I would also like to thank our chair, Peter Russo, for giving even more time than the 70 per cent allocated. I thank Attorney-General D'Ath and ministers Ryan and Boyd as well as the departmental and agency staff, who responded openly. My questions, totalling 23, covered a broad range of subjects, from the banning of political donations and the implementation of youth justice inquiry recommendations all the way to mental health co-responders and disaster management.

Regarding recommendation 13 from the youth justice inquiry, to develop a pilot victim advocate service, the Attorney-General advised that the government had contacted Deakin University to co-design, develop, deliver and evaluate a statewide, victim-centric and trauma informed advocate model to be piloted between 2025 and 2027. On the consideration of the model for youth justice put forward by Mr Keith Hamburger AM, the good news is that this has been referred to the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council for consideration. The Minister for Police updated us on the youth co-responder team to be established on the Sunshine Coast which starts next month.

In terms of what is provided to ensure detainees in corrective services who are transferred from youth justice receive ongoing and appropriate rehabilitation—this is important—while a range of programs were identified, there was no guarantee that youth who finish their sentences in adult facilities would receive the same, as funding for rehabilitation stops coming from the youth justice budget and moves to corrective services. This needs to be addressed.

In addition, recommendation 36 of the youth justice inquiry was for government to fund a minimum 12-month transition plan for every child or young person transitioning back into the community after detention with a skills, education and health focus, including residential accommodation options. If we are to address criminality in young Queenslanders, we must have at least a 12-month transition plan, regardless of whether it is funded under youth justice or adult corrections.

Regarding infrastructure for our Rural Fire Brigade, that a review of the facilities is occurring this year is good news; however, it is well overdue, with substandard facilities such as those at Tinbeerwah urgently needing upgrades. We need to do this for our volunteers. We need to look after them.

Questions on disaster resilience confirmed that related funding is not dependent on local governments having coastal hazard adaptation plans. However, these plans including forward modelling have big impacts on Queenslanders. Residents' house insurance premiums have skyrocketed due to insurance companies looking at future flooding predictions identified in these CHAPs, leaving many unable to afford them. There are also planning restrictions due to excessively cautious interpretations of inundation. For example, climate predictions out to 2100 are seeing erosion lines mapped 100 metres behind current beachfronts, potentially blocking home owners from doing any renovations or rebuilds—that is some 86 years away—with modelling that does not take into account conflicting analysis.

May greater understanding come from a pair of Commonwealth parliamentary inquiries. One is into insurers' responses to the 2022 major floods claims looking at the impact of land use planning decisions and disaster mitigation efforts on the availability and affordability of insurance, with the report due in October. The second is into the impact of climate risk on insurance premiums and availability and is due in November. All levels of government should look at the results of these and work out how they can reduce the immediate impact on Queenslanders while making reasonable adjustments for long-term climate impacts.

As mentioned, I say thank you to all involved in the estimates hearings, including our fantastic secretariat—and we did have a very long day—and for the improvements that have been welcomed. However, more does need to be done and I ask that all support our request for a review of the committee and estimates processes and that this be undertaken in the beginning of the new term.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (8.41 pm): I am pleased to rise to discuss this outstanding budget by the Miles government with our new Premier, Steven Miles, delivering for the front line, for the Queensland Police Service, the State Emergency Service, Marine Rescue Queensland and the Inspector-General Emergency Management, the agencies for which I have portfolio responsibility. Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you and also your fellow committee members as well as the parliamentary staff and the departmental staff for the agencies for which I have portfolio responsibility for their contributions to estimates. I think everyone can agree

that there was a very rigorous examination of the budget this year. There were many more questions for non-government members and many more opportunities to scrutinise the budget. However, as is usual, there were missed opportunities by non-government members to use the process for what it should be used for, which is a proper scrutiny of government expenditure.

Of course, it was disappointing to see members of the opposition in particular choose to not focus on the budget, to not highlight the expenditure and the investment that this government is making. I speak of investment like a record \$4.37 billion for the police and community service portfolio budget. That is extraordinary. That is a near doubling since this government was first elected—a huge investment in community safety. We are seeing that investment on the front line: more facilities, more resources and more police for the front line. It was clearly articulated at estimates: there was a lot of information provided about how Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to recruitment. When it comes to those growth positions that we committed at the last election we were informed that 833 of those growth police positions have been filled. By contrast, the commitment of those opposite at the last election was to 400 growth positions for police officers. I repeat: 833 of those growth positions that this government has funded and created have now been filled. That is extraordinary.

Mr Stevens: How many have left?

Mr RYAN: No, these are positions that have been filled—those growth numbers—so it is double what those opposite committed to. Of course, the shadow minister was also the shadow minister at the last state election who committed 1,000 fewer positions than our government did. That is an effective cut of a thousand compared to this government.

We see also our investment in the State Emergency Service continue to grow. This is a huge investment in the State Emergency Service, a near tripling of the budget in only a few years and a doubling of the staff. I do see that the shadow minister has misread the *Hansard*. In fact, it was an answer directly to his question around how many State Emergency Service volunteers are trained and meet the minimum standard. In fact, it is in black and white in the SDS around it exceeding the target. I also note it is in the opposition's statement of reservation. They missed the word 'not' in the transcript. The question was, 'How many have not met the minimum standard of training?', not how many do. They are quoting the wrong number there, so I look forward to writing to the Speaker about that misleading statement. It is quite bizarre when I think about it because it was a response directly to the shadow minister's question. He would be aware of the accurate number because he was there; he asked the question and he got the answer.

The final point I want to make is about the historic moment we have celebrated this year with the creation of a new volunteer emergency service agency which is Marine Rescue Queensland, and the transition is underway. We are seeing new vessels rolled out right across the state—new vessels like one at Currumbin which we are celebrating soon. I want to commend the Volunteer Marine Rescue team at Currumbin. They will be soon be one of the next units to transition to Marine Rescue Queensland, so it is an exciting opportunity for them. We are investing in that capability so that not only do the volunteers have the resources they need to keep people safe on the waters but also generally community safety is enhanced as a result.

That is an outstanding investment in police and community safety. This is a record that the Miles government has: delivering for the front line, supporting community safety outcomes and supporting those emergency service personnel who keep us all safe.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the estimates debate specifically on the issue of victim support. There were 289,657 victims of crime in Queensland last year. This is the highest in the nation and the reality is that those opposite do not want to acknowledge that number. They do not want to acknowledge the scale of the issue that they created when they watered down our laws, when they watered down our Youth Justice Act. They certainly do not want to accept that the number of victims of crime in this state is an indicator of whether or not their laws and policies on crime are working.

In fact, during estimates I asked the Attorney-General point blank whether she acknowledges that the number of victims of crime in Queensland is the true measure of effectiveness of this government's laws in relation to crime. The answer the Attorney-General gave proved that this government does not consider that the growing number of victims of crime in this state determines the effectiveness of their laws or policies. The minister refused to give me a direct answer to that question and instead danced around it telling me how many victims have been identified and how many victims have made Victim Assist applications. She was not willing to acknowledge at all that the metric that matters is the number of victims of crime in this state and that number is the highest it has ever been; it is the highest in the nation.

There were almost 300,000 victims of crime last year. That is higher than New South Wales and higher than Victoria, and that is despite the populations of those states being higher when compared to Queensland. It means there have been almost 300,000 Queenslanders who have suffered as a result of this state Labor government failing in their most fundamental responsibility as a government and that is to keep people safe from crime. Victims deserve more than lip-service and platitudes. Their needs and their voices deserve to be at the heart of the justice system, and the fact that victim numbers are rising should matter to this government. It should cause them to look at their laws and reassess whether they are working, but the Attorney-General has failed to do that and failed to acknowledge that during the estimates process.

During this estimates hearing we heard from the QFCC commissioner in relation to the rehabilitation of young offenders and stopping them reoffending and, in turn, leaving more victims of crime in their wake. The commissioner stated in the estimates process that what was clear to him was that the government's 72-hour plans, the government's program for releasing youths from detention, are not working, that youths are falling through the cracks and that the 72-hour plans are not enough.

The commissioner stated that, whilst there are many good people and programs in our youth justice portfolio, what has become clear is that three days of exit support means they are falling through the cracks and it is not working. The QFCC commissioner stated very clearly that he has recommended that the government should fund dedicated 12-month follow-through intensive case management for all young people who are leaving detention, and the LNP absolutely agrees. That is why we have announced our Staying on Track program—12 months worth of intensive rehabilitation support for every single youth leaving detention to break the cycle of reoffending and to stop the pipeline of youths becoming serious repeat offenders, because we know that 91 per cent of our youths released from detention reoffend. That is the statistic this government is ignoring and this government is failing to change that story. It is continuing along the path of its failed 72-hour plans.

Finally, I want to address an issue with the Victims' Commissioner. It has come to light that the Victims' Commissioner function of meeting victims when they make complaints in relation to their charter of rights is not being performed. In fact, I have been advised that it is not commencing until 2 September. For the last four months this government has been talking about the Victims' Commissioner and the charter of rights when in fact that function has not been performed by the Victims' Commissioner. It is clear that there is only one side of this House that will put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders. There is only one side of this House that will prioritise the rights of victims, and that is an LNP Crisafulli-led government.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution in response to the report tabled by the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee regarding the estimates hearing held on 26 July 2024. While I have already placed on record my thanks to the committee and the secretariat for their work in conducting these hearings and preparing this report, I again want to thank all those involved. I note that the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure be agreed to, and I can understand why. The first budget of the Miles government is a budget that focuses on what matters to Queenslanders. In my portfolio areas that means investing in more firefighters and equipment for frontline personnel like our rural volunteers, it means investing in more Corrective Services officers and it means investing in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority so it has the capacity to be there when Queenslanders need it most, and we can see that in the budget handed down by the Deputy Premier.

In Queensland Corrective Services we have committed almost \$2 billion because when you are tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime you need more prison beds, more staff and more programs to address recidivism. This is the first budget as part of the new Queensland Fire Department which sees more than \$1 billion for more fleet, facilities and firefighting equipment across both Queensland Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire Service. To be absolutely clear, this budget also delivers \$4 million for the start of remediation works to address PFAS at the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station as work is underway to determine a new site. Right now QFD is working to secure land for that new site which is something you do when you are going to build a replacement fire station. I also need to point out to members opposite that stopping drugs getting into prisons is a good thing. In fact, it is essential to maintaining a safe environment for staff.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BOYD: I cannot understand for the life of me why they raised an increase in seized contraband in their statement of reservation as a concern when getting drugs out of prisons is a good thing. I have also been advised that non-government members had more than 80 per cent of the time

for questions during the committee's hearing and 84 per cent of the questions. I do note that there were very few unique questions from opposition members of the committee and the shadow minister had to outsource his job to the member for Kawana. The member for Burdekin resorted to name-calling and I can only assume that is something—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members! Pause the clock, please. Members for Nanango and Whitsunday, you have continued to interject since I have been in the chair. I will issue warnings if it continues.

Mrs Frecklington: I didn't interject once on Minister Ryan.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will give you that one. For further interjections you will be warned.

Ms BOYD: The member for Burdekin resorted to name-calling and I can only assume this is because he does not like being criticised. It seems to be a common trait for the LNP and it looks to me as though it comes from the top. The Leader of the Opposition has questions to answer about being a director of a company that is suspected to have been trading while insolvent, but he ducks and he covers. He secretly settled claims with liquidators to the tune of—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order regarding relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, there has been guidance issued tonight around keeping relevant to the estimates process. I will ask you to stay focused on that.

Ms BOYD: Yes, of course; thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is relevant because budget estimates is about the budget and the responsible investment of taxpayer funds. How do we best invest those funds to protect Queenslanders at a time of natural disaster? How do we best invest those funds to support frontline service delivery to respond to floods and fires? How do we best invest those funds to ensure our prisons run smoothly and to keep our communities safe? Running an insolvent fire department does not work. Running insolvent prisons does not work. You need to be able to pay staff for their hard work and pay suppliers for their equipment, but if you cannot pay your debts when they are due that is trading insolvent. This is why the Leader of the Opposition must answer questions, and that is what ministers on this side of the House did. We answered questions about the budget and we answered questions about how we are investing taxpayer funds.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Ms BOYD: Why can't the Leader of the Opposition answer any questions today? I welcome the opportunity to speak on this issue and I would welcome—

Mr BOOTHMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order regarding relevance. This has nothing to do with the estimates.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I have taken advice. I will ask that you tighten your focus. I appreciate your comments are speaking to financial accountability, but they are straying now into areas that previous rulers have determined are outside of the scope.

Ms BOYD: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Mermaid Beach is warned under the standing orders.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who was that? The member for Maryborough is also warned.

Ms BOYD: I welcome the opportunity to speak about the really important expenditure that the Miles government has made in this budget. It is a budget with record investment for our new Queensland Fire Department, for our Queensland Reconstruction Authority and for Corrective Services as well. We value our front line and we will continue to invest in it.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (8.57 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2024-25 budget estimates report No. 16 of the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. This estimates committee process was marked with the efforts of concealment rather than transparency of the financial credentials. This state and its people are faced with a cost-of-living crisis, a health crisis, a crime crisis and a housing crisis. Contributing to the cost-of-living crisis is that of rising insurance costs and the ongoing disaster events across the state.

Insurance costs have risen some 18 per cent in just 12 months under this minister's watch. Disappointingly when asked if the Disaster Ready Fund projects were assessed to ascertain if they would drive down the cost of insurance in the respective communities, the committee was advised that the projects only impact insurance over time. There is no sense of urgency from this Labor government in relation to the cost-of-living impacts that are happening across this state and it is really cold comfort for those who either cannot source insurance or cannot afford the cost of insurance. I am sure consumers would like to hear that their taxpayers' funds are being directed to projects that drive down the cost of insurance in the shortest possible timeframe, because we know that insurance costs are increasing rapidly. Sadly, it seems that driving down the cost of insurance is not a priority for this Labor government.

Investing in betterment has not been a priority for successive Labor governments over the past 10 years. Betterment is disaster preparedness and it saves taxpayer funds. For instance, at Gayndah the domestic water intake washed away twice and was rebuilt twice, costing \$4 million. It was then relocated above the local weir, costing \$2.9 million. That infrastructure has continued to function through four more disaster events, saving \$10 million in repair costs. That is a \$10 million saving of taxpayer funds. Investing in betterment helps drive down the cost of living and insurance and reduces the amount of time that individuals and communities are isolated by disaster events. Sadly, betterment does not seem to be a priority for this Labor government.

The estimates committee hearing confirmed once again that this government has not built one flood levee since coming to power a decade ago, despite insurance costs going up by 80 per cent in Queensland since then. There is no shortage of communities across Queensland that need flood levees. One that comes to mind is Burketown. They need a levee around their airport to keep it operational during and after major flood events. Anyone who has been to Burketown or seen the pictures would well understand that. In that community, being able to use the airport for emergency evacuations is particularly important during flood time.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I apologise, but I ask that you take your seat. Unfortunately, we have finished the time allotted for this particular report.

Report adopted.

Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee, Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The question is—

That the report of the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee be adopted.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (9.00 pm): I start by thanking all who participated in the estimates process. It was probably one of the longest estimates sessions. The behaviours were interesting on the day. Tone, engagement and words really matter. I remind everybody in the House of how important that is. From the get-go I said that I would conduct the day in a fair and even-handed manner and I believe that was absolutely the case. I am advised that the time allocated was well over the 70-30 split and was somewhere nearer a 25-75 split. Therefore, I was a little disappointed to read in the statement of reservation that opposition members said the process was characterised by obfuscation and concealment and was lacking in transparency when so much time was given. Latitude was also given in terms of allowing the CEO from Queensland Hydro, who was not a scheduled 7 witness, to participate and talk about all of the good work that is happening in the renewable space, particularly given how important it is in terms of how Queensland reaches its targets with pumped hydro. I thank the minister for allowing that to occur on the day.

When we talk about the budget and the estimates process, our Miles Labor government is absolutely doing what matters. It was a real privilege to chair that particular session of estimates when we look at all of the work we have been doing in the energy space and what we have been providing in cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders with the \$1,000 energy rebate and additional money for pensioners and seniors. It builds on the huge investment that we have made in providing rebates to Queenslanders since 2018. That is our track record on delivering for Queenslanders when it comes to relief on their energy bills. Therefore, I was particularly proud to be a part of that process.

We also examined the transport, main roads and digital services portfolios, which is another extraordinarily important area for Queenslanders. I think everyone in this chamber would have constituents who are to some degree enjoying our 50-cent fares.

Government members interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Fifty-cent fares; that is right. I know our ferries to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands are going gangbusters. I have never seen 10,000 people happier to be receiving a 50-cent ferry fare. The ferry fare is amazing. When we talk to constituents about the 20 per cent off car rego—

Mr Walker: They love it.

Ms RICHARDS: Member for Mundingburra, they absolutely love what our Miles Labor government is doing for Queenslanders because we are helping put money back into their pockets. That is what the budget is all about and it is what the interrogation of the budget through the estimates process should have been all about. There is very important work going in terms of our Big Build, which includes investment in roads and bridges to connect our communities. Our state is one of the largest states—

A government member: It is booming.

Ms RICHARDS: It is absolutely booming. I want to give a huge shout-out to TMR for all the work that they have done, which is included in the budget, as a result of the natural disasters that Queensland has experienced. Our investment in helping communities recover is reflected in the budget and that is probably not touched on enough.

Our Miles Labor government is focusing on what matters for Queensland. It is focusing on putting money back into the pockets of people and it is using coal royalties. I do not know about anybody else in the chamber, but I know constituents in my community are extraordinarily pleased that we are making the big mining giants pay their fair share of taxes. The money that is coming into Queensland bank accounts is coming from the coal royalties paid by the big mining companies. We know that that would be the first thing that those on the other side would wipe. If that is the first thing that they would wipe then I do not think they would be providing any cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. We will not see 50-cent public transport fares, which are a game changer in connecting—

An opposition member: What rubbish.

Ms RICHARDS: It is not rubbish at all; I take that interjection. If you are not going to take the coal royalties then how will you fund this type of cost-of-living relief? That is what matters to Queensland and that is what our Miles Labor government will do.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.06 pm): I too rise to contribute to the debate on the estimates process for the energy portfolio. I give a big thank you and a shout-out to the opposition members of the committee, the member for Condamine, the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Callide, as well as the chair of the committee for allowing us—I think she just said—70 per cent of the time. However, even if we had had 100 per cent of the time it would not have been enough to examine this portfolio. I want to refer to some of the figures that were uncovered through the estimates process.

It was absolutely flabbergasting to hear about our major baseload power station at Callide. Members of this House know, over the three years since the explosion, how often we have asked the minister about what he knew, when he knew it, what he was going to disclose and when Professor Sean Brady could release his report. Just to the end of June, \$10.4 million was paid to Professor Sean Brady. That came out through the estimates process. What else came out was that, after spending I think around \$7 million on the consultant, neither the minister nor CS Energy had a clue about what went on.

When I questioned the CEO of CS Energy, he said that the minister did speak to him about the progress of the report but he did not communicate directly on the issue. It was uncovered through the estimates process that the minister did not bother to ask about the content of the report. This is the same minister who, in one breath, tarnishes the former executives at CS Energy but then says he did not know anything about it. The explosion happened and he tries to claim that he got rid of them because of the explosion, but when it comes to the timing the minister forgot that he had actually blamed it on them. He said, 'No, no. I didn't know anything until about June.' That was with CS Energy spending \$38 million, to date, in the cover-up of Professor Sean Brady's forensic report. They have spent about \$50 million and the minister does not think to ask some questions? No-one on that estimates committee and no-one sitting behind the minister believed him. Come on, Mr Deputy Speaker!

I now refer to the bonuses. We have a minister who says, 'No, I didn't think the execs of CS Energy or the chair were doing a good job so I got rid of them.' This is not the current CEO's fault; this is coming from the minister. Despite that, he approved \$300,000 worth of bonuses after he had said that he was not satisfied with the former executives. You cannot have it both ways, Minister. Which way were you trying to go here?

How many units are actually going as of today? One. Where is this energy minister? Some \$50 million of taxpayers' money is down the drain. I will take that back. In his draft report, forensic engineer Sean Brady gave some very good answers as to what went wrong. The reasons lay at the feet of the minister and the Treasurer, the shareholding ministers. In the final report, miraculously those results were taken out. We have to ask why.

There are more questions to be asked of this duplicitous minister when it comes to the report by Professor Sean Brady, and the minister knows it. I look forward to the minister's clarification about when he knew about what was going on and why he approved a ministerial direction that turned down funding requests from CS Energy. Everyone who works within Callide Power Station—they all want to talk to us because they know that the government is not listening—will tell us the real story. That is, this government failed to maintain our baseload power stations and this has driven up our energy prices by 20 per cent, three times the national average. They should hang their heads in shame.

(Time expired)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament's Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee review of the 2024-25 budget estimates, Appropriation Bill 2024. I would like to begin by acknowledging all of the members of the committee who participated in the estimates process—unlike those opposite, who only acknowledged the opposition members. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the crossbenchers who participated in estimates. I would particularly like to acknowledge the parliamentary staff who work to put on the estimates process as well as acknowledge the hard work of our public servants who work each and every day to serve Queenslanders. Let's not forget that that is what public servants do—they serve Queensland and deliver all of the services that we need to run this great state that we love to call home.

The committee heard from the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs, the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services regarding the proposed expenditure for their portfolio areas. We heard from the Minister for Energy that the Queensland government's important investment in the state's publicly owned electricity generators, with sustaining capital over the last three years, what it intends to spend in the current budget period and what results they are delivering for Queenslanders in terms of reliability and affordability.

The good news is that Queensland's generator assets continue to be reliable and secure. The Australian Energy Market Operator's 2023 Electricity Statement of Opportunities report forecasts that Queensland has one of the best reliable outlooks over the next several years. This was further demonstrated earlier this year when the state achieved a record maximum operational demand of over 11,000 megawatts. We have stable and reliable energy assets in this state which we own. This is unlike what would happen if the opposition got into power.

I would also like to acknowledge the great success of 50-cent fares and the ongoing Big Build, particularly the Lindum level crossing upgrade in my electorate. Let's not forget the critical minerals contribution to our great state.

As members know, a primary function of parliament is to scrutinise and hold to account the executive branch of government. The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms by which the parliament examines government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. This process holds ministers to account and provides transparency to the public.

The LNP opposition certainly had ample opportunity to scrutinise government ministers, yet in their statement of reservation they again whinged and complained, with allegations of obfuscation and concealment. Non-government members had 444 minutes, or 84 per cent, of question time and asked 157 of the 188 questions. Further, government questioning was just 152 minutes. I say to those opposite: if you do not have enough time to scrutinise the bills, maybe you are not asking the right questions.

I am proud to be a member of a Queensland government that is happy to open its doors and windows—a government that is open and honest, that is accountable and transparent. It has nothing to hide. That is good for democracy and it is good for Queensland. What would happen to accountability

and transparency in this state if the LNP formed government and the member for Broadwater became premier? What is his record? We know for a fact that the Queensland opposition leader paid \$200,000 in settling claims to liquidate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Lytton, other members have been warned to not go down that path, to stick to the debate at hand, and I would ask you to stick to the debate on the estimates process.

Ms PEASE: Going back to the estimates process, what concerns me is the opposition's capacity to put up shutters and not subject itself to scrutiny. This goes to the very heart of those opposite. As the saying goes, if someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time. We would expect to see government scrutiny disappear if the member for Broadwater became premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, back to the bill, please.

Ms PEASE: What is at stake at the next Queensland election on 26 October is transparency and accountability, which we saw in our estimates hearing.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.16 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the elements of the estimates committee process that pertain to transport and main roads. From the outset, I too would like to congratulate the committee members on both sides of the chamber who were part of that committee as well as the chair. I also acknowledge, as I always do, the great work that is done behind the scenes by the parliamentary staff. Being the shadow minister, I have the privilege of being able to call upon different public servants to appear to answer my questions, such as the CEO of Cross River Rail and the CEO of Queensland Rail, amongst others, and I certainly appreciate their time.

In relation to the key findings themselves, the first question that I put to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was whether he could define Project Craft for the committee. He could not answer it, and that was pretty much the theme for the remainder of the next 3½ to four hours. This minister has been in the job since December last year and it was patently obvious from the scribbling and shuffling going on at the desk across from me that he really did not have a good, deep handle on his own portfolio.

Some of the key questions pertained to Cross River Rail. Everyone in this chamber knows that the government has been banging on for years and years that it is the signature infrastructure project of the former Palaszczuk government, now Miles government. The reality is—

Mr Bailey: You cut it, didn't you?

Mr MINNIKIN: I will take the interjection from the member for Miller. When people hear the words 'budget project blowout', they are immediately drawn to the member for Miller, who is a former transport and main roads minister—hopeless!

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the comments be withdrawn.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. The reality is: this project has been open to scrutiny for years and the former minister failed to adequately define for other committee hearings years before what the actual project cost would be and, moreover, when this project would open. It was beholden upon me to ask the new minister when the Cross River Rail would actually be available for people to catch a train using that bit of infrastructure. There were eight, nine or 10 attempts between the minister and the CEO of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority to make the best possible guess. They could not even identify a potential quarter of a calendar year when it may be open. The reality is: the signature piece of infrastructure—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I hear the member for Miller carping in the background. I am quite happy to take his interjections because, as I have said, when it comes to failures in infrastructure delivery in this state there is no greater telling example of the legacy of someone who has failed than there is the member for Miller—singularly hopeless.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. He cannot help himself. I take personal offence, obviously, and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. The question was asked and put numerous ways to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Miller, you are adding to the problem. I suggest you keep quiet.

Mr MINNIKIN: This minister could not answer the question: when will it be open? It was more than just the Cross River Rail failures of the Miles government, as exemplified through the ordinary performance of the minister. There were other issues in relation to Queensland Rail—near misses with construction equipment left beside the track. There was also probing of the open level crossing failures in terms of open level crossings being checked on time—an abject failure when it comes to a key area of public safety.

The other issue was inspection times in relation to some of the important issues raised and exemplified by whistleblowers—weeks and months of inactivity. There were other issues covered including those related to the Bruce Highway, specifically the failure of the Bruce Highway trust which has been shut down by the Miles Labor government. In fact, a report was delayed by at least two years in coming before the committee.

Nothing comes as a surprise because when it comes to project delivery in this state, the three essential elements of time, quality and cost are anathema to the way this current government delivers project management. In fact, it has now become almost synonymous with failure project delivery when it comes to the area of transport and main roads mainly because the current minister is simply not up to the job and the former minister was hopeless.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (9.21 pm): I rise to speak on the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament, *2024-25 Budget estimates: Appropriation Bill 2024*. The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2024 relates to the Department of Energy and Climate, the Department of Resources and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The total appropriation for 2024-25 for these three departments is \$16.723 billion. Figure 2 on page 3 and figure 3 on page 4 of the said report show this. I want to thank our chair, the member for Redlands, Kim Richards, for her leadership and my fellow committee members for their input. Also, a big thank you goes to the committee staff for their exceptional support throughout the process.

The Miles Labor government is investing in our future with \$16.72 billion towards transport and main roads, managing natural resources, renewable energy and storage projects to build the Queensland SuperGrid, including CopperString 2032. Record investment in nation-building infrastructure keeps Queensland on track to deliver important infrastructure and services for all Queenslanders—improved roads, transport and a cleaner, cheaper, more reliable power supply. The estimates hearing showed that Queensland is the envy of the nation, with true leadership in providing clean, green energy that meets community expectations and addresses the clean, green energy needs of the future.

We heard about the Miles government's Energy and Jobs Plan—a pivotal step in addressing climate change while simultaneously fostering economic growth through job creation. This plan, unveiled in September 2022, outlines a comprehensive strategy to transition towards sustainable energy sources and bolster the local economies across the state. The Energy and Jobs Plan aims to significantly increase Queensland's reliance on renewable energy sources including solar, wind and pumped hydro energy storage by setting ambitious targets for renewable energy generation. The plan seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to Australia's overall economy and climate goals.

Central to the plan is the creation of new job opportunities within the energy sector. The Queensland government has commenced investments in training programs and infrastructure development to ensure that the workforce is well equipped to meet the demands of a clean, green energy economy. This includes roles in renewable energy technology, maintenance and project management. This investment is well and truly underway, as we have seen in Townsville with the new \$20 million training facility recently opened at the Bohle TAFE campus. This facility will train our future tradies who will meet the growing demand in the clean energy sector and the jobs of the future.

The plan also emphasises the importance of community engagement and environmental stewardship. It also outlines strategies to support local communities affected by the transition, including investment in community-based renewable energy projects, the opening of new critical mineral mines and support for regional development.

Innovation is a cornerstone of the Energy and Jobs Plan. The government intends to support research and development in clean energy technologies, which will be crucial for maintaining Queensland's competitive edge in the global energy market. We have already seen investment in Townsville with Vecco making vanadium electrolytes used in new battery technology for energy storage in Queensland. This is only the start of more future investment in this space.

The Energy and Jobs Plan has the potential to deliver substantial benefits for Queensland. The shift towards renewable energy will contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, the focus on job creation and workforce development aligns with the broader economic goals of increasing employment, creating good paying jobs and stimulating economic activity.

This estimates report demonstrates that building the necessary infrastructure to support renewable energy generation and distribution requires careful planning and coordination. This is in stark contrast to those opposite. The LNP's leader nationally, Peter Dutton, has made it very clear that if they get control of government they will build nuclear power plants in Queensland.

I support the recommendation in the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament, *2024-25 Budget estimates: Appropriation Bill 2024*.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (9.26 pm): As shadow environment minister, I will make a contribution to the emissions reduction and climate aspects of the estimates hearings. This was half the time that the energy and climate minister allocated for his session before the committee. Half the time was allocated to emissions reduction. I am very happy to spend as much time as possible talking about climate change policy and emissions reduction, but to have half the session on this I cannot help but think that maybe the minister, the Leader of the House, was deliberately trying to avoid scrutiny on the energy part of the portfolio where the member for Nanango had some excellent questions of departmental staff and the government owned corporations who could not be called in the emissions part of the hearing.

At the start of the hearing I tried to ascertain how much of the government's 20 per cent modelled emissions reduction in the Energy and Jobs Plan could be attributed to Pioneer-Burdekin. This is, of course, a project that is not a coordinated project so no EIS process has started. That means there is no cultural heritage management plan process started. There has been no federal EPBC referral. There is not even a feasibility study, a business case or even an investment decision. Despite all of that, it is apparently central to Queensland's decarbonisation and our state's action on climate change.

Somehow, despite all of that, the first stage will open in eight years. That is what we found at these hearings. Somehow the first stage will open in eight years. The member for Chatsworth ran through this government's history of not being able to deliver major infrastructure projects. He talked about Cross River Rail. Construction on that started in 2017. The first Queenslanders will not be using that until at least 2026. The second M1—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR:—under the member for Miller, who is interjecting, will be nearly a decade from start to finish. Gold Coasters do not even know when we will be driving on the full stage 1. That is just a 16-kilometre road. There is a litany of projects that this government has failed to deliver. We should have absolutely no confidence that they will be able to build the largest pumped hydro scheme in the world in just eight years with none of those things completed.

I raised the press release that came out in June 2022 which talked about \$35 million being allocated to find a second pumped hydro project. Miraculously a couple of months later Pioneer-Burdekin was chosen as that project. That is not good enough for such a major project—the largest in the world. These studies and reports should be done before a decision is made or the government should just admit that they cannot say with certainty that this is going ahead. We should not be putting all our eggs in this basket. We need to spread our storage across multiple projects.

In the shadow energy minister's session she highlighted Project Kruger, which was confirmed by the CEO of Queensland Hydro. These are apparently alternatives to Pioneer-Burdekin, although the director-general, who is also the chair of Queensland Hydro, was not aware of this despite the CEO saying that he was certain that the department would have been aware of the studies that were conducted as part of Project Kruger.

The government did run a trial on Solar for Renters, which is a policy that the LNP has announced. It found a \$600 a year saving for the renters who took part in that trial. The minister kept going back to one-off energy rebates, but those will not put a single solar panel on the roof of a Queensland rental household. The quote of the session from the director-general was: 'The feedback we got was that the landlord was not sufficiently benefiting. It was good for the renter but not good for the landlord.' We are behind this policy. We are supportive of it. We think that this is a way that we can not only reduce our carbon emissions but also reduce the cost of living for thousands and thousands of renters across Queensland.

We also found out that the Premier was not leading by example by choosing to take a second private jet. He was not leading by example to reduce his carbon emissions. The good news was that the director-general confirmed at the hearings that QTravel will soon have an option for carbon offsets not only for air travel but for car rentals and for accommodation. I will certainly encourage the minister to counsel the Premier on how he can reduce his carbon emissions by using that system when it becomes active in the very near future.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (9.31 pm): I rise to address the committee's examination of the Miles government's first budget. In doing so, I would like to start by expressing my sincere appreciation for the work of the committee, led by its chair, the member for Redlands. I also point to the budget's record \$26 billion investment in transitioning our state away from its reliance on expensive fossil fuels—an investment in new industries, while protecting existing jobs, especially in regional Queensland.

The Miles government is keeping Queensland on track to deliver cheaper cleaner more reliable power, with the budget delivering \$16.5 billion towards renewable energy and storage projects, and \$8.5 billion to build the Queensland SuperGrid, including CopperString. The committee heard that we are investing in more energy, in job security for working Queenslanders and in households across Queensland. The committee heard that the budget is delivering action on climate whilst maintaining the public ownership of Queenslanders' energy assets. It heard that we are bringing more manufacturing to Queensland and, because of Labor's Buy Queensland procurement policy, the budget will be invested by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. It heard that we have increased our investment with Queensland small businesses. Together we are building the infrastructure our growing state needs.

The committee also heard how our plan is taking immediate action on easing household energy affordability with the largest cost-of-living relief package in the nation. It is being delivered fair and fast—and it is working. Right now, of all the states in Australia, Queensland has the lowest power bills, and that is not by accident. We have delivered that through relief via rebates—the largest package in the nation; through renewables that push down power prices; and through the retention of public ownership.

The Nationals and Liberals wasted their time in the estimates hearing. We have just heard that confirmed by the member for Bonney. They had no plan to put forward an alternative to the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, no plan to bring down power prices for Queensland, no plan to make competition fairer. Estimates 2024 was the perfect opportunity for the LNP to pitch their energy policy against ours but they did not even attempt it. If estimates were an Olympic race, the LNP failed to qualify because they have no policy.

When it came to the clean economy part of the hearing, the poor member for Bonney, whom we have just heard from, was left on his own for two hours trying desperately to think of new ways to ask the same few questions. Then he has come in here tonight and complained. Let the record stand and show that the member for Bonney during this process complained that he had too much time to examine the Miles government on emissions reduction. That just shows how wafer thin and fake their commitment to emissions reduction is. It has been spelled out tonight by the member for Bonney. That is how much store those opposite put in reducing emissions.

Don't get me started on their statement of reservation. If those opposite want to talk about waste, they should look at the waste of taxpayer funding for the members for Condamine, Callide and Toowoomba North to sit on a committee and come up with nothing other than this drivel. In fact, the members for Condamine, Callide and Toowoomba North should be ashamed, because this is one of the worst statements of reservation I have ever seen. It is simply lazy, it is petty and it is grossly inaccurate. It is another example of this lacklustre, uninspiring opposition. The only thing it shows is that the LNP committee members did not bother listening to the answers we gave in estimates.

Their cursory statement shows they have failed to understand the role of government owned corporations. We have also seen that from the shadow minister tonight. They completely ignored the actual responses on key matters. They directly contradicted the statements of witnesses in their statement of reservation. Then they accuse this government of being unconcerned about emissions reduction.

I want to put this on the record. This Premier, Premier Miles, has done more for emissions reduction than any premier in this nation. This Miles government is focused on Queensland's emissions reductions for the future jobs of this state, for the prosperity and health of the entire state. That is why I happily endorse the committee's report and categorically reject this statement of reservation.

The estimates committee process demonstrated the 2024-25 budget is a budget for working families, for small business, for the future of our state. It demonstrated it is a budget that does what matters for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee's report into the 2024-25 Appropriation Bill. In the wake of tragic incidents and several inquiries, this government made a range of commitments to improve safety in the resources sector. Those commitments were made to workers, to their families and loved ones, and to communities throughout Queensland, including my electorate of Burdekin. In response to those commitments, workers in the resource sector stepped up. As requested, they have increased reporting of high-potential incidents, HPIs, and they have made anonymous complaints aimed at improving safety, and more than 1,500 workers are voluntarily participating in continuing professional development.

While workers are honouring their commitment, I also sought confirmation that this government is honouring its commitment and responsibilities. While the acting CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland confirmed to the committee that both RSHQ and the Board of Examiners have sufficient resources to deal with the increased workload that has come from those incidents and inquiries, concerns around some recommendations were highlighted during the course of the hearings. For example, we learned that a key plank of Dr Sean Brady's review of fatalities is still not fully implemented more than 4½ years after Dr Brady's report was provided to government.

Of concern to all coalmine workers and their families will be the fact that the number of safety inspections of coalmines reduced by over 18 per cent in the last two years. I tabled evidence during the hearing that shows the inspector had been raising concerns about an increase in the frequency of unplanned movement of mobile plant for two years. The documents refer to a total of 33 unplanned movements, 24 of which involved rear dump or articulated trucks and one that involved a truck sliding almost 180 metres.

A total of 96 suspension notices were issued to mines and quarries during 2023-24. That is an alarming number. These suspensions happened in response to a serious incident, according to the minister, who went on to say that he fully supported swift action when it comes to safety. I will leave it to the people who work in Queensland's mines to decide if two years meets their definition of swift action, but it definitely does not fit mine.

In addition to holding this government to account when it comes to mine safety, we also sought information on behalf of residents of Happy Valley on K'gari, on behalf of landholders with regard to vegetation mapping, and on behalf of all Queenslanders with regard to the remediation of tailings storage facilities.

What is of great concern to me and other members on this side of the House is the difference between the government's version of consultation and what is expected by Queenslanders who are directly affected by the decisions this government makes. The Burdekin electorate is home to the lion's share of Queensland's coalmines. As the member for Burdekin, let alone the shadow minister, the importance of mine safety is raised with me almost every day. It is a topic that is important to all Queenslanders because of the role the industry plays in our economy and mostly because Queenslanders want Queenslanders to be safe at work.

The estimates hearing reinforced that there is still a considerable amount of work to do when it comes to making our mines as safe as possible. It is concerning that this government has chosen to effectively ignore recommendations that came out of a range of inquiries. It is deeply concerning that for too long this government ignored the advocacy of people with a lifelong interest in the industry.

Although the minister notes the effect changes have on landholders and the importance of communication, we received no assurance that landholders were directly informed of changes to their obligations under vegetation management laws. While there is a reference to consulting with peak stakeholder groups, landholders are left to check whether they are affected. It definitely seems that the responsibility lies with the property owner. The number of calls I am receiving from landholders confirms there is widespread mistrust and confusion across the state when it comes to vegetation management mapping and changes to PMAVs.

The resource sector is the engine room of this state. It provides a massive economic benefit, not to mention tens of thousands of jobs. The royalties paid by mining companies are worth billions of dollars. I will continue my fight to see our fair share of those resources reinvested in the areas where this wealth is generated. For too long our rural and regional communities have missed out on their fair share of the pie. I will continue to fight on their behalf to see the reinvestment that is needed in these rural and regional communities right across Queensland.



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (9.41 pm):

I welcome the tabling of the Clean Energy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2024-25. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the budget bills, be agreed to without amendment.

The resources industry is definitely the powerhouse of Queensland's economy, employing more than 78,000 workers directly. We are seeing real investment and confidence in the industry right now. I am disappointed in what the opposition had to say in their statement of reservation about investor and regulatory confidence. These are the facts: exploration in the coal industry right now is at its highest since 2014. The latest ABS stats show that coal exploration expenditure was up 41.9 per cent year on year to \$239.3 million. We all know that exploration is the lifeblood of the resources industry because it is a precursor to the big finds of tomorrow. It shows there is confidence in the future of the industry right now.

These numbers come after our progressive coal royalties began and show that, despite the opposition talking down the industry, there is huge confidence in the sector right now. We know what the opposition thinks about our progressive coal royalties. They have claimed these changes have impacted investor confidence in the broader resources industry. Clearly this is not the case and the numbers speak for themselves. It is our progressive coal royalties that mean as a government we can invest in building nation-changing infrastructure like CopperString and unlock the next boom in the resource industry through critical minerals. We have also launched our Critical Minerals Prospectus and our investor hub to connect people with opportunities in the critical minerals sector. Since being launched less than a month ago the hub has been viewed almost 6,800 times and we have had interest from the USA, Canada, India and Singapore, to name a few. This shows tremendous interest from around the world about investing in Queensland's resource industry.

I have said it before and I will say it again: safety is my No. 1 priority, and it is on everyone involved in the industry to make sure it is top of their mind as well. As we have always said, there are always improvements we can make. As a government, we will not stop looking at what can be done. What I will say is that the opposition should stop trying to politicise this. They have claimed there were six safety inspectors lost by the independent health and safety regulator Resources Safety & Health Queensland. As was made clear during estimates by the regulator, an additional seven people joined RSHQ during the same period. I am an old maths teacher. I reckon if you lose six and gain seven there has to be an increase. I do not think that has changed since I left teaching. Even physical education teachers can get those numbers right; we have fingers.

Regarding RSHQ's reporting system and the claim of time delays, Dr Sean Brady's recommendation was that the regulator develop new and greatly simplified incident reporting that is user-friendly and encourages open reporting. There is no off-the-shelf product that can be instantly implemented to meet that recommendation. Timeframes for the implementation of the system do not exceed usual expected timeframes for a custom developed system. The latest phase in this process has been the recent soft launch of the system, which includes testing and training to maximise ease of use and user acceptance.

I would also like to correct some RSHQ operations matters the opposition chose to misrepresent. There is no logic to the found in the opposition's argument equating suspensions of operation to a decrease in safety. The apparent argument that the number of suspension directives considered in isolation as opposed to a rate is a measure of improving safety is unclear, to say the least. Directives to suspend operations may be issued where an inspector considers risk is at an unacceptable level or the mine's safety and health management system is not effective.

Regarding PMAV changes, we continue to engage with landholders when it comes to vegetation management. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to correct the assertion made in relation to this matter in the statement of reservation proffered by the LNP members on the committee. I can assure the House that changes to vegetation management maps do not affect landholders with an existing PMAV, nor do they affect landholders covered by category X.

The 2024-25 Queensland budget is backing all Queenslanders. The resources industry employs thousands of people, supports so many businesses, particularly in regional Queensland, and generates billions of dollars in royalties.

(Time expired)

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): It being 9.45, I notify members that it is time for the automatic adjournment of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Carina Leagues Club, Core, Mr W; Clem Jones Centre, Heald, Mr S

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.46 pm): On 1 August I attended the opening of a vibrant new function centre located within the Carina Leagues Club right in the heart of the Chatsworth electorate. This modern facility is the vanguard of a \$15 million investment for the club with renovations that will take it to a new level as a premier entertainment destination for the local community. This continuous focus on delivering first-class facilities has only been made possible by the spirit and determination of many of the club's members, particularly the board members. The club's president, Mr Wade Core, typifies this progressive approach. Wade has dedicated his time and boundless energy to the Carina Leagues Club for well over 30 years. It is fair to say that without Wade's passion and leadership the Carina Leagues Club would not be the vibrant hub it is today. First and foremost, Wade has ensured it is a community club—one that not only supports members but also assists many organisations that are involved in fostering youth welfare. Providing facilities and events for young people has had a positive impact on a generation of children. It is difficult to estimate just how many young people have benefited from this support, but there is no doubt they are better placed through the experience. In view of the outstanding contribution Wade has made to the Carina Leagues Club, it is only fitting that the new function centre be named in his honour: the Wade Core Function Centre.

On 2 August I saw the end of an era at the Clem Jones Centre as the CEO, Mr Steve Heald, decided to call it quits after 16 years at the helm. In 2008 Steve was approached to assist with running the club until a more permanent appointment could be made. They did not end up making the new appointment until 2024. Along with his financial expertise, Steve brought to the club a vision to turn the club into the powerhouse precinct it is today. During Steve Heald's tenure there have been significant improvements and expansions made to the club, including the renovation of the 25-metre pool, slide pool and children's wading pool. Steve also welcomed the Eastern Suburbs Hockey Club, the Clem Jones Centre Boxing Club, the Terry Mackenroth Community Gymnasium and the wonderful community group the Carina Men's Shed. Steve and the board had a vision to create an industry-leading allied health precinct where fostering health, wellness and social connection was done through collaboration with practitioners, local sporting clubs and local community groups. The Clem Jones Centre Wellness Precinct, which has been operational for several months now, allows all patrons to engage in a wide variety of activities designed to promote physical fitness, mental wellbeing and community spirit. The Clem Jones Centre Wellness Precinct is a fitting legacy of Steve Heald's vision and drive. On behalf of the broader Chatsworth community, I wish Steve all the very best for his retirement and I thank him for the tremendous role he played in making the Clem Jones Centre the destination it is today.

Howes, Mr C; North Lakes Leopards Rugby Union Club

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.49 pm): I rise tonight to pay tribute to a stalwart of the regional community, Cameron Howes. He was a player, a coach and a president of the Redcliffe Hockey Club. I am wearing the club tie tonight in tribute to him. Cameron's funeral was last Friday. He passed away relatively unexpectedly aged 61. He was the president of the hockey club, as I said, but he was also a legend of the club. He started with the club when he was five years old and he was active right up until his death in his early sixties. He grew up in Redcliffe. His parents, siblings and kids were involved with the club. I want to pay tribute to his wife, Tina, whom I knew working at the council, and his children, Sophie and Connor.

Cameron was a member of the 1988-89 Redcliffe first division A-grade men's team. They were the first ones to win a division premierships for Redcliffe, which was a very proud moment for the club. He was a fullback; he played with Trevor Barsby. He was a fearsome striker of the ball at the top of the circle, a very powerful player. He played 302 A-grade games for Redcliffe from 1981 to 1999. More importantly, he coached many teams in all divisions, juniors and seniors. He was one of those people who made a real impact in his life and beyond.

The club was devastated to hear of the loss; it is a real loss for the club. I know the club will keep on going. Our Redcliffe Hockey Club is very much a family and friends-based club. There are generations of families closely interconnected who play at the club, which makes the loss of someone like Cameron even more impactful. He organised or helped organise things like the Brett Forte Memorial

Day at the Redcliffe Hockey Club to remember Brett Forte. I want to extend my condolences to Tina, Connor, Sophie and all of the Redcliffe Hockey Club. We will keep going, but he will be a great loss to the club.

I want to note that on Saturday I attended the 20-year celebration of the North Lakes Leopards Rugby Union Club, one of the great young sports clubs in the North Lakes area. After only 20 years it is one of the biggest clubs in our region. There are so many juniors, so many parents and volunteers. Our guests were Jeffery Toomaga-Allen, JTA, from the Reds, All Blacks and Samoa, and Elton Flatley. Congratulations to the Leopards.

Base Services, Homeless for a Week; Winter Shelter

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.52 pm): Despite this Labor government causing a cost-of-living crisis and a housing crisis in my community of Toowoomba, there is great hope. Base Services and Tiff Spary, who runs Base Services, do a fantastic job with the homeless in our community. They arrange a sleep-out every year in the middle of winter and they get a massive number of participants, all to raise money. They do not receive any government funding but they do bring great hope to our community. They provide over 500 meals a week, 50 weeks of the year to people who are homeless during the day. They have wraparound services and other community groups that come in which they coordinate people with. They unfortunately have been seeing new faces and more and more families coming in to use their services.

If you go online and have a look at Base Services, Homeless for a Week, can you make a donation? They are trying to raise a million dollars. They have raised \$370,000 out of the great community of Toowoomba. I just want to note a group of young primary school locals, Tucker, Charlotte, Max, Caitlin and Cameron, who have raised over \$10,500 themselves. Charlotte is the second top individual fundraiser overall, with \$3,100 so far. It is a great service for a great community. They are looking after people who find themselves down on their luck. I was privileged to spend the night sleeping out with them. I do it every year with Nat.

This year he took me to Winter Shelter, which is a project that brings together seven different local faith communities. They open up their facilities so people can have a bed for the night. It is a different service each night and they rotate through. They provide beds, free meals, a caring community and support services. It was a real privilege for me to go and see that. That operates for 91 nights through June and August. I had the real privilege of meeting Clayton, a former client. He was homeless. He went along to the Winter Shelter and met people who got him some wraparound services. He started to put his life on a different trajectory, and now he volunteers for the Winter Shelter trying to help other people get a bed for the night. It is pretty cold in Toowoomba. The 'fridge on the ridge' they call it this time of the year, so homeless people suffer terribly. Having these faith services provide the Winter Shelter gives people a fantastic opportunity to have a bed for the night, be warm and get a meal. Most importantly, they can see that the community actually cares for them and is willing to try to help them and partner with them to get their lives back together and on a different trajectory, because this Labor government certainly is not.

Upton, Mr T

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (9.55 pm): I want to send a message to my darling Teddy Upton, who is currently in the Redland Hospital, and his beautiful wife, Linda. Teddy has terminal cancer and is about to embark on the voluntary assisted dying process. He has put up a massive fight. He has been a stalwart of our islands community. He is the most incredible artist. His sculptures in timber are a sight to behold. They are very visible as you arrive to Macleay Island.

I got to sit down with Teddy for about an hour and a half on Monday and we had a really long talk. We had a good discussion about voluntary assisted dying and his fears of what might lie ahead for people in his position if there were to be a change of government in October. He is absolutely terrified of what Amanda Stoker, the candidate for Oodgeroo, might instil in people here. He has asked me to send a very strong message to every single person in this chamber about the importance of voluntary assisted dying and providing somebody with the opportunity to pass with dignity on their own terms.

I hope that everybody who sits in this chamber hears this message from Teddy. Having a choice on how you pass with dignity when you are in extraordinarily excruciating pain is very important, and no single person in this chamber should be able to make that choice on behalf of somebody else. Teddy, Linda and the Macleay Island arts community: I am thinking of you every day. Teddy, I hope to visit you Friday afternoon to have another catch-up.

To the staff at Redland Hospital: Teddy cannot speak highly enough of the care you are giving him at the moment. It is absolutely incredible. When I see their candidate out there with the slick slogans that say 'Revive Redland Hospital'—it is just shameful, really. It is a sad, slick slogan when you see the care that is being delivered by the staff in that hospital. The work we have done in that hospital over recent years includes: the new intensive care unit, which opens early next year; an extra 38 beds; the lagoon ward; the 28 beds that opened in November; the new mental health crisis drop-in centre that opened earlier this year; the new \$150 million mental health facility that is on the drawing board at the moment; the expanded emergency department; and the improved maternity and birthing service for Redlands women. In the Redlands there has not been a government that has delivered more than this government for my community when it comes to health care. Slick slogans just do not cut the mustard.

Southern Downs Electorate, Crime

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.59 pm): I rise to inform the House of the spate of crime that has occurred in the wonderful town of Goondiwindi in my electorate of Southern Downs. I am sensitive to the sub judice principle and I am not certain whether or not there have been any offenders apprehended and whether there are any processes going before the court, so I will not speak about the events specifically. I will say that Goondiwindi, in spite of it all, remains a fabulous town. It is a tight-knit, successful, prosperous community. It is an independent community and it is one which, in spite of this crime, is still a great place to visit.

It makes me very disappointed to hear that when the crime sprees which occur from time to time happen—particularly when offenders are slapped on the wrist and let out or they emerge with a sentence which does not restrain them from being on the streets to commit crimes—it makes the news and people say, 'I don't want to go there because it's a dangerous place.' That is one of the many impacts that the community of Goondiwindi, particularly the business community, feels when stories of crime emerge like the one that we have had recently.

The people of Goondiwindi have been very clear with me about their expectations in terms of reform of the law to ensure their community is safe. Over many years the Queensland government has failed to keep the people of Goondiwindi safe. What is necessary is for offenders to be locked up. Anyone who says locking up offenders is not the answer needs to go to Goondiwindi and confront the people who have had their home invaded on many occasions or their car stolen and so forth. Saying that locking up offenders is not the answer is saying that the community must tolerate crime until Labor's social policies have dealt with its causes. It will take a long time to fix a decade of going soft on youth crime.

Any measures that are introduced and are successful will take time to deliver fruit. In the meantime, to stop the cycle of crime we must imprison offenders and lock them up so they cannot continue to commit the same crimes over and over again. I know for a fact that in Goondiwindi there have been many cases where offenders, particularly juvenile offenders, have gone before the court and been released almost immediately. Think about the effect that must have not only on the community, on victims, but also on the police, who work so hard to identify these offences, apprehend offenders and put them before the courts, to see them out on the streets again with a slap on the wrist and reoffending against good people who deserve protection from this crime. I think that police would not be resigning as quickly if their morale could be supported by supporting what they do.

Sandell, Mr SF; Pearce, Mrs SL

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (10.02 pm): It is my melancholy duty to inform the House of the passing of two of our region's finest. Fred Stanley Sandell recently passed away. He was 103 years and seven months. In 2021 Fred celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends, including co-workers, at the Nambour RSL. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, it was a joyous occasion. Family who lived in Canberra were able to fly in whereas family from New South Wales were not, but

everyone had a lovely time. This was the first time I had met Fred, his lovely wife, Jean, and his large and beautiful family. Mirth, his daughter, shared many memories. One special memory was of their Rockhampton neighbour Ruby Locke, whose family brought her down. She too was turning 100.

Fred's birthday gift was a drive from Nambour to Bli Bli in a 1962 Vauxhall Cresta with a member of the Sunshine Coast Antique Car Club. He always loved his cars and would often speak about how his first car, a Ford Prefect, was affectionately called 'Little Beautiful'. I last saw Fred enjoying the Ashes test cricket when he turned 102. I am certain he would have been equally thrilled by the recent Olympics right up until his passing. Fred's funeral is tomorrow at 11 am at Gregson & Weight, Nambour. Unfortunately, I cannot attend, but I certainly will be thinking of him. Fred may be gone in person but he will never be forgotten in our hearts. He was a true gentleman, a son, a brother, an uncle, a loving husband and an adored father and grandfather. He was a community champion, and his enduring legacy is the wonderful family he has left behind to continue contributing to our region. Mirth said it best: 'a new star to shine brightly upon us until we meet in heaven'.

Sandra Lea Pearce, of Brady's Fruit at Palmwoods, passed away 9 August 2024. Sandra was the loving wife of Colin, a dearly loved mother and mother-in-law to Brendan, Matt and Tayla, and a cherished grandma to Hallie and Johnny. Sandra has so many connections from her commitment to our community. My wife, Agnes, and I will never forget the kindness of Sandra and Col as they helped us with flowers for our wedding. Sandra's funeral is on Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at 11 am. Everyone who is attending is encouraged to wear bright colours as a celebration of her life. She may be gone but she is not forgotten. Sandra led an extraordinary and happy life. It has been my great privilege to know these two wonderful people. On behalf of a grateful community vale, Fred. Vale, Sandra.

Disaster Mapping

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.04 pm): A pressing issue has emerged that impacts Queenslanders as a result of local government changes in disaster mapping, including flooding, inundation, sea level rise and storm surge modelling. Future risk management due to climate change forecasts has had severe unintended consequences: sharp increases in insurance premiums make them unaffordable, especially during a cost-of-living crisis; changes in town planning that adversely affect the values and rights of owners; and conflicts in definitions of what constitutes disasters in local government areas across the state. We are already in a housing crisis, and seeing residents' homes and financial security put at risk as a result of these forecasts needs to be assessed.

There are reports that local councils, taking conservative interpretations of climate predictions out to 2100, are seeing erosion lines mapped 100 metres—I will say it again like I did today: 100 metres—behind current beachfronts. This will potentially block current home owners from being able to do any renovations or rebuilds for some 86 years as a result of modelling that does not take into account conflicting analysis—and there is conflicting analysis. In addition, the disparity in disaster mapping between neighbouring councils has created a confusing, inconsistent landscape. For instance, a minor flood event in one council may be classified as a major event in an adjacent council, with sea level rise modelling also differing. This lack of standardisation contributes to a fragmented and unreliable approach to disaster risk management across the state.

As confirmed during this year's estimates hearings, the State Disaster Management Plan utilises information from local governments, and if this information is inconsistent it would impact the efficiency of the state plan. To address this, I urge government to implement a state level definition and criteria for all types of disasters as part of a clear and reliable framework for local governments. For councils that wish to deviate from the state mandated criteria there should be an avenue for local exceptions that is supported by accepted scientifically proven evidence and demonstrated unique local, geographical, physical or other factors. In conjunction with the standardisation of disaster mapping, government must explore options to mitigate the impact of insurance premium hikes that have resulted from this forecast mapping.

The re-establishment of the state insurance office should be given consideration, as responses that insurance is the responsibility of the federal government have led to no tangible relief. Currently there are a couple of inquiries at the Commonwealth level. Hopefully, this will provide further courses of action. Ultimately, disaster risk management is the responsibility of all; however, it needs to be fair, consistent and provide a scientifically sound basis for disaster mapping across Queensland. It should not devastate home owners financially through no fault of their own.

Jordan Electorate, Emergency Relief Funding

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.08 pm): It was in the 2022-23 state budget that our Labor government announced a significant uplift in funding for neighbourhood and community centres, a more than doubling of the operational funding for these centres. We also extended emergency relief funding to more centres. This has made a tangible difference, especially to those in our communities experiencing significant cost-of-living pressures.

Tonight I want to share with the House an email I received from a dynamo in my electorate, the wonderful Kelly-Ann, the community support worker at one of my incredible neighbourhood centres, Gailes Community House, which speaks to the impact our government's funding has had in my electorate of Jordan. She writes—

Hi, fabulous people! We thought that we would give you some feedback about the week we've had at Gailes Community House. It is a snapshot of not just the relevance but of the genuine importance of neighbourhood centres in community relationship and capacity building.

Donna met with a community member at Charis's mobile office on Saturday. This community member attended the Centre for our Tuesday cooking group and had a wonderful time. She's back again today for our community Soup-er Friday and our Friday Fitness group, and we will now be a part of her regular weekly schedule.

We were successful in collaborating with a DVF service and secured immediate safe accommodation for a woman fleeing an abusive partner. She disclosed that she had been living in her car for a week with only the clothes on her back. We were able to provide brokerage so that she could obtain clean clothes, basic toiletries for her first warm shower in a week, food for her first few nights of safety and generalised support so that she felt heard.

Long-term, supported, safe and affordable accommodation was secured for a single male. This eventuated because of the close working relationships between the Centre and supported accommodation providers. We provided a small amount of brokerage for fuel and grocery items so that he was able to get to his sign up appointment and then on to his accommodation.

Our Family Link worker met a lady at our Playgroup. This lady originally from India had been alone and isolated from connections for 2 and a half years. At her first play group last week, she met another mum local to her, they shared experiences, they connected, and they have now exchanged phone numbers. She was in tears as she spoke to her worker and expressed how excited she is that she's able to start living life again.

Our Budget Grub Hub volunteers helped over 20 families receive our free food hampers on Wednesday—they've built such great connections, and the conversations they have about how to stretch the family dollar, budget recipes, and just general conversations about family health—it's just beautiful to be a part of.

Again, we just wanted for you to see in real terms what a great place Gailes Community House truly is, and how the brokerage for Emergency Relief and extra funding that the State Govt provided is truly changing and improving lives.

When I was first elected, Gailes Community House was relying on two-year funding contracts. Our government has extended that to five-year contracts. We have more than doubled their funding and provided emergency relief funding. Gailes is not a wealthy area in my electorate and it has its fair share of battlers, but Gailes Community House is there for each and every one of them.

Currumbin Electorate

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (10.11 pm): These are the Labor government's broken promises to our Currumbin community. Labor went to the 2020 election saying that they would fast-track the M1 upgrade to Tugun and that it would be completed by 2023. It is now 2024 and—surprise, surprise—this project has blown out by \$150 million, and guess what? The minister is now saying that it will be opened in stages! I can reveal that it appears the M1 upgrade to Tugun will not be opened fully until 2026-27. That is a broken promise to our Currumbin community.

There is the Currumbin Creek Road and Bienvenue Drive intersection upgrade. Again, in 2020 Labor promised this would be delivered for our community. Four years later, it has not even started and the project has blown out to \$10 million. The upgrade to Toolona Street and the Gold Coast Highway intersection: again, Labor promised to fix this intersection. Guess what? They have put in some pedestrian gates and that is it! They have said it is not going to be touched until they railroad our community with the light rail. There is the Currumbin Creek Active Transport Bridge. At the 2020 election, Labor went to the community promising a business case. Guess what? Four years on and there is no business case!

The Gold Coast World Surfing Reserve: at the 2020 election, this Labor government promised to legislate the World Surfing Reserve. Guess what? Four years later and there is no legislation and no protection for our World Surfing Reserve. It is another broken promise to our community. There is the Currumbin Eco-Parkland. At the 2020 election, our community was promised one of the largest parklands in the Southern Hemisphere. It is now 2024 and can our community access that parkland? No! What has been delivered in that parkland? Nothing! Our community has been absolutely deceived by this government, election after election. Election after election, we have had broken promises and nothing more than a litany of promises such as I have just rattled off.

The biggest broken promise of all is the promise that this state government made to our community in 2020 to keep our community safe. The people of Currumbin just have to ask themselves: do they feel safer now than they did nine years ago, when this Labor government came to power? The people of my community, particularly in Currumbin Waters, know that the answer is no. On the weekend, knife-wielding teenagers ransacked through Currumbin Waters and the people of Currumbin have had a gutful—I withdraw. The people of Currumbin do not feel safe anymore and they do not feel safe because this Labor government watered down the laws. We need change in 2024.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Members, I considered warning the member for using unparliamentary language and then withdrawing it straightaway. I urge members not to use that practice. In future, if you are intending to use unparliamentary language and you immediately withdraw it, I will certainly consider warning.

Springer, Mr R; Thirkill, Mr B; Pugh, Mr M

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.14 pm): Tonight, I rise to speak on behalf of my community about the loss of a pair of community stalwarts. We have just commemorated Vietnam Veterans' Day, but there was somebody very special missing from the service. It was Ron Springer. Ron was the beloved husband of Jacki, father of a number of my community members and Pappy to too many to name. He was a longstanding member of our local Centenary RSL.

For the first five years of Ron's life it was just him and his mum. His mum, Myrtle, was a single working mother and she moved around rural and remote locations in North Queensland to make a living. Ron was very proud of his single mum, who looked after him so well. In his later years, he and his beautiful wife, Jacki, moved to Brisbane to be close to their family. He joined the Centenary RSL in 2003. I want to thank the Centenary RSL for the care they have shown the Springer family since Ron's passing. Thank you, George and the Centenary RSL team, for your genuine care for this wonderful family.

We also mourned the loss of Bill Thirkill, a longstanding Rotary member in my community and a stalwart of the Oxley bowls club and the Oxley Progress Association. I first met Bill at the Oxley bowls club. He was working behind the bar. As he so often did, he began to regale me with the tales of his adventures with his beautiful bride, Fran, bussing all over Africa and other exotic locales. It was only at his funeral that I came to understand the true depth of his adventures. It turns out that he had been really underplaying them. Apparently, Bill was cast in a Bollywood movie when he was much younger. He was interrogated by Russian guards during one of his trips. As a young man, he represented Australia in the international skydiving championships. He truly lived an amazing life and he lived each day to the full.

Both Ron and Bill leave behind an enormous hole in our community. In the parliament tonight I want to pay tribute to them both for their community contributions.

In the time that I have left, I reflect on a recent loss in my family, that of my grandfather Murray Pugh. Just like Bill and Ron, Murray lived every one of his 96 years and 11 months to the full. He was fishing and tinkering with his engineering projects until close to the end of his life. As a teen he spent years in an orphanage before getting a job at Tip Top and marrying my nan, Marg. They had a happy if not harmonious marriage for 70 years, which they celebrated earlier this year. Nan passed away a few short weeks after that. He missed her terribly and I will miss him. He is a true inspiration to me. Vale to three wonderful men.

The House adjourned at 10.17 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Zanow