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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 22 August 2024

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THURSDAY, 22 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.

REPORT


Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 37th report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-Seventh Report on the Register of Members' Interests [[1567](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Queensland Parliament, Online Heritage Collection


 **Mr SPEAKER:** The Queensland parliament will launch the Heritage Collections of the parliament online. For the first time members of the public will have the opportunity to explore these significant collections via the Queensland parliament's website. Access to the collections will allow for greater knowledge and understanding of the history and workings of the parliament and assist in engaging Queenslanders with their state's heritage.

The online Heritage Collections will offer the public unprecedented access to items including artwork and artefacts, telling the story of Queensland that previously may not have been seen by members of parliament. Initially several collections will be made available via the online Heritage Collections including the premiers' portraits collection, parliament menus from 1917 to the 1950s—


An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I thought it was pretty good—and the 1912 houses of parliament album by AA White Heritage Collections. The online Heritage Collections can be accessed through the 'Visit and Learn' tab on the parliament website.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by volunteer members from the Ilkley Rural Fire Brigade and government officials from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Cambodia who are participants in the Griffith University's Asia-Pacific Integrity School.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Watson Road State School and Acacia Ridge State School in the electorate of Algeester, as well as Assisi Catholic College in the electorate of Coomera.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Wood, Mr B, AM



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

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

Those on this side of the chamber are privileged to be part of Australia's oldest and greatest political party. We all know being a member of the Australian Labor Party is a great honour. It is even more of an honour to serve the people of Queensland in this House as a member of the ALP—but few, if any, here can match Bill Wood's history and connection to the Labor Party or our democratic institutions.

Bill was an ALP member for more than half of its 133-year existence. He was at the heart of the party, not just as a rank-and-file member but as a respected, much loved Labor politician—in fact, a Labor politician in three different chambers in two different jurisdictions as geographically and demographically different as they could be, from the tropics of Far North Queensland to our national capital and the ACT. Given his family history and the Labor blood that ran through their veins, it is probably not that surprising.

Bill Wood was nurtured and grew up on the ideals, principles and policies of the Labor Party—at first by his father, Les, himself a former member of this very chamber, a former MP but also a one-time Labor and opposition leader before his passing in 1958. It did not end there. Bill's twin brother, Peter, served on the Toowoomba city council and also in this place alongside his brother in what I am told is a first in any Australian parliament.

Bill Wood began adult life as a teacher but was drawn by the clarion call to politics, so in 1969 he was elected to the seat of Cook. Three years later he switched to Barron River, holding that seat until 1974. By 1978 Bill and his wife, Beverley, moved to Canberra, where politics continued its calling. For two years he was adviser to an ACT senator in the upper house and then private secretary to then education minister Susan Ryan.

Bill would then become part of the territory's history, elected to the first Assembly, serving, among other roles, as the minister for education, disability, police and the arts. It was the Canberra arts community and the broader Canberra community that Bill and Beverley, an artist herself, devoted themselves to in retirement. Remembered for their charitable work and support for the arts and artists, he was hailed as the ACT's best arts minister—at one time personally saving a gallery and all its valuable contents in the face of destructive bushfires.

Bill Wood was awarded an AM in 2013 in part for his commitment to public life. Speaking of the honour, he told the *Canberra Times* he was guided by advice from his father who told him to 'be useful'—and he most certainly was, and far more than that. He also said he was just one of tens of thousands of people doing great things. To those who knew him, those who respected and loved him, Bill Wood was in fact one in a million. Sadly, Bill passed away in May. It was a life well lived.

I know the House will join me in thanking Bill Wood for his years of service to the democratic processes and institutions in Australia and to pass on our condolences and best wishes to Bill's former colleagues and friends but more so to his beloved Beverley, who has travelled from Canberra to be here to see and hear the Queensland parliament pay tribute and honour her late husband, and to his daughters, Andrea and Wendy. We are honoured by your presence. Vale, Bill Wood.



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.38 am): The opposition joins in supporting the motion moved by the Premier today. The House recognises the service of Bill Wood, a former member who holds a unique position in Queensland's political history—son of a Queensland parliamentarian, the twin of a Queensland parliamentarian and a member of two legislative assemblies. Bill Wood, whose time in this House was relatively short, has a record of accomplishment that comes directly from his commitment to his community, his desire to make a contribution to public life and a willingness to champion change in the face of opposition.

Bill Wood was born in Toowoomba, the son of Les Wood, the future member for the seats of East Toowoomba and North Toowoomba and briefly the leader of the opposition in this parliament. It was in his early years, and influenced by his dad's role, that Bill Wood developed an interest in the importance of parliament. He grew up in Toowoomba, was educated in Toowoomba and ultimately graduated from the then Queensland Teachers' College and from the University of Queensland with a degree in education. As a teacher and school principal, Bill Wood served in the Cairns area, developing the connections that would form the basis of his role as a successful parliamentarian.

In 1969 Bill Wood joined his twin Peter as a member of this House upon his election as the member for Cook. Peter had been elected as the member for Toowoomba East in 1966. In his first speech in this place Bill Wood spoke in glowing terms of his electorate when he said—

I believe it is the most interesting and most diverse electorate in all of Queensland and it is a great challenge for me to represent it.

He referred to the wide variety of industries which supported the Cook community: sugar, tobacco, cattle, fishing, mining, pearling and timber. He also referred to the growing tourism industry that would assume even greater importance in the ensuing decades. He spoke at length of the problems of isolation and the unique problems facing island communities, particularly Thursday Island. He saw the potential for tourism on Thursday Island but was equally conscious of the need for reliable water supplies, affordable air services and a radio station to help reduce isolation.


In an interesting contrast to the conditions under which the current generation of parliamentarians work, Bill Wood made two requests of the then premier: the availability of a casual typist for six hours a week, or access to a government office in Cairns so he could dictate letters. It was some years before members were granted staff or dedicated electoral officers. As a result of the redistribution of 1972, Bill Wood sought election to the new electorate of Barron River, becoming the first member for that new seat. He held Barron River for over two years; however, both he and his brother were defeated in 1974.

His commitment to Labor was never far from the surface, and he contested the federal seat of Leichhardt on two occasions in 1975 and 1977 when his party's stocks were not high. Bill Wood returned to the teaching profession but was drawn to the ACT through his interest as a teacher of children with disabilities. When Bill Wood was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 he indicated that he 'couldn't keep out of politics' and that the overriding attraction for him was being able to contribute to the community.

Bill Wood was elected to the ACT Legislative Assembly in 1989, the first direct election to that legislature. Although no party won a majority of seats, the ALP formed a minority government. Bill Wood served in the Assembly until 2004 and held a series of ministerial portfolios, including arts, education, environment and disability services. His post-political life was devoted to the causes he had pursued in government, particularly the arts and the disability sector. He served as a chairman of Arthritis ACT and as patron for the not-for-profit disability organisation Abbeyfield ACT, a community housing provider. When being awarded his AM he summed up his attitude towards community service. He said—

There's literally thousands of groups out there, tens of thousands of people doing things, doing great things. I'm just one of those tens of thousands.

Whether it was serving his community in Far North Queensland or in the ACT, he put the needs and interests of others first. Today we welcome his wife, Beverley, and daughters, Andrea and Wendy, back to Parliament House, the place that saw his political career begin 55 years ago. All three have travelled a long way to get here. It was a privilege to spend some time with them this morning. We acknowledge his contribution to the House and his community and express our condolences on his passing.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (9.42 am): I rise to give my support to the condolence motion. I want to associate myself with the comments of both the Premier and the opposition leader. Bill Wood was the first member for Barron River from 1972 to 1974. If you go on Wikipedia and look up my seat, which I am sure plenty of political experts do, his name pops up very early. It was one of the first names that I saw when I researched this seat many years ago when I was planning on challenging for it. Of course I never had a chance to meet Bill because he had obviously gone to the ACT many years before.

It was a privilege this morning to catch up with his wife, Beverley, and daughters, Andrea and Wendy. It has been commented on that they have travelled some distance from the ACT and Darwin to be with us here today. Beverley was remarking to me that Bill was not really happy with the electorate


being called Barron River. He did not like the idea of 'barren', referring to a bit of a nothingness dust bowl. I can assure everyone that about eight months ago the Barron River proved that it is far from a dust bowl.

I asked the Parliamentary Library to see if they could dig up a map for me of what Barron River looked like back in 1972. It was remarkable in size. For the people who know that part of the world—and the member for Cairns and the member for Cook certainly know this—back in Bill's day the Barron River electorate ran from about where the Cairns Hospital is on the Esplanade, including all of those northern suburbs like Edge Hill, all the way up to the coast to the present-day Wujal Wujal on the Bloomfield River and then all the way inland past Mareeba and beyond. That was the Barron River seat back in 1972. Coming from the Cook seat before that, of course Bill was certainly well accustomed to long-distances.

The opposition leader mentioned him placing a request for a casual typist. We all know what correspondence is like, but could you imagine for a moment what it would be like driving around Far North Queensland in 1972. Air conditioning was few and far between: you basically wound the window down on the car—which was your office, of course. There were dusty roads and one-way bridges, if there were bridges at all, a wet season that probably cut you off many times, and then having to find time at the end of the day to write letters to premiers and ministers et cetera. I do look at that time and wonder what it would have been like to be an MP back then when there was no social media or mobile phones. I imagine that in a way it would have been nice, because people would write you a letter and then you would write them a letter back, and they would be happy for that to be a couple of weeks apart as opposed to 10 minutes. I think we can all appreciate what that would have been like. The Annexe here at parliament did not start construction until after Bill's time here, so parts of the precinct look rather different and others look much the same. In fact, I think this chamber we are in even had a modification done to it after his time here.

It has been remarked that he had an identical twin, Peter. I too found that in my research and I was talking to Beverley about it earlier. She did not elaborate on any examples, which is probably a good thing, but you could imagine the skulduggery they would have got up to. Imagine having two people who are identical twins in this place at the same time when we are only supposed to speak on one bill at a time and we are supposed to be in our allocated seat when we vote. I often wonder what would have gone on.

On behalf of the people of Barron River, I want to thank the Wood family for their service. I thank Beverley, Andrea and Wendy for coming to see us today. On behalf of the people of Barron River, thank you, Bill Wood. I extend my condolences to his family.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (9.47 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the condolence motion for Mr Bill Wood AM. I did not have the privilege of meeting Mr Wood personally, but I would like to acknowledge his dedicated service as an elected Labor member for the electorate of Cook. Mr Wood was first elected a member of Queensland's Legislative Assembly in 1969 for the seat of Cook. He went on to serve a second term in the Queensland parliament, transferring to the new seat of Barron River. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Barron River.

I am told that Mr Wood had a deep commitment to serving the community which was inspired by his father, who also served in the Queensland parliament and led the Queensland Labor Party for a time. Serving the people as a member of the Labor Party was a family affair for the Woods. Bill's identical twin brother, the late Peter Wood, was also a Labor member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Mr Wood AM moved to Canberra in 1978—a year after I was born—where he returned to his profession as a teacher. Politics called again, however, and he served as an adviser to a Labor ACT senator. He later served as a minister in the ACT, including for education, disability, housing, community services, police, the arts and urban services. He retired from politics in 2004 but continued to serve the community. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013.

Mr Wood died at the age of 88 earlier this year. His life was celebrated at a state funeral. On behalf of the Cook electorate, I extend my condolences to Mr Wood's family and acknowledge the dedication and service of the former member for Cook. Vale, Bill Wood.

Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members please indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

PETITION

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


Homelessness

3,700 petitioners, requesting the House to declare a state of emergency for people experiencing homelessness and deploy all appropriate measures to provide shelter and support [\[1566\]](#).

Petition received.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Mulgrave

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today I can announce that after more than 15 years as the state member for Mulgrave I will be retiring from politics at this year's state election in October. It is not a decision I have come to lightly. I have always said that the day I wake up and do not feel I can give 100 per cent it is time for me to do something else. When I think back, all of my kids have been born since I have been an MP. Having been a member of parliament for five terms, I know that I have missed so many important milestones and occasions. I want the chance to be there for my children during an important phase of their life. I also have parents who have failing health and, just like they have been there for me, I want to be there for them.


For the first time in a long time, I do not know exactly what is next for me. I have deliberately kept space to do the things I need to do for my family and also because when it comes to jobs nobody knew I was looking for a new one. I know that I have given all that I can to this job and the people I have been so honoured to represent in my local area. I will continue to work hard and serve as the member for Mulgrave until the election and I will remain as Speaker until a new presiding officer is elected for the 58th Parliament.

I have been fortunate to have been a minister of the crown in many diverse portfolio areas. I have been the Treasurer of Queensland, I have been the Acting Premier on multiple occasions and now the Speaker of Parliament. I believe that I have had the complete parliamentary career and I am pleased that I am able to leave on my own terms. There will be another time for me to reflect on the highlights of my time in this place in politics and the achievements that I have been involved with, but today I want to say thank you to those people who supported me on this journey. It has been the greatest privilege of my life. It is now time for me to give all that I can for the people closest to me—my family and my loved ones.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Thornton, Dr M, AM; Termination of Pregnancy; Pitt, Hon. C

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.53 am): Today we remember a Queensland trailblazer, Merle Thornton. Merle championed the rights of women her whole life, well before that iconic protest at the Regatta Hotel that helped lift a ban on women drinking in public bars. She was an author, an activist, a screenwriter, a playwright, a director and so much more. Her work has made an indelible difference to Queensland. Our state is poorer for Merle's passing. In her honour, my government will build a statue near the iconic Regatta Hotel, because if there is any Queensland role model that young women and girls should look up to, it is Merle. Cheers to her!

I am proud to have been the health minister when we decriminalised abortion in Queensland—because abortion is health care. It is a decision between a woman and her doctor. It should not be for us sitting in this parliament to decide. Our role is to protect Queensland women's right to choose, to make sure they have access to safe termination of pregnancy care wherever they live in Queensland and to show them compassion because it is a hard choice, one many women wish they did not have to make.

This is not Donald Trump's USA. We are living in a proud and modern Queensland, yet we have members of this parliament who would stand side by side with Donald Trump on this issue. You only need to look at what they said in parliament when we removed abortion from the Criminal Code. If only Queensland women did not have to see it. When I think about that awful debate, I think about Tayla. I

have spoken about Tayla before in this House and even in my first speech as Premier. She is one of the bravest Queenslanders I have met. I met Tayla, a Queensland nurse, when we took the parliament to Townsville. There were big anti-abortion protests outside the building when I arrived, but I spotted her straightaway. She was standing alone beside those protestors holding a sign saying simply, 'Abortion is health care'. I went straight over to give her my thanks as health minister—to thank her for standing up for Queensland women. I am concerned about what those opposite will do to Queensland women's right to choose if the government changes in October.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The member for Whitsunday will cease her interjections.

Mr MILES: I am concerned about what those opposite will do to Queensland women's right to choose if the government changes in October.

Honourable members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. I will not have this chamber turned into a yelling match. I will enforce the standing orders to the letter. There is one person who has the call and it is the Premier. If you wish to rise to a contribution or a point of order, please do so.

Mr MILES: I am concerned about what those opposite would do to Queensland women's right to choose if the government changes in October. One thing is for sure: on this side of the House, we will always stand up for a woman's right to choose. That is very demure, very mindful. We are not going back. We cannot and we will not.

Mr Speaker, while I am on my feet I want to take the chance to acknowledge your work in this House. You have represented your community with passion and commitment, and you have kept this House in order, despite our best efforts to keep you on your toes. You should be so proud of all that you have achieved, and of course keep in touch.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before calling our next speaker I wish to advise the House that question time will commence at approximately 10.35 am.

Thornton, Dr M, AM; Pitt, Hon. C; Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.57 am): I want to begin by associating myself with the comments of the Premier on Merle Thornton. What a great thing it will be to see a statue near the Regatta as a great representation, a great symbol of a woman who expressed great strength and determination in her life and career, and a great example to all of those young women and particularly young men who pass by that point in the future.

With your indulgence, Speaker—and on this matter perhaps you will be generous with your indulgence—I also want to associate myself with the Premier's comments on your service to this House. It has been a great game, set and not quite match yet. You have made a great contribution to this place. I also want to recognise the former member for Mulgrave, your father. Your family has made a great contribution to this parliament and I want to recognise that today. There will be more that will be said in the future. It has been a great privilege to serve with you, particularly in that class that came in in 2009.


The Miles Labor government is delivering what matters for Queenslanders. Nothing shows that more than in our budget, which was approved last night in this very House. The budget was strongly supported by members of the government, the people of Queensland and apparently, the LNP leader. In fact, the LNP leader endorsed the budget before it had been agreed to by myself, the Premier, the cabinet and the state parliamentary Labor Party, if we are to take him at his word. All members should be proud to support this wonderful Labor budget and everything it will deliver to Queensland over the next four years, including the Miles government's incredible Big Build. Our \$107 billion capital works program will deliver the infrastructure our growing state needs. It will deliver the hospitals, schools, roads and rail that Queenslanders need. The Big Build includes the transformational energy projects that will change the way electricity powers Queensland for decades to come—projects like the CopperString transmission line. It also includes funding for the Pioneer-Burdekin and the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: Your leader is supporting all of it. I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader. Your leader is supporting every dollar in this budget this year and for every year of the forward estimates—that is what he said to the media and what he said to Queenslanders. Apparently he will support every cent for the next four years. That is what he said. These are two huge projects for Queensland—projects that will result in cheaper, cleaner and more affordable power for Queenslanders. These two pumped hydro projects are undoubtedly the smartest way to reach our energy and emissions targets.

The budget also shows our government's commitment to social reform, which the opposition apparently supports as well. This includes \$21 million to enhance the workforce for the termination of pregnancy. The budget provides \$18 million to support the operation and delivery of the voluntary assisted dying scheme. The budget also provides ongoing support for our nation-leading pill testing and ketamine trials. I know there has been some conjecture about the member for Kawana's support for some of these elements of the budget, but, in a spirit of bipartisanship, I encourage the LNP leader to make a formal statement to the Queensland media gallery today to confirm his previous statement that he supports the continuation of all programs funded in this budget no matter what happens in October across the forward estimates, because that is what he told the people of Queensland previously. Queenslanders deserve that confidence. This is a great Queensland Labor budget and the support for it in this House shows that the Miles Labor government is the only party that will deliver what matters for Queenslanders.

Pitt, Hon. C; Gender-Based Pay Disparity; Thornton, Dr M, AM

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.02 am): Speaker, from the heart, can I wish you all the very best. You should be extremely proud of what you have achieved. I know you love your mum and dad, I know you love your family and I know you loved representing the people of Mulgrave. All the best, good health and I am sure our paths will cross in the very near future. Well done.

Monday, 19 August was Equal Pay Day. This day marks the 50 days into the new financial year which Australian women must work on average to match the earnings of their male counterparts in the previous financial year. Since the Albanese Labor Government's election, the gender pay gap has reduced around 14 per cent through the combined action of state and federal governments. In Queensland we have put pay equity at the forefront of bargaining, ensuring its promotion in the negotiation of agreements for wages and conditions.

The new Miles government backs our public sector and, more importantly, the women working in our public sector. In addition to wage increases that are some of the most generous in all Australian jurisdictions, we have appointed Queensland's first Special Commissioner for Equity and Diversity whose role includes addressing gender-based pay disparity in the Queensland public sector. For example, we have varied all public sector awards from hours-based pay incremental progression to years served for part-time employees; this is a great step forward. When it comes to parental leave we have removed traditionally gendered divisions of parental care and we are giving parents more flexibility and choice that best fits their family needs. This year we have led the nation by introducing from 1 July superannuation on all parental leave for up to 52 weeks, which means superannuation will now be paid for every single week of that parental leave whether it is paid leave or not.


I am proud that Queensland led the nation in 2016 by passing legislation to provide the first entitlement to 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave. In 2024, we have led the nation again by announcing the introduction of 10 non-cumulative days of reproductive health leave for all public sector workers which will be in place by the end of September.

The Miles government believes every worker has a fundamental right to go to work without the fear of sexual harassment yet, regrettably, for many workers—especially women—this continues to be a reality. That is why in 2022 this government brought in nation-leading protections against sexual, sex or gender-based harassment including nation-leading sexual harassment regulations which come into effect from 1 September.

I join the Premier in commemorating the passing of Merle Thornton. As we know, Merle chained herself to the bar at the Regatta in 1965 to protest the ban on women drinking at public bars. My understanding is that one of the police officers who attended was Jack Herbert. The women protested that they were not breaking any laws. After considering the matter, apparently Jack Herbert did not arrest them but wished them a good evening and advised 'don't drink too much'. This incident definitely deserves a statue, but Merle did more than that.

Throughout her life she campaigned for equal pay for women and for removing the marriage bar for women in the Public Service. Think about it for a second—just 60 years ago women could not drink at public bars in Queensland. Women were forced to resign from their jobs when they got married. Until recently, they did not have choice or control over their own health care either. I am proud of the action of the Miles government to deliver social justice and the rights women deserve. I am proud to be a woman on this side of the House. We know that at this election, these hard-fought gains may all be at risk.

Whooping Cough; Thornton, Dr M, AM


 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (10.06 am): The Miles Labor government is committed to protecting the health of every Queenslanders, no matter where they live and no matter how old they are. With Queensland currently experiencing an unprecedented surge in whooping cough cases, we are urging families, and especially pregnant women across the state, to make sure they get vaccinated. We know that vaccines save lives and vaccination during pregnancy is the best way to protect newborn babies from whooping cough until they are old enough to be vaccinated themselves. For anyone who has seen a little baby with whooping cough—I would urge you to get vaccinated.

So far this year we have seen over 7,000 cases of whooping cough, compared to just 104 at the same time last year. Alarmingly, over the last four years we have seen the proportion of pregnant women being vaccinated fall by over five per cent. Given that whooping cough can lead to hospitalisation or sadly even death for infants, it is important that our pregnant mums get their vaccinations. As AMA Queensland President Nick Yim said, 'Anyone who has seen a baby struggling to breathe with whooping cough will never forget it.' Newborns cannot be vaccinated, which is why it is so important that everyone around them who can be vaccinated is. Dr Cathryn Hester from the RACGP has said, 'I urge anyone who's pregnant or has a baby to book an appointment with their GP and get vaccinated as soon as you can.'

Whooping cough vaccines are free under the National Immunisation Program during pregnancy and for infants aged two, four, six and 18 months. Children aged four years and adolescents aged 12 to 13 years receive their dose as part of the Queensland School Immunisation Program. My message to all Queenslanders is: get vaccinated against whooping cough to protect yourselves, your children, your parents, your grandparents, your colleagues and your friends.

Whilst I am on my feet, I also want to talk about the formidable Merle Thornton, who sadly passed away yesterday. In 1965 Merle Thornton and her friend Rosalie Bognor chained themselves to a bar rail at the Regatta Hotel to protest the exclusion of serving women in Queensland pubs. Her passing is a profound loss, but I know that her legacy will forever inspire generations of women and girls to continue to fight for equality. To all the women listening I say: if you find yourself ordering a drink at the bar this weekend, raise a glass to Merle. She was a trailblazer whose courageous actions have left a mark on the history of women's rights in this country. Her unwavering dedication to the cause saw her establish the Equal Opportunities for Women Association, which helped deliver paid maternity leave, better childcare options and reform for women's rights in the Public Service. Premier, I think a statue outside the Regatta is a fitting tribute. Thanks for everything, Merle.

Pitt, Hon. C; Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions; Thornton, Dr M, AM

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.10 am): Mr Speaker, can I firstly, with your indulgence, associate myself with the words of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for State Development and wish you all the best after your announcement today. I am sure we will get the opportunity to say more about the history and the decision you have made. As someone who has also made that decision and knows how difficult it is—knowing when it is the right time to go—I congratulate you on your decision. As I say, I wish you all the best.

Further to my announcement yesterday regarding the inaugural FSQ Advisory Council, I am pleased to advise the House of the appointment of two new deputy directors of public prosecutions. Mr Gregory Cummings and Ms Caroline Marco are both highly respected crown prosecutors and bring many years of experience to these new roles.

Ms Marco was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court in 2003 and was appointed as a crown prosecutor in Brisbane in 2005. She was promoted to senior crown prosecutor in 2007 and principal crown prosecutor in 2011. Ms Marco has appeared as leading counsel in all types of hearings,


applications, trials and appeals in the District Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. In recent years she has prosecuted some of Queensland's most high-profile cases. Ms Marco has been appointed to a five-year term.

Mr Cummings was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court in 1985 and pursued a successful career in private practice in Brisbane involving both civil and criminal law. He was appointed senior counsel in the Criminal Justice Commission, now the Crime and Corruption Commission, in 1991 before accepting a position as a legal officer in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1993. Mr Cummings was appointed a prosecutor in 1996 and a principal prosecutor in 2008.

I can advise the House that Mr Cummings has been appointed to a newly created position for two years which will have a particular focus on cases requiring the testing or retesting of forensic DNA evidence following the 2023 commission of inquiry. Active cases before the court are currently being prioritised as well as matters no longer before the courts but for which DNA results may have been called into question by the commission of inquiry recommendations. This appointment will help ease the significant workload created by legal-led case reviews of cases requiring retesting of forensic DNA evidence.

Lastly, I would also like to associate myself with the words of others in this chamber with regard to the passing of Merle Thornton. Her significant contribution to change for the better for women in Queensland certainly needs to be recognised. I also am grateful for the announcement by the Premier of a statue in her honour.

Pitt, Hon. C; Education Funding

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.13 am): Mr Speaker, I also want to acknowledge your momentous announcement this morning. It is momentous for you in terms of what that means. Because you are my friend, I know what it means for you to have time with your family now. I want to acknowledge that as a treasurer, a minister, a member of parliament and a friend to so many of us in this House, you have been absolutely magnificent and this House will be the poorer for your absence.

On this side of the House we believe that no matter who you are or where you are in Queensland you deserve the same access to a high-quality education. In a state like Queensland, with more rural and remote schools and more discrete First Nations communities than any other state or territory, that is extra critical. That is why state schools are so important. We believe that Queensland state schools deserve 100 per cent government funding.

Along with education ministers from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory; representatives from all Australian teachers unions, including Correna Haythorpe, the federal president of the AEU; P&Cs; parents, teachers and students, I went to Canberra yesterday to demand that the federal government commit to their share. Our government has committed to providing 75 per cent of that funding by 2032. This is over and above our already significant funding contribution to state education including infrastructure, \$1.3 billion a year; free kindy, \$2 billion over four years; a youth engagement reform package, \$288 million over four years; Putting Queensland Kids First, and education's contribution is \$196 million over four years; free laptops, \$150 million over three years; our student wellbeing program, \$106 million over three years; and GPs in Schools, \$21 million.

There is also our investment in Equity and Excellence, which has seen outstanding results: the number of students receiving a C or above in English is up three percentage points, and the number excelling in English up seven percentage points; the number of students receiving a C or above in maths up four per cent, and the number excelling in maths up 88 per cent; First Nations students receiving a C or above in English up four percentage points, and a C or above in maths up five percentage points; and 98 per cent of students in 2023 achieved a QCE or QCIA, the best result since 2008.


The federal government's legislation currently caps their contribution at 20 per cent. In 2016 the Prime Minister promised \$37 billion to fund our state schools. They went to the federal election saying that all state schools should be on a pathway to 100 per cent funding, and we agreed. They are currently offering states an increase of 2.5 per cent, equivalent to \$16 billion—half of what they committed to in 2016.

It is time for the federal government to step up and stop short-changing Queensland schools. Their current offer means that every state school student will have \$1,000 less on average spent on them than they would if the federal government met its obligations. This means our kids might not be

able to access the extra teachers, support staff and specialised programs and resources they need to help them get ahead. All we are asking for is the federal government to deliver its fair share for all Queensland students.

Before I finish, I want to especially thank the magnificent Queensland representatives who were with me yesterday to help in advocating for our schools. Along with Cresta Richardson and Leah Olssen from the QTU, we had from Woodridge State High School Principal Kathleen Janecek; school captain Priya Pragalathan, who was absolutely magnificent; Jeyarani Jeni, Priya's mum; and Lorinda McVicar, the P&C representative, who also works at Browns Plains State School. They did us proud.

Thornton, Dr M, AM; Public Transport; Pitt, Hon. C

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (10.17 am): I would like to start by associating myself with the comments of previous speakers regarding Dr Merle Thornton. Merle was a Queensland great who dared to challenge societal norms and do things differently. Cross River Rail named one of the tunnel-boring machines after her in honour of her trailblazing spirit. Vale, Merle.

More directly onto transport matters, the Miles government's 50-cent fares trial has been an outstanding success so far. It is an Australian-first initiative that has already saved Queenslanders more than \$15 million. Patronage has increased across all modes, with South-East Queensland public transport use reaching 99 per cent of pre-COVID levels. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering real cost-of-living relief, keeping money in the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders.


Already public transport records have been broken across our network and some of the numbers are outstanding. For example, the latest data from Tuesday, 20 August shows: buses up 9.5 per cent on last year, ferries up 31 per cent on last year, light rail up 20 per cent on last year and rail up 15 per cent on last year. Airtrain passengers are also making the most of half-price fares, with an 18 per cent increase in passenger numbers in the first week as well as a 69 per cent increase in airport staff tickets.

It is not just the weekday commuters who are benefiting. We are seeing thousands more Queenslanders out and about using public transport on the weekend to visit family and friends, head to the footy or head to the beach, all for just 50 cents. The past two weekends have been the busiest two weekends ever on our public transport network. Saturday just gone was the busiest ever Saturday with over 400,000 trips, up more than 23 per cent on last year; and Sunday was the busiest ever Sunday on the network with almost 300,000 trips, up 22 per cent on last year.

None of this would be possible without our hardworking transport staff. I want to take the opportunity to extend a sincere thank you to our Translink, Queensland Rail and TMR staff and our bus, tram and ferry delivery partners who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and on the front lines for months to ensure this trial was a success. Our transport workers are the backbone of our network, helping to get you where you need to go safely and efficiently. As the Minister for Transport I could not be prouder to back our transport cost-of-living initiatives. It is only a Labor government that will continue to listen to Queenslanders to help deliver the relief they need when they need it most.

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on a long and substantial career. It has been a pleasure to work with you and for you in a variety of roles and I wish you all of the best for whatever comes next.

Seniors

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.19 am): This month I had the pleasure of attending one of our very popular seniors expos in Caloundra with the equally popular member for Caloundra. It was positively buzzing with activity as more than 100 seniors joined us to learn more about the many rebates, concessions and services on offer by our government, so I could not think of anywhere better to release our Queensland Seniors Strategy 2024-2029—our blueprint for an age-friendly state. We want a state that embraces older people and recognises the enormous value they contribute to our families, neighbourhoods and the wider community—a state where older residents are connected, cared for and celebrated.


The strategy is driven by actions representing more than \$10 billion worth of investment across Queensland to help meet the infrastructure, services and support needs of an aging population. A key initiative under the strategy is our seniors social isolation program, which will receive funding of \$33 million over five years. Under the latest round of grants, \$12.5 million will be provided to deliver

extra programs and services, particularly in regional and rural areas, to prevent older Queenslanders feeling isolated. I have had the privilege of seeing how valuable this investment is around our state. On the Gold Coast there were walking groups and cycling adventures alongside equally energetic board games and yoga classes. In Rockhampton I joined the 60 and Better group with the member for Rockhampton. Competitive card games and good conversations were the order of the day.

We know that these programs are working and we know that more needs to be done. Our Seniors Strategy was informed by more than 16,000 seniors, their families and carers from across the state. Three themes emerged: seniors want to be connected to their communities and the people and services that matter to them; they want to be cared for and supported by the world-class frontline services we provide; and they want to be recognised and celebrated for their significant economic and social contributions.


The first year of the new strategy includes a record \$1 billion investment in concessions for Seniors Card holders and other eligible Queenslanders. This includes the very popular electricity rebate of up to \$1,672 for our eligible seniors, which we know means that most will not pay for electricity this financial year. This strategy and its supporting action plan will help us create Australia's most age-friendly state because, under Labor, our Queensland seniors deserve nothing less.

Women, Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (10.22 am): On average, Australian women earn 14 per cent less than men and median superannuation is 23 per cent lower. Eighty per cent of one-parent families across the country are single mothers. These statistics mean it is often harder for women to maintain stable, affordable and secure housing. For an Australian woman to save for a house deposit, it would take one more year than it would take for a man. That needs to change. Supporting and enfranchising women in the housing system was a core part of our Homes for Queenslanders plan. We are investing in programs and projects specifically targeted to women. We have bought the former Menso Hotel through our Housing Investment Fund. That project has now welcomed expectant mums and older women, delivering a safe place to stay close to the services and wraparound support they need.

We have partnered with Coast2Bay and Lily House on the Sunshine Coast to build 14 homes for women and children escaping domestic and family violence and with the Lady Musgrave Trust to build in the Waterford electorate some additional houses for women and families escaping domestic and family violence. We are also building a 40-home Townsville Youth Foyer to help give young women like Elma, whom we had the opportunity to meet, their own space and the best chance to study and get a good job. We are working with Y Queensland to deliver another 47 affordable homes for older women in Mango Hill. We have implemented key rental reforms that give women experiencing domestic and family violence more choice and greater rights and protections, and we are supporting women and their children at risk of homelessness due to domestic and family violence with financial support so they can buy essential whitegoods and access services—things that are critical in leaving a violent household and starting a new home—because it is about an equal shot, a level playing field and a fair go. It is only a Labor government that can be trusted to deliver a woman's right to abortion services, affordable housing and economic security.

Pitt, Hon. C; Thornton, Dr M, AM; Renewable Energy


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (10.24 am): Mr Speaker, firstly I acknowledge your service to Queensland. I also acknowledge the contribution of Merle Thornton.

The energy transition in Queensland is on track. The Miles government's decarbonisation pathway is already delivering job security in a range of sectors, including Queensland's all-important resources sector. I can inform the House that we are now supporting one of the largest metallurgical coal producers to decarbonise their operations here in Queensland, shoring up jobs for thousands of its workforce across our regions. I can inform the House that we will support BHP Mitsubishi Alliance to meet all its forecast electricity needs through renewable sources including solar, wind and pumped hydro. This announcement is enabled by a new agreement between publicly owned CleanCo and the iconic 'Big Australian'. The partnership supports four new renewable energy projects across regional Queensland which have already generated more than 1,500 local jobs during construction. It is those key resources and those mining jobs that are at risk with the opposition's secret coal keeper strategy. Whilst the largest employers in Australia pursue decarbonisation, the LNP has announced its anti-jobs coal keeper plan—as the LNP's Ted O'Brien put it, 'a coal to nuclear strategy'.

Government members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: That is what he said: 'a coal to nuclear strategy'. We know that its plan for nuclear will keep fossil fuels burning longer and that will make electricity more expensive, and Queenslanders know the LNP's track record. After all, in office it sacked power station workers at Swanbank and Tarong and then admitted it did it to jack up power prices. The member for Nanango even boasted about it. Recently we have seen Queensland LNP Senator Matt Canavan snub Queensland's resources sector, demanding Australia 'end its net zero targets' and instead build coal and nuclear power stations. Even the coalmining sector in Queensland wants clean renewable energy. It is clear that only Labor will protect jobs, protect workers, grow our regional economies and do what matters for Queensland.

Pitt, Hon. C; Thornton, Dr M, AM; Veterans

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerstee—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (10.27 am): Mr Speaker, I acknowledge your statement today and wish you all the very best. I know that your family and my family are very proud of all of your achievements and I know that whatever you do next will receive that same pride.


I also acknowledge Merle Thornton. I had the great privilege of meeting Merle and her daughter, Sigrid, a couple of years ago. Merle fought for equal opportunities for women and for women's rights—something that we should continue to fight for every day.

Today Queensland is home to the largest population of veterans in Australia and the Miles government is proud to support our veterans with a range of funding for programs delivered through the Queensland Veterans' Council, ex-service organisations, community organisations and local authorities. At the centre of the Miles government's commitment to veterans in Queensland is the development of our new Veterans' Strategy, announced by the assistant minister at the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This will guide our government's approach to veterans and I am very proud that it is our Labor government that in 2020 first established the Queensland Office for Veterans. To build on this commitment to Queensland's veterans, we recently announced the third round of our government's Queensland Remembers grants program, providing \$1.5 million for 28 infrastructure and memorial projects across the state for veterans and their families. The fourth round of this grants program is open now to eligible organisations that provide service and support for Queensland veterans and their families.

In total, the Queensland government has committed \$5.9 million over four years to the Queensland Remembers Grants Program. This year the government will also provide approximately \$1.7 million in grants to organisations that support the welfare of veterans and their dependents in Queensland through the Anzac Day Trust Fund, which is administered by the Queensland Veterans' Council. In this year's state budget, our new Premier, Steven Miles, and our government provided \$4.9 million over the next four years and then \$1.2 million per annum ongoing to the Queensland Veterans' Council. This funding will support the council to continue its important work in advising the government on veterans' issues, managing the state's premier war memorial, Anzac Square in Brisbane, and administering the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

As the date for the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide comes closer, the Miles government stands committed to a careful review of the report's recommendations and the role that state governments can play in supporting veterans. The Miles government remains committed to acknowledging and honouring the service and sacrifice of our veterans and supporting those veterans who choose to make Queensland their home.

Bushfire Preparedness; Pitt, Hon. C

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.30 am): August marks the start of bushfire season in Queensland. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that Queensland can expect above average temperatures until at least November, with average or slightly above average rainfall. Like their colleagues in the Queensland Fire Department, particularly the Rural Fire Service Queensland—and I acknowledge that today is Yellow Ribbon Day—the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's planning and preparedness for the fire season ahead is well advanced and the Miles government proudly has their back.

To support the QPWS in addressing current and future challenges, our government's 2024-25 budget includes \$39.2 million in new funding for fire management activities. This includes an additional 39 personnel, \$21.1 million in operating funding and \$18.1 million in capital funding. This historic investment, the largest ever for fire management for the QPWS, will significantly enhance the department's capacity to expand the planned burn program and increase bushfire response capability. The funding will provide additional resources, including light and medium firefighting appliances, heavy plant and other equipment. It also invests in the department's road and fire-line network, strengthening our firefighting capabilities and ensuring the safety of our rangers, neighbours and the broader community. This investment will deliver long-term community benefits and provide a positive legacy for many years.


Central to the QPWS's bushfire preparedness is planned burning, which is the primary tool used by our rangers to mitigate the risk and severity of adverse bushfire conditions. Since 1 July this year, the QPWS has completed 44 planned burns, totalling almost 33,780 hectares. This builds on the 453 planned burns and other mitigation activities, totalling over 524,450 hectares, which the department completed in the 2023-24 financial year. Those burns employ a combination of on-ground and aerial ignition techniques to effectively meet the burn objectives. This integrated approach enhances control over the fire's spread and intensity, ensuring efficient coverage of large and hard-to-reach areas, and supports the achievement of targeted mitigation, ecological and safety outcomes for our rangers and assisting partners and stakeholders.

Our QPWS rangers are uniquely equipped to manage the second largest planned burn program in Australia, which is a responsibility that they take very seriously. To support the delivery of this program, given its scale and complexity, the department prioritises the development and training of its staff to ensure they possess the necessary skills and expertise to execute the program effectively and safely. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service currently has over 700 fire trained staff. I want to acknowledge the efforts of our Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, who work year round to implement hazard mitigation measures across the state. Their dedication, combined with our critical partnerships with the Queensland Fire Department, First Nations peoples, local communities, neighbours and stakeholders ensures that our fire management is undertaken collaboratively and is tailored to the challenges that each area presents. With the largest investment in fire management in the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's history and a highly trained workforce, the department and its rangers are well prepared to face this bushfire season.

Mr Speaker, I have spoken to you about your announcement today, but on the record I want to acknowledge that political service is public service and there is truly no greater honour and privilege than serving the Queensland public. The only honour more important than that is serving your family. I acknowledge and thank you for your service in this place and to your community. Most importantly, I acknowledge that you have been a friend to many and I thank you for your friendship to me.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE


Crime and Corruption Commission, Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.34 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Crime and Corruption Commission's covering letter and report titled *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee—Section 146ZQ, Crime and Corruption Act 2001—Assumed Identities, Annual Report: 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024*. The committee received the report on 26 July and I am tabling it within 14 sitting days of receipt as required.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2023-24 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [[1568](#)].

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (10.35 am): Mr Speaker, I thank you for your service and I congratulate you on it. I lay upon the table of the House the following reports of the Ethics Committee: report No. 225, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 5 March 2024 regarding the spying of a member's phone in the chamber*; report No. 226, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 April 2024 relating to the covert filming of a member on the parliamentary precinct*; and report No. 227, titled *Report on a right of reply No. 44*.

With respect to report No. 225, the committee has made a finding of contempt against the member for Coomera for taking a photograph of the member for Pumicestone's mobile phone in the chamber and sharing it with others. The committee has recommended that the House accept the member for Coomera's apology to the House as an appropriate penalty and take no further action. The committee has also recommended that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly consider the committee's suggested amendments to the House's resolution regarding the use of electronic devices and the guide to the Code of Ethical Standards.

With respect to report No. 226, the committee did not make a finding of contempt nor did it determine that a breach of the by-laws or Speaker's directions occurred. The committee has, however, made a number of recommendations to the Speaker to enhance the regulation of filming and photography on the precinct. Currently, there are no express rules prohibiting photography or filming in the Legislative Assembly chamber or wider parliamentary precinct for visitors, members or staff.

The Speaker has set clear expectations on the behaviour expected of all persons on the parliamentary precinct and it is disappointing that the actions of some individuals have led to recommendations to enhance the regulation of this area. However, it is evident that the standard of behaviour requires improvement. Smartphones and mobile devices have fundamentally changed the way we work and communicate, with enormous advantages. However, it is paramount that the use of such devices does not diminish the respect for the institution of parliament, the precinct and all people who work within it and visit it. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 225, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 5 March 2024 regarding the spying of a member's phone in the Chamber [[1569](#)].

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 226, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 16 April 2024 relating to the covert filming of a member on the Parliamentary precinct [[1570](#)].

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 227, 57th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 44 [[1571](#)].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.37 am.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.37 am): With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the LNP I also thank you for your contribution. On a personal note, whilst we do not share political allegiances, we do share a friendship. I thank you very much for your service.

My question is to the Premier. It has been revealed that there was an unauthorised release of victim addresses, including domestic violence victims, leaving many at great risk of personal safety. How many vulnerable victims have had their address released to their perpetrators under this government's watch?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I am advised by the police minister that on Thursday, 25 July a media inquiry raised a potential issue involving the inadvertent disclosure of victim addresses in court documents where the victim address and the offence address were the same. The issue originated from an importation option within QPRIME, the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange system. Since that time, five matters have been identified involving the disclosure of personal information through court related documents.

A working group has been established and is progressing options to implement an end-to-end solution, including the review and development of policy procedures, systems, training and internal communications and awareness. The Acting Deputy Commissioner for Regional Operations and Youth Crime, Mark Kelly, is the appointed senior officer responsible for this whole-of-system approach. His deputy commissioner role is directly responsible for QPS frontline service delivery involving the vast majority of operational police officers and their response to community and victim safety. As such, all action in response to this matter is being managed and overviewed by him. Given the interest of the Leader of the Opposition, I am sure the police minister would be accommodating in organising a briefing from Acting Deputy Commissioner Kelly if the Leader of the Opposition would like to avail himself of that.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Police. In estimates, senior police said they had not been made aware of the serious data breach of victims' details until they saw it in the media. When did the minister become aware the personal details of victims were being given to their dangerous perpetrators?

Mr RYAN: To the best of my knowledge, it was at the same time. This is obviously a very serious matter. The Queensland Police Service is taking it very seriously. The Premier has outlined the course of action that the Queensland Police Service is taking. Privacy is paramount when it comes to these matters—the protection of victims—and also ensuring there is fairness in the criminal justice system.

Police know that they have an ultimate obligation to keep this information private. There appears to be a system issue that needs to be addressed, and the Queensland Police Service has publicly committed itself to addressing that. It has also put in place mitigations right now, reminding all officers of the critical importance of privacy to ensure that information is not released publicly.

Everyone is very sorry for the instances that have been identified. I am sorry about that. The Police Service is very sorry about that. It should not have happened but it has happened. The commitment we can give to those people who are impacted by this is that the Queensland Police Service is absolutely committed to resolving the issue and to working with anyone who has been impacted. Anyone else who thinks they may have been impacted can contact the Queensland Police Service or my office and we will ensure the appropriate supports are put in place.

Miles Labor Government

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on 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 Maryborough for his question. I know how hard he is working to do what matters for Maryborough and for Queensland. In fact, I was in Maryborough not too long ago with the member for Maryborough. I cannot remember the name of the cafe we went to but we had a choice of a pie or a banh mi and I could not choose so I had one of each. They were both very good. We were there to listen to locals and identify what their concerns are and how we can deliver for them. I do not recommend walking down the main street of Maryborough, though, with the member for Maryborough because you will not get very far. Everyone in Maryborough knows Bruce and wants to talk to him.

Everybody we spoke to was excited to see the \$1,000 rebate appearing on their electricity bills. Lots of people were aware that we were cutting the cost of their rego by 20 per cent. Lots of parents were really pleased that their kids' sport was going to get cheaper thanks to the \$200 FairPlay vouchers that they would all be getting, not just those most disadvantaged. They even wanted to talk to us about the 50-cent bus fares and the bus review that is coming up for Maryborough. We will make sure that feedback is recorded.

Lots of people raised the subject of housing with us and we were able to talk to them about our social housing big build as well as our use of modern methods of construction to deliver more homes faster. On health care, we were able to talk about the number of new doctors and nurses we had employed since those opposite had cut them.

One of the unique things about the residents of Maryborough is they are so passionate about manufacturing in Maryborough. They are very proud to see Maryborough come back as a manufacturing powerhouse—first fixing up the trains that those opposite bought from India and now building the trains of the future. This is creating jobs in the entire supply chain from as far afield as Rockhampton to down here in the south-east. They are also making batteries and other parts for the renewable energy sector in Maryborough. On this side of the House, we are very proud to be listening to Queenslanders right across this great state and delivering for them, including in Maryborough.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, I was going to chastise you for quarrelling across the chamber but I cannot do that because you were quarrelling with everyone. I would ask you to cease your interjections.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Minister for Police. The LNP can reveal today that a domestic violence victim who had her details released to her offender wrote to the police minister on multiple occasions in March, April and May. Why did the minister not tell the Police Commissioner about dangerous perpetrators being given the personal details of their victims?

Mr RYAN: When my office receive any complaint about the Queensland Police Service, they always act on those complaints. Every one of those matters gets referred to the Queensland Police Service via the commissioner's office for investigation.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, it sounds like you are either wanting to add details or wanting to ask a question. You can wait until you can ask a question later on.

Mr RYAN: Every allegation is referred via the commissioner's office for investigation. Each individual incident is examined and reviewed and contact is made, as appropriate, with the person who has written in or made contact with my office, or any other office, with respect to an allegation. A particular matter about a systems issue was first brought to the Queensland Police Service's attention as per the statement that the acting deputy commissioner made at estimates.

Mr Bleijie: She's just a system, is she?

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

Mr RYAN: I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: First of all, member for Kawana, the minister has taken personal offence and he asks that you withdraw. I did not hear the exact wording.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the rule, but I never reflected or mentioned the minister's name.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Minister for Health will cease her interjections. I have this matter in hand. For the dignity of the House, as by convention, can I ask that you please withdraw the comments.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. Minister for Police, do you have anything further to add?

Mr RYAN: I do. In relation to any individual instance or allegation, my office acts genuinely and expeditiously to ensure those matters are investigated. All of them are referred via the commissioner's office for investigation. The matters that involve allegations go through an ethical standards process and contact is generally made with individuals. All of those matters are dealt with very seriously and very respectfully, because someone has made a complaint about the Queensland Police Service and we have very high standards for the members of the Queensland Police Service.

Where systems issues are identified, the Queensland Police Service takes those very seriously as well. It is not correct to suggest in any way that things have not been acted upon because there is a very rigorous and serious process that is followed. The Queensland Police Service also takes those systems issues very seriously. The acting deputy commissioner outlined at estimates when they became aware of that systems issue, and they are now putting in place measures and approaches to ensure that does not happen again.

We have very high expectations when it comes to the conduct of the Queensland Police Service. Privacy is one of those very high expectations. If those expectations are not met, then I expect the matter to be rigorously investigated. If it is confirmed the standard has not been met, there should be consequences in place.

Miles Labor Government

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier please outline how the Miles Labor government communicates with Queenslanders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Lytton for her question. As the member for Lytton knows, and all members of the government know, our government is delivering what matters for Queenslanders. It is important that our government communicates how we are doing what matters for Queenslanders. That is why our government engages in community awareness campaigns on commercial television, in newspapers like the *Courier-Mail*, podcasts and on social media.

Another important part of communicating with Queenslanders is taking questions from journalists, especially the Queensland parliamentary media gallery—the fourth estate holding politicians to account and keeping the public informed. Our government never shies away and we never hide away from answering the hard questions from the media gallery. We cannot say the same thing for the LNP leader. For two days the LNP leader has been in hiding.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK: The LNP leader has been hiding from questions about his involvement with SET Solutions. The LNP leader has been hiding from questions about just why he paid \$200,000 in hush money. The LNP leader has been hiding from questions about what he did that was so bad that it required him to pay \$200,000. The LNP leader has been hiding from questions about being pursued in the Supreme Court. The LNP leader has been hiding from questions about why he did not reveal that secret payment and why he did not update his register of interests as a member for parliament.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: We can see how much stress he is under by his non-stop interjections. The LNP leader refuses to face questions from the parliamentary media gallery and that is fundamentally an insult to the people of Queensland. By not taking questions from the Queensland parliamentary media gallery it is an insult to the people of Queensland and it fundamentally shows the Leader of the Opposition's lack of respect for the people of Queensland. It is about time the LNP leader stood up and faced the questions he has been hiding from.

The *Courier-Mail* editor summed this up perfectly when discussing the importance of politicians being honest about their private financial failures and debts. This is what the editor of the *Courier-Mail* said—

Those bestowed the privilege of high public office must adhere to the highest standards, both professionally and personally.

That is about politicians and their private financial failures and debts. The editor of the *Courier-Mail* is correct and the LNP leader has failed that test.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton and member for Toowoomba North are both warned under the standing orders. The member for Southport and the member for Maryborough are both warned for quarrelling across the chamber. The level of interjection is too high.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Minister for Police. One month before estimates the minister's office arranged for CCTV to be installed at the vulnerable woman's home and the matter was referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. Will the minister confirm that despite the severity of both these developments no-one in his office raised it with him?

Mr RYAN: I have systems in place in my office to ensure matters are dealt with expeditiously. I will give members an example in respect of an unauthorised disclosure of information—a breach of privacy. My office was contacted on 17 March. That matter was immediately referred to the Queensland Police Service through the proper processes, which is via the commissioner's office. The very next day—18 March—an officer of the Queensland Police Service contacted that person to get further information and provide the support that was necessary. Those matters, once investigated, were referred through to the proper ethical standards processes. My office then also provided further correspondence.

These matters are expeditiously dealt with in a serious way. The Queensland Police Service has high standards of its own officers. I have high standards of the Queensland Police Service.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you have asked a question. You clearly do not want to hear the answer. I have given guidance to the House before that when a minister is being responsive to the question as asked I will ensure that the minister is heard. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: These are serious matters. While we have high expectations of police officers, there are numerous complaints made about police officers every day of the week. I have very rigorous processes in my office to ensure that those allegations are referred and investigated as quickly as possible, as everyone would expect.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you have been having a great go this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: It is my expectation—and the expectation of the commissioner and also all Queenslanders—that where allegations are made, particularly allegations that relate to potential safety issues, that those matters are acted on as quickly as possible. The process in my office is that they are dealt with as near to immediately as possible.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking some clarification. In answer to a previous question the minister said he did not know. In answer to this question he is saying that he did know.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I will stop you.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right. You are well aware that this is not a point of order. You have a point of difference in terms of what was said in one answer versus what was said in another. That is not something on which to raise a point of order.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Health, you are warned under the standing orders. That is twice today; I do not need your assistance. I will not deem this a frivolous point of order, but I will ask that if you have a problem with the minister's answer you know what the processes are and you will raise it through the appropriate channels.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, clearly it is misleading and I will be writing to you accordingly.

Mr RYAN: I stand by my statement around a systems issue. The Queensland Police Service has publicly said—I was briefed by the commissioner on that day—that they only became aware of an apparent systems issue following media inquiries and media reporting. That is a different issue to an individual complaint. There are numerous individual complaints received every single day and I have processes in place in my office to act immediately on those individual complaints. I was first made aware of a possible systems error on the day following media inquiries.

Public Service

Ms NIGHTINGALE: My question is of the Minister for Industrial Relations. Would the minister update the House about how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to support our public sector workers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that the public sector workers in the member's electorate know that they are being looked after by the Miles Labor government. They know that is the case when it comes to the best conditions, when it comes to enterprise bargaining and when it comes to entitlements. The public knows that we are employing the teachers, the police, the firies and the ambulance workers we need in this state to service our growing population. We are meeting the needs of our working people as well. We are employing an extra 40 new frontline health and safety inspectors, both electrical and general, to meet the needs of the growing workforce in this state.

There is a big difference between us and those opposite. We are narrowing the gender pay gap and those opposite could not. In their 10 years in office federally they could not move it one bit. Here we are after a short time narrowing the gender pay gap. We have provided cost-of-living allowances in our EBs during a high inflationary period. Those opposite could not even negotiate one agreement with the Public Service. Do members know what they did to the Public Service? They imposed a wage freeze on it. That is the difference. That is what is at risk.

I am not convinced for one minute that they have learned their lesson from sacking 14,000 public servants because not one apology has ever come from those opposite. I remember when nurses were sacked in Townsville. The Leader of the Opposition was a member in Townsville at that time. Where did they start sacking nurses? It was in Townsville—regional Queensland. There was no apology, no admission—nothing.

The double standards that we see in this House are breathtaking. Isn't it interesting? We ask questions about what the Leader of the Opposition did when he ran a company, SET Solutions, into the ground. When did he know that it was not functioning? When did he know that he had to pay a tax bill? When did he know that he may have been trading insolvent? When did he know that the creditors were not being paid? Oh, no, don't ask any questions about that! No-one can raise any questions about what he knew—he is hiding from the media—yet they come in here and ask about tragic incidents that happen. They are not intentional. They are not about government policy. They happen due to a failure, yet they ask: when did the minister know? When did he act? When did he do it? 'Minister for Corrective Services, what day did you meet? What did you say? When did you know about it?' The double standards are breathtaking! Stand up and take the questions. You knew what you were doing. Take the questions.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Police. It has been revealed that many more victims have come forward after their details were shared with their dangerous perpetrators. Does the minister accept that by not acting upon the multiple emails from a domestic violence victim advising of this systemic failure the safety and the security of victims has been compromised?

Mr RYAN: It is not correct to say that matters were not acted upon because every matter is acted upon. Every matter follows a very rigorous, comprehensive and serious process. The individual matters that come to my office are always referred to the Queensland Police Service for consideration. The process is generally that a member of the Queensland Police Service reaches out to those people. If those allegations require investigation, they are investigated. If they require assessment by the Ethical Standards Command, they are assessed. All of these matters are taken very seriously. There are robust processes in place—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr RYAN: I have outlined the process that my office follows. That process is very comprehensive and robust. Those matters are always referred to the Queensland Police Service for actioning. The standard that we expect of officers is one that is unwavering, and if that standard is not met then action is taken as appropriate.

Health Workforce

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister advise how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to support our dedicated and fantastic health workers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. We all know what a champion he is for world-class, free health care. Did members know he is a former paramedic? He worked incredibly hard in his community looking after people at their most vulnerable.

The Miles Labor government is absolutely committed to building up Queensland's health workforce with things like free TAFE for nurses and cost-of-living payments for final-year midwives and nurses in regional Queensland. We believe in making sure that our health workers and our future health workers have access to excellent training, because we know that high-quality training opportunities are essential to delivering world-class health care. Unfortunately, again, it would seem not every member of this House shares that view.

We all know, thanks to an ABC investigation, that the Leader of the Opposition ran a training company whilst insolvent, left dozens of businesses being owed millions of dollars and then years later paid \$200,000 to liquidators to make the problem go away. What do we know about SET Solutions and the kind of training they provided? We have found some reviews from former clients—people wanting to apply for jobs and get good training—who have left some pretty damning reviews about this company. One client said—

I applied for a job they posted on Seek and they called me back saying the job had been filled, but offered a short business course ... and said I would get a job offer later.

They then post—and I am happy to table this—

Feeling kind of iffy about them after some googling.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding short courses provided by SET Solutions [1572].

Another client said—

I went to a interview at Set Solutions. I thought it was for a job, but looks like I need a certificate first ...

...

I'm just wondering if this is some sort of scam ...

A government member: Very perceptive!

Ms FENTIMAN: A very clever applicant for a job—very switched on. Reading these reviews, I was reminded of a campaign that the *Sunday Mail* launched when I was training minister that raised some serious allegations about registered training organisations. It was alleged that training organisations were luring jobseekers on the false promise of a job—headlines like ‘Jobseekers being lured into training for jobs that don't exist’. I am happy to table all of those headlines.

Tabled paper: Extracts from articles, dated 9 August 2020 and 15 August 2020, regarding jobseekers [1573].

We took action. We launched a Training Ombudsman investigation. Once again, the Leader of the Opposition has questions to answer: firstly about why he continued trading whilst insolvent; secondly about the hush money he paid; but also about the dodgy training this business offered.

Ms McMillan: ‘Dodgy Dave’.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I ask you to take back that unparliamentary language.

Ms McMILLAN: I withdraw.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. The LNP can reveal today that the Premier's office was also made aware in May that domestic violence victims' details were shared with their dangerous perpetrators. Can the Premier explain why a domestic violence victim fearing for her safety would not trigger an urgent response from his office?

Mr MILES: In response to similar questions, the police minister has already outlined how correspondence like that would trigger an urgent response from every single ministerial office in our government.

Consumer Protection

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General please update the House on the work the Miles Labor government is doing to recover from—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry. Is that the member for Southport? Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. You are lucky, member for Southport. He sounds just like you. Member for Macalister, first of all, apologies for the interruption. Member for Callide, you are warned under the standing orders. There is to be no conversation during a question. Member for Macalister, please start your contribution again.

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General please update the House on the work the Miles Labor government is doing to recover funds for Queensland customers and the importance of following the law, and is the Attorney aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. No-one is above the law. As we know, Queenslanders are doing it tough, as Australians are doing it tough, with cost-of-living pressures at the moment. This government has done a lot to help ease some of those pressures that households are seeing. What we are also doing is recovering funds for consumers from dodgy traders who flout the law. I want to congratulate the Office of Fair Trading, who under our government just in the 2023 year alone managed to return a whopping \$13 million to consumer pockets—\$13 million. Not everyone gets their money back. As we know, sadly some of the unsecured creditors who are on the list of 145 have not got all of their money back. We have heard over the last few days who some of those are. They include St John Ambulance and mum-and-dad businesses.

What I was astonished about was the Leader of the Opposition stating this week that this is basically just a fear campaign by Labor: we are getting desperate; it is a fear campaign; 'There's nothing to see here.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: That is right; I will take those interjections. It takes me back. I think I have heard this before. I heard this over and over again, from the premier down, when the LNP was in government about Scott Driscoll. It was all made up. There was nothing to see. It was just a campaign. The fact is that Scott Driscoll went to jail for his behaviour. He had to remove himself from parliament because of his behaviour. When the Leader of the Opposition lost his seat and came back in 2018, he said in a speech that he had learned a lot of lessons: he was a young man in a hurry and so he took people for granted, basically. I see history repeating itself, because he has recently said exactly the same thing in relation to this matter. He is trying to claim that all of the information we are talking about this week on this side of the House in relation to SET Solutions and the Leader of the Opposition has been public for several years. We know that is not true. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to say how much money his consultancy business got, when it started and when it ended, and to be honest about whether he got any payment and why he engaged his own—

(Time expired)

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Police. Two years ago, when speaking about the police minister, domestic violence victim Lou Lander spoke out about not being listened to and said, 'The fish rots from the head so, Minister, you need to resign.' In response the police minister said, 'If there is improvements to be made, you know, I think it's a reflection of leadership that you've got to be open to listening to feedback and making changes.' Given it has been revealed today that the minister's office failed to communicate a major breach to the minister exposing DV victims' details—

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

Mr BLEIJIE:—how could Queenslanders trust this Labor government will listen and act when they really need it?

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to pre-empt your point of order, Leader of the House. Yes, it is a preamble. I will allow the question, but the minister can answer as he sees fit.

Mr RYAN: The Queensland Police Service has been on a fundamental reform journey over the last few years when it comes to improving responses to domestic and family violence. There has been a significant investment from government to support that—I heard someone yawn from the opposite side. I am speaking about responses to domestic and family violence and how this government has high standards of the Queensland Police Service—

Ms Camm interjected.

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

Mr RYAN:—and how the government is supporting the Queensland Police Service in improving those responses, and someone from the opposition yawned.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are circumstances where things are unavoidable. I would hope that we can get to the serious matter you are dealing with, Minister.

Mr RYAN: The Queensland Police Service has been on a fundamental journey of reform to improve responses around domestic and family violence. There is still more work to be done, but good work has been done. All officers have received additional face-to-face training. Specialist officers are moving into police stations right across the state, partnering with non-government organisations to improve co-response opportunities for the Queensland Police Service.

Domestic and family violence is a scourge on the community. It happens because a monster who says they love someone commits an act of violence, an act of intimidation or an act of coercive control against that person whom they said they love. The Queensland Police Service is committed to protecting those people who are experiencing domestic and family violence.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I have given guidance. I believe that, hearing the minister's response, he is being responsive to the question that was asked. You may not like the answer, but he is responding to the question.

Mr RYAN: It is a reform journey which this government started and this government has supported with significant funding and legislative change. To suggest that anyone in this parliament does not take these matters seriously is offensive. We do take these matters seriously, which is why we started the reform journey, which is why we have done the legislative change, which is why we have increased resourcing for police and partner agencies. This is also a journey that the Commissioner of Police is committed to. For two years he was the special coordinator for the Reform Implementation Taskforce, the very body implementing the commission of inquiry and the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations. The commissioner is fundamentally committed to this and is driving those reforms because we must always do better, and the Queensland Police Service will do better.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, your interjections were designed to interrupt the minister. You are warned under the standing orders.

Community Safety

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Police and Community Safety. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to support community safety, including in my electorate of Greenslopes, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr RYAN: I am conscious that the Deputy Premier is watching me, but I think this is a very important moment. I would like to thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I have known a number of members for Greenslopes, and I would like to say that this member for Greenslopes is the best member for Greenslopes the Queensland parliament has ever seen. I would also like to add that the Deputy Premier is the best member for Woodridge this Queensland parliament has ever seen. On a personal note, Speaker, I would also like to take the opportunity to say without any flippancy that I have known a number of Speakers, and I have to say that you are the best Speaker the Queensland parliament has ever seen.

Mr SPEAKER: It sounds like a backhanded compliment, but thank you.

Mr RYAN: Also, in honouring your service and your dad's service I am wearing the mace today. You and I both know the process around getting the mace. I know how important it is to you, so I would like to pay particular tribute to you and your dad for your service to the people of Queensland.

It is a very good question from the member for Greenslopes. He is part of a government which supports the Queensland Police Service and the record resourcing this government is providing to the Queensland Police Service. We are making sure that record funding and record resourcing for the Queensland Police Service is adequate to support all of the associated resources and equipment the Queensland Police Service needs. I did see just recently that those opposite put out some maths around their estimation of how much it would cost to fund 70 police officers. In their maths they said it was \$10 million. What they neglected is all of the on-costs, the equipment and resources. Just like the Newman government, they got the LNP calculator out with the big negative button—cut, cut, cut—and the sums do not add up. They are \$4 million short, so history is repeating itself. The Newman government did not fund the Queensland Police Service appropriately for things like equipment and all of the resources that go along with a police officer. They are back again skimming costs by \$4 million. It seems to be something similar with dodgy company directors too.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, welcome to the party. You are warned under the standing orders.

Banks

Dr MacMAHON: My question is for the Minister for Industrial Relations. The head of lobby group Australian Banking Association, Anna Bligh, was campaigning for the minister in the seat of McConnel on the weekend. Why is the minister and this government willing to put a union under administration to protect the public interest, but not the big banks whose criminality was exposed during the banking royal commission?

Ms GRACE: This is such an irrelevant and ridiculous question that I do not even know how to answer it. I think I had some campaigners out in the city campaigning for me—and rightly so, because I stand up for my electorate every single day and I will continue to deliver for my electorate. My

understanding is that Anna Bligh was walking past and the two people who were campaigning for me obviously recognised her, so the pretence of your question is actually incorrect with a lot of imputations. They knew that she was a very proud ex-premier of this state so the two people campaigning for me—as you would do if you saw anyone from your side of politics out on the street—

Government members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Sorry, Mr Speaker, that is actually offensive. I withdraw.

How do you make this question serious? Of all the questions you could ask me—about workers' rights, about workplace health—you ask about two people who saw Anna Bligh, who was in Brisbane, and they took a photograph and they posted it. How shocking is that? That is the most shocking thing I have ever heard! You have come into this House and used the one question you have on the crossbench—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: They are out there campaigning on all kinds of ridiculous things, and what do I get but a question about two people who are campaigning for me who come across Anna Bligh, take a photo and proudly post it on social media. How shocking!

Dr MacMAHON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My question was about why the government have not pursued the banks after the findings of the banking royal commission.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I need to hear the point of order, members. Member for South Brisbane, I did not hear your explanation.

Dr MacMAHON: The minister is not answering the content of the question, which was about putting the banks under administration given the findings of the banking royal commission.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, reluctantly I allowed the question. There was some concern that it had very little to do with the minister's portfolio responsibilities. I have allowed the question. I will allow the minister to complete her answer.

Ms GRACE: Can I add that Anna Bligh is an ex-member for South Brisbane. When it comes to banking, sorry, it is not my portfolio. There are so many questions you could ask in this House—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, please, Minister.

Ms GRACE:—about the issues that are affecting our electorates—the environment, sustainable aviation fuels, our 75 per cent emissions, our housing policy, our work for Queensland, our skills and training, our free TAFE and free kindy, our \$1,000 off and our 50-cent transport fares. You could go on forever about the issues people raise when I go doorknocking. What do I get? Two people took a photo of the ex-member for South Brisbane—and this question came from the current member for South Brisbane, I might add, and that is disgusting—and I am asked a question about what I am doing about the banking sector. Apart from the fact that that is in the federal sphere, what a waste of a question. I cannot wait to let people know in my electorate.

Housing Supply

Mr HINCHLIFFE: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters by building more homes in well-located areas, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Sandgate for the question. I know that he has long been a big supporter of delivering more homes in well-located areas, particularly affordable housing across this state. Our Miles Labor government is doing just that because on this side of the House we are 'yes in our backyard'. Despite the cherry-picking of the opposition, which they regularly do, the fact is that the latest ABS data shows dwelling approvals in Queensland rose 14.6 per cent in June. That is the third straight month of growth in this state. In fact, under our Labor government there have been more homes on average approved, commenced and delivered per quarter than under the LNP.

There is a very stark contrast on housing delivery under our Labor government compared to the opposition. They say they want housing and they are supportive of supply, but their actions never demonstrate that. Take their own housing spokesperson, who, when he had the portfolio, managed to

send social housing in this state backwards. It is not just public housing that the member for Everton has a problem with; he is not a fan of private housing, either. I table a copy of a speech he gave in this House where he effectively opposed 130 units and homes in his own electorate—not in his backyard.

Tabled paper: Extract from the *Record of Proceedings*, dated 15 June 2018, page 1826, of a speech by the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, titled 'Everton Electorate, Proposed Development' [1574].

Then we have the member for Currumbin, who has also been opposing housing in her electorate, suggesting more housing should go 'where it is wanted'—not in her backyard. Then we had the member for Mermaid Beach, who has opposed higher density in his patch, saying that that housing will have an impact because 'the level of amenity is jeopardised by public housing'. He then went on to say that apparently his suburb is 'too desirable' for public housing—not in his backyard. Then we had the member for Bonney, who is the chief NIMBY over there, opposing affordable housing and public community space utilising a defunct privately owned golf course, but he opposes housing there. He also opposes public housing, and I have too many piles to table—definitely not in his backyard.

The fact is that the LNP say they want housing supply, as long as it is not anywhere in their electorate. They have a lot of slogans but they do not back it up, and that is a pattern of behaviour. The Leader of the Opposition talks a big game but does not answer basic questions, like about the company he was in charge of. The gallery is right there. He has a lot to say in the chamber. He should walk out there and answer some basic questions for once.

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

Ms LEAHY: My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister guarantee that the personal address details of future crime victims are secure and will not be released to their dangerous perpetrators, adding more pain to already harrowing experiences for victims?

Mr RYAN: This is the standard that is set for the Police Service. It is an existing standard and it is a standard that they are required to comply with—protecting the privacy of victims, protecting the privacy of people in the criminal justice system. Where that standard is not met, it is investigated appropriately. Individual instances are investigated appropriately, and where systemic issues are identified a process is put in place to respond. The expectation is that there is no unauthorised disclosure of information. If it does happen it is rigorously investigated, and if the standard has not been met then there are consequences that flow. That is the expectation I set, the commissioner sets and, quite frankly, the community expects.

Trains, Accessibility

Mr TANTARI: My question is of the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Can the minister advise how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to ensure Queensland's new trains will meet the needs of the disability sector, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate he is about manufacturing, particularly the train manufacturing that is happening in his electorate and down to Maryborough. I am proud to say that the trains that are made under a Labor government will be the most accessible trains in Australia when they are finished. I am even prouder to say that the mock-up I visited last week was made by Allweld, a fantastic local manufacturing company in Maryborough in the Wide Bay district. The mock-up provides a chance for the stakeholders to test out the trains, like the handle placement, the pathway access in the new trains and also the visibility on our new trains that we will be making here in Queensland.

These new trains will be made by Queensland workers in Maryborough and they will be building a fully accessible access path through the train, electronic levelling control and train boarding bridges to help with boarding for people who use mobility devices. That is really important. The trains will have 20 accessible spaces, 88 priority seats, two accessible toilets, hearing loops, USB charging at all seats and four bicycle storage spaces on every single train.

When it comes to the train's design, the disability sector has been engaged all the way. We made sure they were there front and centre. We listened to the disability sector and we are delivering for them here in Queensland, unlike the LNP who just ignored them here in Queensland and bought the trains from overseas that could not even be used.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh!

Mr BUTCHER: We will not apologise for making Australia's most accessible passenger trains in Queensland. I think the LNP should apologise for their record on train manufacturing here in Queensland—literally it was a train wreck! Queensland train manufacturing jobs were sent overseas and the trains were not even up to the disability standard that our people expect here in Queensland. What a slap in the face to the disability sector in Queensland.

Guess what? Downer workers, the AMW workers and the ETU fixed those trains that were made overseas for the disability sector. We will not fail the disability sector when we make these new trains. We will make sure the training they get is done by professional training companies who are solvent and not trading insolvent here in Queensland. We will make sure that Manufacturing Skills Queensland delivers programs for our kids and our apprentices coming through in the way they will be making trains here in Queensland, not by dodgy companies that get them in, do interviews and do not even give them a job.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. It does not give me any pleasure, member for Southport, but you are already on a warning. You were continually interjecting. I did not want to interrupt the minister. You are to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 11.31 am.

Parole Board, Former President

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services. The minister told media she was never briefed about the substance of the allegations of a CCC referral of the former president of the Parole Board. Will the minister confirm that that is the case today, on the floor of parliament?

Ms BOYD: As I have said on the record, the commissioner informed me that he had received permission from the CCC to provide me with a high-level briefing. The commissioner was acting on the advice of the CCC and I was satisfied that it had been referred appropriately. As the member is aware, there are strict rules around dealing with public interest disclosures. Those opposite say that they want the sun to shine in and they want to listen to public servants. I listened to the advice of my commissioner and I was very cognisant of the advice regarding public interest disclosures. As I said, that was a high-level briefing that the commissioner provided to me. It did not include substance and allegation.

Training

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queensland by providing training solutions for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr McCALLUM: I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question. I have known a few members for Mundingburra and I have to say that this member for Mundingburra is the best member for Mundingburra I have ever known. He is part of our team up in Townsville, along with the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa, part of the Miles Labor government who are absolutely dedicated to delivering skills and training pathways for Queenslanders through free TAFE, free apprenticeships and state-of-the-art facilities, like the \$37 million TAFE trade centre at Bohle TAFE. Just last week we announced a new \$15 million Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre in Townsville. These are state-of-the-art training facilities delivering state-of-the-art training by reputable and reliable training organisations, because that is what Labor does. Labor builds while those opposite cut.

Let's have a look at the record of the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to cuts to skilling and training. Cuts into TAFE: cuts of 2,100 workers, cuts of 50,000 TAFE places, cuts of \$170 million in TAFE funding, and cuts to TAFE campuses. They cut campuses. They sold campuses. They had plans to cut and sell over 30 campuses. There were cuts to small business. They cut financial support the last time they were in government. When the Leader of the Opposition was a Newman government minister there were zero grants for small businesses. They cut the entire Small Business Commissioner. After he left as the member for Mundingburra, he kept on cutting. When he was at SET Solutions, he cut payments to small business suppliers, cut superannuation payments to workers, cut students off from access to training, and then he cut and ran from Townsville.

However, all of those cuts caught up with him because he had to cut a deal with liquidators. He had to cut a cheque for hush money. He is also cutting his explanations very short. He certainly cut off the questions from the media. It is very plain that we know what kind of guy the Leader of the Opposition is. He is the LNP cuts guy, and this October Queenslanders will have an opportunity to cut the LNP before the LNP cuts them.

QGAir, Cost of Travel

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. In four hours of estimates hearings, the Premier could not provide the cost of two private jets that followed each other across the state. Can the Premier explain—

A government member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mundingburra, you are warned under the standing orders for speaking during the question being asked.

Mr WALKER: I wasn't—

Mr SPEAKER: Well, your mouth was moving and something was coming out. Members, to my right, I need to hear the question.

Ms SIMPSON: In four hours of estimates hearings, the Premier could not provide the cost of two private jets that followed each other across the state. Can the Premier explain why the Police Commissioner could get the cost of two private jets in under a minute when he could not in 240?

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

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Maroochydore for her question. That is because the Queensland Government Air Wing is auspiced under the Queensland Police Service.

Regional Queensland

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister outline how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters by setting up the bush for success, and is the minister aware of any alternatives?


Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, member, we are never going to find out. The time for question time has expired. Same bat time, same bat channel. I ask members leaving the chamber to do so quietly.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 21 August (see p. 2687), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr ZANOW** (Ipswich West—LNP) (11.37 am): I rise today to talk to the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Mr Speaker, whilst I am on my feet, I know we have spoken about it offline, but your health is everything to you and I wish you well with your health and your family's health in the future.

The objectives of this bill are to give effect to a suite of recommendations from many reviews of Queensland safety frameworks. The bill amends the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 and consequently the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013.

We always need to ask: what is an acceptable risk? Of course, over the years, lots of great technology has evolved very well to reduce the risk when it comes to electrical safety. We now have these things called electric vehicles which I will talk a little bit more about very soon.

To achieve its policy objectives, the bill amends the definition of 'in-scope electrical equipment' to prescribe by regulation the voltage range of the equipment and where an item is not in-scope electrical equipment. It will also allow health and safety representatives and entry permit holders to take photos, videos and measurements and to conduct tests at workplaces. We have already heard from previous speakers from this side of the House that that does not sit well with us. It will also ensure the regulation-making power allows regulations to be made to provide the work health and safety regulator the ability to regulate the quality of authorisation training delivered by RTOs in Queensland. Of course, we have a changing environment when it comes to electricity.

Let's talk about the issues for a moment. The bill will clarify that HSRs and EPHs have the right to take photos, videos and measurements and to conduct tests at workplaces. I have been on many construction sites where the CFMEU have been present and, of course, they muscle in. It is shocking what happens at some workplaces under the guise of workplace health and safety. I have been to concrete pours costing hundreds of thousands of dollars that were pulled up because of a 'safety issue'. It was absolute rot; there was no safety issue whatsoever. Given the history of the CFMEU using bullying and intimidation tactics, the broadening of this power is concerning and something we need to think about carefully. This change would blur the line between the investigative and prosecutive powers of the workplace health and safety regulator and union officials, who have virtually unfettered access to worksites and who often weaponise workplace health and safety to increase union power. This is happening all the time and I have seen it firsthand in the construction industry over many years. This change is potentially dangerous.

I turn to electric vehicles. Realistically, we have only had electric vehicles over the last five to 10 years. The use-by date of an electric vehicle is usually 15 to 20 years or thereabouts, so in the coming years weekend warriors and backyard mechanics will be buying these vehicles and playing around with them of a weekend. They will probably be making one vehicle out of three, pulling wiring and batteries out and changing things over. Good luck to them, because that is all they can afford, but that will come with real dangerous risks. These dangerous risks apply also to new electric vehicles. We know that unwary workers are at risk of electrical shock and serious injury because the voltages present in electric and hybrid vehicles are significantly higher—800 volts or higher—than the 12- to 24-volt systems in most vehicles these days. The battery systems may contain chemicals that can be harmful if released. They also store significant amounts of energy that can give rise to an explosion if not dealt with correctly.

Electric vehicles have introduced additional hazards into the workplace—that workplace might even be a backyard on the weekend—normally associated with repair and maintenance. We need to think about what happens if a vehicle breaks down or is involved in an accident. Who will recover it from a roadside, a lake or a river? Of course, there is a potential issue there with explosion and electricity. Also, the electric motors of the vehicles themselves may move unexpectedly due to magnetic forces within the motors.


It is very important that we think about the future when it comes to electric vehicles because stakeholders have said that electric vehicles would be captured by these changes and that a qualified electrician would be required to undertake work. The committee has urged consultation with the industry. I think we need more consultation with the industry when making decisions impacting on electric vehicles. I can foresee that, unfortunately, people will be killed or maimed while working on electric vehicles as they do not know anything about them.

The inspection and testing of emergency lighting is critically important. Most emergency lighting now uses low-voltage LEDs. As a lot of people who visit facilities may have been there only once or twice, if at all, the inspection of emergency lighting is critical. There are mixed views about who can inspect and test emergency lighting as well as who can install and maintain fire alarm systems as a contractor. There is also some concern that additional accreditation or licensing for electricians is required. The MEA has asked that it be legislated that this is not required; however, the National Fire Industry Association believes that a requirement for additional testing should exist. Critical signage in buildings is important.

Master Electricians Australia were broadly supportive of the bill but did raise issues with industrial manslaughter, licensing requirements for some emergency lighting and fire alarm systems, and the powers of HSRs and EPHs. The Queensland Law Society raised concerns about the powers of HSRs and EPHs as well as amendments to the industrial manslaughter provisions that would see the statute of limitations removed in some cases and the current provisions in the Criminal Code capture the same conduct as the industrial manslaughter offence does.

I would like to move on to WorkCover. The WorkCover system in Queensland is excellent. I will pick out some important parts of the review report, which was tabled on 24 October 2023. The review found that the scheme remains strong. While major reform was not recommended, the review identified emerging trends which may impact on the scheme's performance and viability. The scheme is well placed to respond to trends including: a rise in psychiatric and psychological injury claims including secondary psychiatric and psychological injury claims; lower rehabilitation and return-to-work performance compared to other Australian workers compensation jurisdictions; and delays in administrative decision-making by workers compensation insurers and workers compensation regulation.

In recognition of these trends, the 2023 review made 54 recommendations. Some of the recommendations I have personal experience of, having employed a lot of people over a long time. We talk about increased intervention to prevent the deterioration of physical injuries in secondary psychiatric or psychological injuries. Workers tend to bring their troubles to work and we need to address that and help them as best we can. Over my time employing people I have counselled a lot of workers, because if their head is clear and they are mentally prepared they will be physically prepared to carry out their duties at work. Addressing workplace issues that may cause worsening psychiatric and psychological injuries is important. Gig workers are being thrown in there, which is good to see. In conclusion, this side of the House approves of the bill.

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.48 am): I rise to support the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a bill that does what Labor governments have always done. By responding to the review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011: final report—December 2022*, we are putting workers first. Again, the Miles government is doing what matters. While this bill builds upon substantial reforms from 2017 for all Queensland workers, there are parts of this bill specifically relevant to my portfolio. Firefighter safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance to the Queensland Fire Department, and the policy intent and practical improvements embedded in this bill are wholeheartedly supported.


We know that firefighting as a profession carries an inherent risk and, unfortunately, our firefighters and our Rural Fire Service volunteers can be exposed to carcinogenic environments through the course of their work when they are protecting our communities. That is why Labor passed legislation in 2015 to help our firefighters by streamlining access to workers compensation, reducing stress in what would already be a very difficult time.

Under that change, firefighters and RFS volunteers performing relevant duties diagnosed with one of 12 specified diseases can claim WorkCover without needing to prove the diagnosis is work related. As medical research grows and out of that the understanding of cancer grows, that list will need to be expanded for the protection of our firefighters and our volunteers, and that is exactly what this bill does. It expands the list of presumptive illnesses for firefighters and Rural Fire Service volunteers to make Queensland's coverage one of the most comprehensive in Australia.

I acknowledge that today is Yellow Ribbon Day in recognition of the service of our rural volunteers right across our Queensland communities. I had a chance to meet with some of those volunteers this morning and thank them for their service and their contribution and I will again at an event this evening. It is important to note Yellow Ribbon Day was born out of protest against planned LNP cuts to the Rural Fire Service. I am told that they marched on parliament and tied a yellow ribbon on the gates of parliament. We listen to our rural fires and to our rural volunteers right across the state through initiatives like the Rural Advisory Committee as part of the new Queensland Fire Department. Because we listen, these new presumptive diseases will apply to volunteers.

The passing of this bill will see an additional 10 diseases added to Queensland's existing list of 12 presumptive illnesses. The new additions are: asbestos related diseases, primary site liver cancer, primary site lung cancer, primary site skin cancer, primary site cervical cancer, primary site ovarian cancer, primary site pancreatic cancer, primary site penile cancer, primary site thyroid cancer and malignant mesothelioma. This legislation also ensures day-work rotations are covered, giving better support to our firefighters and providing greater clarity around the inclusion of this time in qualifying periods to access compensation.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the United Firefighters Union of Queensland on this important issue. As the minister made clear in her introductory speech, these changes will mean Queensland firefighters will have the most comprehensive list of deemed diseases of all workers and jurisdictions in the country. The Miles government will always back our firefighters. They run towards danger to protect others and put themselves at risk at the same time. Sometimes that risk has immediate consequences but at other times that risk is delayed in the form of cancer. That is why these changes are so important. They will allow claims to be processed more quickly, reduce the administrative burden on firefighters diagnosed with these deemed diseases and give access to payments and care when they need it most. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.52 am): I rise to make a contribution on the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I know this is a cognate debate, but I will confine my comments to this particular bill.

First, let me say the LNP will always support improvements to workplace health and safety. When a worker goes to work it is critically important that that environment is safe and we expect them to be able to return home safely. That said, we are also aware that this Miles Labor government is beholden to the union movement in many ways. Not only the Queensland Law Society but also the opposition is concerned about potential overreach in some elements of this bill. Let me go to that first.

The principal point is that this bill gives permission to workplace health and safety representatives to take photos and videos during inspections and that raises concerns about privacy. There is no plan for how this photographic evidence may or may not be used. There is very little by way of processes to protect the privacy of a business or individual who finds themselves in those pictures. There is no real framework to ensure that the pictures are only used in an appropriate way and are destroyed or appropriately archived at the end of any such investigation. It was highlighted by the LGAQ and the QLS that there need to be guidelines for the handling and deletion of this material, on managing this and protecting individuals' privacy rights.

We have heard in recent times in relation to Cross River Rail how people's knowledge of particular employees and their conduct is being used to both intimidate them and be quite overbearing in the workplace. I think the CFMEU have made it quite clear that they have a particular view on who and how people should enter a workplace. This legislation will hand people more power. If it is not constrained, not regulated and not well managed some unintended consequences may arise that could actually endanger the workforce and jeopardise their privacy. They may find that information about them could be shared with people with poor intent and potentially cause them harm.

It is very important as this bill goes through this process that those concerns are raised. Any minister who is left to administer this legislation as it becomes an act needs to ensure in great detail that there is a process for managing it. There needs to be regulation and a framework around that to ensure privacy is well protected and there are no unintended consequences from evidence gathering by a workplace health and safety representative. That is probably the main thrust of my concerns about elements of this bill.

Some other parts of the bill seek to include extra-low voltage equipment under the definition of 'electrical equipment' where it meets a specific threshold. Once we got into the discussion it started to get confusing as to what is extra-low and what is high, and I hear my colleague on the committee laughing. I am not sure any of us are the wiser. I would say that clearly people who are well trained and well educated in this area are the best people to be handling this. I am more than happy to take their advice to make sure that people in the workplace, particularly young apprentices as they go about their job training, are suitably trained and suitably supervised.

Stakeholders raised several concerns that the bill might unintentionally include fire protection work under its scope which is in conflict with the Building and Construction Commission—the QBCC—framework. The MEA suggested that licensed electrical contractors should be allowed to inspect and test emergency lighting and install fire alarm systems as they are adequately trained. I used to run pubs and clubs and I had a very sophisticated fire protection system fitted. It was very expensive, it had automatic air extraction and other things, and the testing of the correct functioning of that equipment on a regular basis was fundamentally important. If we overcomplicate and overregulate in this area, I am fearful that as the cost goes up due to that regulation, compliance may drop off as people are tempted to not have it tested as regularly as they should. I think we need to ensure people with suitable qualifications can go in there and do the work. We should be careful that we are not restricting someone who has been trained to do that work—to test it and tick it off—from being able to do so.

There needs to be a robust process to ensure that those people are qualified and they can adequately test it, because, on the day it all goes wrong, this is the system that will save thousands of people's lives in a burning building, so it is important that it is correct. I am not underestimating that, but the framework we have under the QBCC would appear to be adequate, and there were certainly some concerns raised in that area.


There was also some discussion about who can work on electric vehicles. The bill clarifies that it does not intend to regulate work on electric vehicles and it should remain the responsibility of automotive technicians. That is a good thing because, as we have this alternative energy source for vehicles developing, being maintained and being fixed, there are going to be some crossovers between industries. Just as an aside, these vehicles also create great difficulty for some of our emergency services to manage on the roadside because of the great fire risk and electric shock risk in an accident.

This is an emerging area and it is good to be cautious and clarify it, but it is something that we as a parliament will need to constantly monitor as it evolves and the numbers of these vehicles increase, particularly as they age.

With regard to the clarification of the definition of electrical work, the bill aims to clarify what tasks are considered electrical work, particularly concerning ELV equipment, ensuring that not all such work requires a licensed electrician. The ETU raised concerns about concurrent legislation allowing certain electrical work to be performed under inadequate supervision, prompting the department to establish a working group to review this. Again, this was a fairly confusing area, so let us get the experts in a room with the department so we can get some decent recommendations to ensure we have at the very least some robust regulation that is not overly restrictive to deliver a union and its members control over particular elements but at the same time is there to protect consumers effectively and to ensure that as people go about their work in the workplace it is safe—that is, not only is the equipment safe for the people using it but also there are processes, procedures and regulations in place to ensure that someone adequately trained and capable is the person fixing any of those electrical faults or determining exactly what has happened.

In summary—and I note the clock winding down—I just want to reiterate that there are concerns particularly around sections 68 and 118 of the Work Health and Safety Act in terms of the changes. It is important that, where those health and safety experts are allowed on site to take photographs and act in a certain way, there needs to be serious regulation to ensure they are doing that without any unintended consequences.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the next speaker, I remind the following members that they are on a warning: Maryborough, Southport, Everton, Toowoomba North, Currumbin, Buderim, Waterford, Callide, Kawana, Whitsunday, Southern Downs, Burleigh and Mundingburra.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.03 pm): That is quite a list. I rise to contribute to the debate on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. For a large part of my contribution I will focus on our hardworking Queensland firefighters, especially our firefighters based in Bundaberg, who do such a wonderful job keeping our community safe. It is strange that we still refer to them as 'firefighters', because we know that their role is so much more than fighting fires. We know that their role, sadly, is going out to horrendous car accidents where they have to remove bodies from vehicles and keep people calm as they cut them out of those vehicles. It is an incredibly traumatic job and a traumatic experience that they face each and every day in the name of keeping us safe, so I really do want to pass on my respects to firefighters right across Queensland but especially to Bundaberg firefighters, with whom I am very proud to say I have a strong connection. I am very proud to say that the minister, who is in the chamber today, has a strong connection with them as well. A large part of that strong connection is because of their membership in the United Firefighters Union Queensland. That really goes to the strength of unions here in this state and how they can come together as a collective to advocate for better workplace conditions or for better resources, and ultimately that means a better service to our broader community.

I want to thank a couple of members of the UFUQ who are based at the Bundaberg station: Adrian Booth and Luke Griffin. It is a rare week that Luke has not texted me. He has not texted me this week, so I will have to text him this time. I also thank Sal Coco and Matty Templeman, who, when I recently visited the station, gave me the UFUQ beanie and hat that I wear quite often. Thankfully, though, he did not give me the front cover of the calendar that he was on a number of years ago. I will leave that for all of the other boys at the station. They can have that one.

I also want to mention John Oliver, the State Secretary of the UFUQ, who appeared before the committee. It was quite eye-opening to read through that transcript about how the World Health Organization has reviewed the scientific literature and has effectively said that a day in the life of a firefighter is a carcinogenic hazard. That is pretty incredible if you think that the one day of work that you go to can be considered carcinogenic to you as a human being. Anytime there is the possibility of the development of cancer, we of course are naturally worried. However, our firefighters go day in and day out, night in and night out to a job that can be risky in itself at times but also know that they are facing the potential of future exposure that may drive the development of cancer cells. That is really something quite incredible, so we do respect them and we thank them so much for what they do.

I was lucky enough to have the experience of being at a fire station over a night shift and watching what the gents do. With the indulgence of the House, I want to note how risky their role is. Only a couple of nights before I was there they had attended a house fire in Norville and one of the firefighters—I will not mention his name here because he may get a little bit of a jab in the ribs from his colleagues if I name him—

Mr Dametto: You'd cost him a carton, too!

Mr SMITH: It would cost him a carton as well, and it might also cost the department a carton. He attended a fire. They were outside the fire perimeter, but such was the flash where the fire broke out through the closed window and shot outside that it melted the visor of his helmet. That is why it is so important that we have strong unions in this state with members on the ground driving the reforms moving forward. That is why I wanted to note how amazing are our firefighters on the front line and how incredibly strong and brave it is that they join a union and make sure they work every single day as members of that union to keep each other safe. It was quite an incredible sight to see. I also want to thank them all for giving me the experience. I put on all of the equipment, held the fire hose and went through some operational training, and it really is something quite incredible. When you experience something that was only light compared to what they do, you really do get a better sense of the danger they deal with every single day. We appreciate all of the men and women of our Queensland Fire Department and the role that they play.

I also wanted to touch quickly on some comments made by the member for Toowoomba North. The member for Toowoomba North said that he has reservations about images being taken on worksites and is worried about the privacy of others who are on that worksite doing their own work. I just want to make sure I understood the LNP correctly, that it has concerns about people coming onto a worksite and taking images of other people in their workplace. I foreshadow that for a future contribution during this sitting. I just want to make sure I have that clear: the member for Toowoomba North said that he and his party have reservations about people coming onto a site, taking photographs and potentially exposing the privacy of other workers—and I even think there might have been a suggestion of distracting them from their work. I will leave that there but I might refer to it later this evening. We will see how we go. I reckon I might.


I want to touch on the foreshadowed amendments. I also want to talk about the importance of union membership and recognise that members of unions are just everyday working people. Rank-and-file membership of a union is something that people should be proud of and should have trust in. I want every single worker across Bundaberg to know that they can always come through my door and have a conversation with me. I encourage members of unions to continue to work hard for the safety of their workplaces and the safety of their membership, because we know that come 26 October, if there is a change of government, union membership will be driven down by an LNP government. We know that because we saw it last time. In some unions, membership dropped by more than 30 per cent.

Mr Tantari: People were fearful.

Mr SMITH: People were fearful. They were driven out of their unions and, therefore, Queensland worksites became unsafe. It was an unsafe place. It is very important that the Miles Labor government continues to drive forward these reforms, continues to listen to rank-and-file members of our unions and continues to act not just for those members but for all workers right across Queensland.

As hard as they work each and every single day to put food on the table for their families, as hard as they work each and every single day to ensure that they have a safe workplace and as hard as some of our good comrades up in Bundy work, especially our ETU comrades who, on a Saturday morning, are out waving placards that say 'Put the LNP last', I can assure them that I will be working day in and day out to keep our Bundaberg workers safe. That is especially so when the member for Burnett says that he cannot wait to break the back of unrealistic workplace entitlements. It is especially so when LNP spokespeople are going around saying that they need to get rid of harnesses in cherry pickers which would make workplaces more dangerous but would increase productivity. Those are very real things that we face leading up to 26 October.

Of course I will support these bills. Of course I will support workers right across Queensland. I say to all of the hardworking firefighters at the Bundaberg station—close your ears, Minister—I will come around and I might bring a case as well.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.12 pm): Before I start my contribution, I want to acknowledge my son, who is in the gallery today. Thank you, son, for coming along. You might get a free lunch out of me.

As I start my contribution to this cognate debate, I place on record my appreciation and the KAP's appreciation for our Queensland firefighters and the important work that they do. As we were saying earlier, that important work is not just putting out fires; it is the extra work that they take on when it comes to emergency services in the state. In many situations they are the first to respond. Sometimes they are on site long before the ambulance or police turn up and they render first aid. They can be the ones who pull people out of motor vehicles following a crash and some of the most horrific fatalities happen on the Bruce Highway. They are there to render assistance from start to finish. I acknowledge the firefighters who work across Queensland and especially those who work in the Hinchinbrook electorate. We appreciate you. We understand the hardship that you go through not only working in that role but also as a result of the PTSD that can come off the back of working in emergency services.

The part of the cognate debate that I want to speak to in particular is the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I was a member of the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee that scrutinised this bill. During that time it became very apparent to me that this piece of legislation is necessary and I will get into that further in a second. The bill was put together after the 2023 review into the operation of the Queensland workers compensation scheme.


I refer to the decision impact analysis statement and the proposal to extend workers compensation to gig workers and bailee taxi and limousine drivers. In Queensland, the gig economy really kicked off with the introduction of Uber. We had a very regulated taxi and limousine industry. It was a licensed industry. It was regulated. Workers compensation was attached to the staff. There was an ability to regulate not only the number of taxis but also the services they provided, including the services they provided to the disabled, the frail and others in the community who need to access disability taxis. Licences were given out accordingly.

The KAP fought fearlessly for taxi licence holders. Those people had invested their time, their money and all their savings into buying taxi licences, which essentially had a value attached to them because the industry was regulated by the state government. Most people said, 'You can bank on this stuff' and people did. People could go to the bank to get a loan for a licence and they could loan against the licence because it had some value. However, the introduction of Uber tore that apart. At that time the KAP warned everyone, but both sides of the House were happy to let Uber walk in and that came with problems. This bill will address some of those problems.

There have been problems around workers compensation. Gig economy workers, including those who work for Uber, have been affected firstly by the driving down of wages because the job goes to the cheapest available driver. The wages of drivers, whether for Dodo, Uber Eats or any one of the multiple services out there, have been driven down by the multinational corporations meaning people work for the least amount of money possible. Up until today, when hopefully this legislation passes, they have been doing that without any workers compensation attached to their employment. That is a shame on this state. I worked in the mining industry and I have heard Labor members on the opposite side of the House talk multiple times about trying to stamp out labour hire. This is the lowest form of labour hire imposed on people who were trying to make a dollar. Multinationals like Uber came in and sucked the life out of the opportunity that taxidrivers had.

It was good to see that after the review multiple recommendations were made. One of the main recommendations to come from the review was that we ensure that some sort of workers compensation scheme is applied to those who work in the gig economy. Currently, if a truck driver who works for a gig economy provider falls out of their truck and breaks their leg then they cannot feed their family because no workers compensation applies to them. Someone who uses a pushbike to deliver burgers cannot get workers compensation because I doubt it would be offered by any of those gig economy multinationals.

While it is good to see this legislation before the House, I think we should all acknowledge the mess that we created by opening the floodgates and letting Uber into Queensland because a lot of Queensland workers have been taken advantage of. That is a blight on this parliament. Now we are trying to inch back some rights for those workers. It is a good thing that we can afford to provide workers compensation to those people but they should not have been put in this position in the first place. They should have been working for Australian-based companies that cared and had to play by Australian rules. Now we have this legislation before us. Funnily enough, in the first place some of the arguments around Uber were about removing regulation and legislation to let the market open right up. Here we are, about six or seven years later, debating regulation and legislation around workers compensation to try to protect those workers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to support the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I had the opportunity to chair the review of the electrical safety bill. Before I start on that bill, I will address the workers compensation bill.

I want to thank all of the rural fire brigades across the Redlands. I have the most amazing rural fire brigade team. To the teams on Russell Island, Karragarra Island, Macleay Island, Coochiemudlo Island and Lamb Island, thank you for all that you do to protect our community. I think the additional protections the bill will provide our firefighters are fantastic. I thank the UFUQ for all the work that they do to support their membership. Most members might not know that the member for Barron River was a firefighter—as most might not know that the member for Thuringowa was a paramedic! The positions they put themselves in are extraordinarily dangerous, so anything we can do to increase their protection is really important.

Gig economy workers are covered within this bill too, which I think is really important. It is an ever-growing sphere of workers and they can be very tricky pathways to navigate. With that said, I think this is a really great piece of legislation.


In terms of the electrical safety bill, I note the statement of reservation by the members for Toowoomba North, Condamine and Callide about images and videos. Let's face it, if there is a contravention of an act in a workplace, somebody who is going in to try to remedy the situation absolutely should be entitled to gather the appropriate evidence in order to prosecute. It boggles my mind that those opposite would have an issue with that. Before listening to the member for Bundaberg's contribution, I had not drawn the correlation in terms of whether or not they are for that sort of behaviour. It will be interesting to see what else he has to add tonight.

I will associate myself with the comments from everybody on our committee in terms of what we learned about extra-low voltage and ultra-low voltage. By the end of that session, I do not think we were too much further along in our understanding. We definitely had a little bit of—

A government member interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: The member for Kurwongbah has given me some really great lessons. I am a proud member of the Electrical Trades Union. Over the last few years, the member has definitely been schooling me in terms of voltage and power and all things energy, so I thank him for that.

This is an important bill. It is the Miles Labor government that continues to put worker safety first. We will always do that. I thank the secretariat and everybody who was involved with the committee. This bill is as a result of multiple important reviews. I am really proud of this piece of work. I commend the bills to House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. This bill seeks to implement recommendations from several reviews aimed at enhancing Queensland's safety frameworks, including the 2022 and 2024 reviews of the Work Health and Safety Act and the 2017 best practice review, designed to ensure that our laws are keeping up with emerging safety practices, particularly in high-risk areas such as electrical work and workplace health and safety.

Before speaking on specific amendments to the bill I will state that the opposition, as has already been foreshadowed, opposes clauses 46 and 47 relating to health and safety representatives—HSRs—and entry permit holders—EPHs—being able to take photos and videos of people on worksites. Under the proposed legislation, HSRs and EPHs will have the right to take photos and videos on worksites without limitation, other than live streaming. Whilst this might seem a reasonable measure to ensure workplace safety, it raises real concerns about privacy and the potential for misuse of this power by union members. That is the point the member for Toowoomba North was making in his contribution, which was referenced by the members for Bundaberg and Redlands.

There is a concern that this provision could be exploited by certain unions, particularly the CFMEU, which has a history of using its power to intimidate and bully workers. With the absence of restrictions on how these images and data can be used, and in an era where online harassment is on the rise, it is not hard to imagine a scenario where these images could be posted online, leading to targeted harassment of individuals. I believe that that is the point the member for Toowoomba North was making in his contribution.

I refer to an article from ABC News dated 20 July 2024 titled *With so much mud being thrown at the CFMEU, some of it was bound to hit Queensland Labor*. The article refers to the Premier's links to the CFMEU, with this Labor source telling the ABC—

No one likes the CFMEU in the caucus—they're unethical and unreliable ...

The article continues with the head of the Queensland Major Contractors Association—QMCA—Andrew Chapman, saying that allegations of bullying and intimidation had been raised repeatedly with Queensland Labor. Mr Chapman is quoted as saying—

Only last month, a female was on a construction site in Brisbane, in the city, and the CFMEU representatives told her—

I cannot actually say the last part of that quote. Members are aware of recent reports in the media of CFMEU representatives using aggressive tactics to coerce workers into following union directives which has led to the construction division of the union heading for administration for up to five years. Such is the significance of this move that we had the federal Labor workplace relations minister, Murray Watt, a former member of this place, describing the move in the *Australian Financial Review* yesterday as 'the strongest action a government has ever taken against a union or an employer in Australia's history'.


Moving back to specific amendments relating to the Electrical Safety Act—ES Act—we will see the broadening of definitions of what constitutes 'electrical equipment' and 'electrical installation', ensuring emerging technologies are adequately regulated along with strengthening the powers of the Electrical Licensing Committee to allow its members to impose, change or remove conditions on licences as they deem necessary. Other amendments to the ES Act include removing the outdated requirement to maintain separate records in the regulator's database for the Electrical Equipment Safety System—EESS—and amend the definition of 'in-scope electrical equipment' to allow regulation of the voltage range and exclusions.

In addition to the ES Act, this bill makes amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 and the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013. Under the current legislation, for example, industrial manslaughter is limited to cases where negligent conduct causes the death of fellow workers. This bill proposes to expand this provision to include the deaths of bystanders or other individuals who may be affected by the actions of the business or its workers.

Whilst this amendment did raise concerns from the Queensland Law Society and Master Electricians Australia, arguing that the existing provisions of the Criminal Code already allow for the prosecution of individuals responsible for such deaths, the department has pointed out that the Criminal Code's limitations often make it challenging to hold corporations accountable. The expanded industrial manslaughter provisions are a necessary step to ensure justice is served in cases of gross negligence.

Whilst this bill contains several important and necessary updates to Queensland's safety laws, it also includes provisions that raise concerns and, as previously mentioned, the LNP will oppose the clauses relating to HSRs and EPHs taking photos and videos on worksites because we believe they do more to empower unions like the CFMEU than to protect worker safety. In conclusion, I table the article I referred to by Phillip Coorey titled 'CFMEU headed for administration after Labor-Coalition deal'.


Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles relating to the CFMEU [\[1575\]](#).

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.28 pm): Before I start talking about the bill, I would like to remind the member for Hinchinbrook why it is so important to have unions when we are talking about gig workers. There is strength in collectiveness of workers when looking after their rights and making sure that workers are protected. He needs to remember that every time he votes against something to do with unions.

I am really pleased that the Miles government has a strong history of putting worker safety front and centre. Since we came to government in 2015, we have worked hard to ensure there are modern and robust frameworks for employers and workers to navigate to ensure everyone is safe on their worksite. Those opposite have a long history of voting against the industrial relations bills we have brought before this House. Those include the labour hire laws that the member for Hinchinbrook was talking about, paid domestic and family violence leave, industrial protections for workers subject to sexual harassment and sex-based and gender-based harassment, birth related and parental leave, and portable long service leave. They also voted against wage theft and public holidays for Easter and Christmas Eve after 6 pm. It is important that we have strong industrial laws.

I thank our firefighters. It was great to see our rural firefighters out the front of Parliament House this morning. I thank them for the work they do and I thank their strong union for looking after them. It is important when we talk about workers compensation that in this bill workers compensation has been extended to further cover our firefighters.

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

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.30 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the cognate debate on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Every time we debate important safety legislation in this House it is interesting that the opposition finds new ways to try to weaken our laws rather than concentrate on improving things and on what actually works in the workplace, listening to the experts, implementing the reviews that we have and keeping health and safety and WorkCover legislation contemporary—for example, keeping the deemed cancers for firefighters up to date and reflective of what the medical profession says is presumptive and not having people go through the process of saying, 'Did you catch this or did that occur because you were a firefighter?' It is presumed it happens and therefore they do not have to go through the rigmarole of showing causation. That is what these presumptive laws do and we are very proud of that.

We are debating two important bills. All we can do is make sure that in Queensland our laws are contemporary and the best laws in the country. I do not think there is any place for some of the comments of the member for Kawana. He was making puerile comments about the Premier's gym habits. He took offence to something the other day and then all of a sudden that was an opportunity to make puerile comments. The Premier goes to the gym—great.

We had the member for Southern Downs—I do not know who writes his speeches—engaging in conspiracy theories about the relationship between the Labor Party and the union movement. It is quite embarrassing for him to engage in conspiracy theories when we know the history of the Labor Party and the union movement and the proud affiliation we have. Any grade 7 student could probably tell those opposite about it. It is interesting that time is taken up talking about that rather than about the specifics of the bills which are very good. They raise all sorts of conspiracy theories.

Let me remind the House what these bills are really all about. They are about keeping workers safe. As I keep saying, a worker sells their labour not their health. When they engage they sell their labour. The CFMEU members across the road at Queen's Wharf are working hard every day, and often in very dangerous conditions. They sell their labour every day; they do not sell their health.

The workers compensation and rehabilitation bill introduces reforms to ensure the scheme remains sustainable. We are very lucky in this state to have one of the best schemes in the country. Other states have had to prop up their workers compensation system. We have not had to do that in this state. It is well financed and well funded. We can improve the conditions of workers as well as maintain a very secure and sustainable scheme that delivers injured workers the support they need when they need it most. I use the word 'workers' because I will refer to the member for Hinchinbrook's contribution in relation to gig workers when I get to that point in my reply.

If passed, the bill will enhance early intervention supports. These are handy to get workers back to work. Injured workers often say that when they are left alone and they do not know where to go and nobody is speaking to them that that is probably the worst phase of their injury. Where we can we get in early to prevent psychological injuries and provide more choice to workers in their rehabilitation and return to work. This bill improves firefighters' access to workers compensation and drives better enforcement and compliance outcomes. The bill also includes amendments to the IR Act and labour hire licensing to ensure these laws remain current.

As I have outlined, the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill implements recommendations from a number of independent reviews. The bill responds to changes in the electrical landscape. There have been many. There are things in the market now that would not have even been thought of years ago. We have to make the legislation contemporary. We are amending the legislation to continually improve safety laws.

I intend to move amendments, which I have circulated, during consideration in detail to provide the establishment of an administration scheme and appoint an administrator to the CFMEUQ C&G division if the federal CFMEU is placed into administration. That is about making sure that that union survives, operates properly and there is no criminal infiltration or that kind of thing. That is why federally they have taken this course of action. We have always said that we would support and complement that.

In terms of firefighter deemed diseases, we are now moving to 23 of those. I think there was a little bit of rewriting of history by the member for Kawana. I do not think his private member's bill fit the test. I understand that it was so poorly drafted that even the non-government members of the committee could not recommend the bill be passed without a significant amendment. I know that they support this. We all support fires. If they contract these diseases through their work, we want to make sure we look after them and they do not have to go through hurdles to make sure they are work related.

We thank our frontline firefighters in both the red and yellow trucks. It is good that our legislation covers both. I think the member's bill at the time did not cover both. I wear a yellow ribbon today to recognise the time and dedication of rural firefighter volunteers. It was under this government that volunteer firefighters, for the first time in history, were given exactly the same benefits as full-time fires. We are very proud of that. It means that all firefighters have fair and reasonable access to medical expenses, weekly benefits, lump sums and common-law damages.

We were very proud to lead the nation in introducing industrial manslaughter offences in 2017. The opposition suggested last night that maybe there was not much value in these. I know they voted against these laws. We led the country in this regard. Federally they are going to introduce industrial manslaughter. Some 75 per cent of successful prosecutions occur in Queensland. In fact, the industrial manslaughter offence has been so successful that it has been adopted by all jurisdictions nationally and incorporated into model workplace health and safety laws. That is how this government has led the country.

The amendments we are debating today are to keep our offence in line with current best practice across the nation and to continue to reflect community expectations. This is not about ensuring that we prosecute. This is really about the independent prosecutor taking action where appropriate. The prosecutions have included a Queensland worker being killed by a reversing forklift driven by an unlicensed driver, with no traffic management system in place; a worker being crushed by a generator falling on him from a moving forklift; and a worker killed after being struck by a mobile crane. These are three cases where this occurred. If it were one of my loved ones who was involved in an accident like that I would want the independent prosecutor to take whatever action could be taken.

We make no apology for the industrial manslaughter offences that may apply in these circumstances. We are including negligence. For some reason, those opposite seem to think we are changing this to be able to catch more people. I do not know whether they have done their homework, because this amendment was a recommendation from the national Boland review of work health and safety laws. That review was commissioned and the report came out when the Morrison LNP government were in power. It is wrong to make these baseless allegations when it came out of the Morrison LNP government, and we are now implementing those recommendations here in Queensland. I thank the independent prosecutor for the recommendations that he made. They are incorporated in the bills.

Those opposite raised concerns about the implementation of alternative verdicts, questioning how courts would use this power and its fairness. For those who claim to be tough on crime, that is already a feature of the criminal justice system. This gives the court the power to hold someone accountable relevant to their offence. There is nothing new in this. Courts can do this. I think it is such a great suggestion. Of course it is a Labor government that will implement alternative verdicts with our bill.

Once again, in relation to unregistered unions we heard the member for Southern Downs talking about a conspiracy when it comes to the proud relationship between the Labor Party and the trade union movement. He said—

I again record my disgust at the partisan use of the levers of government to advantage the trade union movement, which financially and politically supports all of the members of the Labor Party over there.

Mr Powell: That almost sounds like him.

Ms GRACE: I take offence to that and I ask that it be withdrawn!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order, members!

Ms GRACE: Here is a history lesson for the member: we on this side are all proud unionists. We are very proud that we grew out of the trade union movement. When it comes to conspiracy theories, there are many when it comes to the fake unions that are out there. It will be interesting to see how they are going to deal with these unregistered industrial organisations because there is no scrutiny or regulation whatsoever.

I will tell members why we put primacy on registered industrial organisations. Primarily it is because a lot of employers do not want to see unregulated, unregistered industrial organisations trying to gain entry to their workplace without any records, without any scrutiny, without any ability, suggesting that they are somehow representing workers in their workplace. The outcry is coming more from employers. Every worker in their workplace joins, of their own choice, a union or not. That is the way our laws operate in this state. They should have rights of representation. I do not have too many employers knocking down my door saying, 'Please let into my workplace anyone purporting to be representing a worker.' There are not too many who tell me that. I am sure all of us in this House do not have anyone knocking on their door suggesting that that is the case.

With regard to the CFMEUQ, it is a registered industrial organisation under the state system and it is subject to transparency and accountability, which is why we can now implement the changes federally. We are acting on serious issues because this is largely governed in the federal sphere. Obviously, we have a state registered industrial organisation. As I have said, it would not be in the public interest, if those offices are removed when they are in administration, that they then continue to operate. We are reflecting, mirroring and complementing that. We have acted swiftly to tackle these issues through the appointment of the administrator.

I thank the member for Kawana which I do not do very often. He accepted the invitation for a briefing and he got a comprehensive briefing from the department. They did a very good job. I compliment the departmental officers who are here. Honestly, they have worked tirelessly on this, keeping pace with the changes that were happening federally and making sure the provisions were contemporary and up to date. I thank the team and my staff for the work they did in getting this ready.

There has been a report—and Minister Watt, the federal minister for IR, spoke about this. The administrator has provided a written commitment to act on crime and corruption wherever they find it within the construction industry, including employers. Someone I was recently speaking to said, 'Grace, it often takes two to tango.' If these things are happening, they often do not happen alone. There is another party. I thank the administrator—the same administrator who will be appointed once these laws go through—who will ensure this is stamped out in the industry as a whole. If employers are found to have been cooperating in this, they will be taking action right across the board. It cannot always be one side. I just wanted to pick that up.

I now turn to the amendment to be moved in consideration in detail circulated by the member for Kawana. It seeks once again to reinstate a 24-hour notice period for entry notices from entry permit holders. We will not be supporting this amendment. It is totally unnecessary and out of step with other jurisdictions. We do not want to go back to the future in relation to this. The 2018 Boland review and the independent review of workplace health and safety laws have reinforced the need, for the safety of workers, for entry permit holders to go in.

The majority of jurisdictions and the model workplace health and safety laws do not have a 24-hour notice period requirement for entry permit holders. I think it is very important that we maintain that consistency. We really do not see the reason to change that. Nothing has come forward about its abuse. We hear a lot of rhetoric in the House. Complaints to the commission or to inspectors are almost non-existent in relation to this issue. I really do not see the reason for this. It is an indication of things to come—at every opportunity winding back health and safety laws that protect workers. We do not see any need for this and we will be not supporting this amendment.

Members mentioned the restrictions around taking photos and videos. I said in my second reading speech that there were restrictions around this. I know as a health and safety practitioner myself that, when you are training or when you are trying to get a message across, a picture paints a thousand words. For example, when you take a photo of scaffolding that is not up to standard, people can see what happens. Where you see a ladder being used when it should not be used, where you see people working in situations where they should not be, where you see a tripping hazard for a nurse that has not been addressed, taking a photo of those things paints a thousand words. It is these circumstances

that we are talking about. Where you see power points that are not of the required electrical safety standard, taking a photo can show that. Where you see people doing a job that is unhealthy and that is not safe, by taking a photo you can see in practice how you can go about fixing that. That is what these provisions are about.

As practitioners, we know that photos and videos are very useful tools to get things done. It has not been regulated. For the first time we are actually regulating it in legislation, with all of the safeguards around it. I think that is a great step for our health and safety representatives. They do not have to be reprimanded or sacked for taking a photo of an unsafe situation—whether it be stairs, electrical power points, lighting, fans or, as I said, unsafe work practices where people are lifting or digging in trenches. It is very important that videos and photos can be taken to demonstrate the reason there may be a dispute or the reason things may need to be corrected et cetera.

The status of gig workers is a difficult area. As the member for Kawana said, often they claim to be independent contractors. I think the federal act has now been amended such that a decision can be made about whether or not they are workers. The member for Hinchinbrook raised some important points. We do not want them to miss out. If they are deemed to be workers then we want them to be covered under the system, but we need consistency and we need to do it in a proper manner.

We have now put in place that, should these provisions prevail in the federal Fair Work Act, we can then have them as workers under the workers compensation system. We can give notice this is going to happen, the independence of their contract is not something the Fair Work Commission has landed on, so therefore they meet the definition. I agree that it is not regulated at the moment. It is a complex area. We will be acting as soon as we can to get a consistent national approach. If they want to be independent contractors and the commission deems they are independent contractors, then they do not meet the definition of worker. Should that be reversed, we then have the ability to go in and cover them. When that happens, no-one will be happier than me to cover that group of workers.

I thank the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee and the Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee for their detailed consideration of the bills. My thanks go to all of the stakeholders, my staff and the department. They are all here. They have done an excellent job. I thank the union movement and employers for their contributions and I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 45, as read, agreed to.

Clause 46—

Division: Question put—That clause 46, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 50:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 32:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Pairs: S. King, Mickelberg; Sullivan, Frecklington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 46, as read, agreed to.

Clause 47, as read, agreed to.

Clause 48, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Ms GRACE (12.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, after line 6—

insert—

- (1) Section 15A(2) commences on the day after the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, chapter 12, part 15A, as inserted by this Act, expires.

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

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [[1576](#)].

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [[1577](#)].

Amendment agreed to.

Ms GRACE (12.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms GRACE: I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 7, before 'The'—

insert—

- (2)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 9, as read, agreed to.



Mr BLEIJIE (12.59 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 33:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, MacMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.


Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: S. King, Mickelberg; Sullivan, Frecklington.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bills having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Message from Governor

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (1.02 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the amendments circulated by the minister. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

MESSAGE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to amend the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 21 August 2024

Tabled paper: Message, dated 21 August 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending an amendment to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [[1578](#)].

Mr SPEAKER: I note that the minister's amendments Nos 5 and 6 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House.

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 3 to 15, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

3 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 554 (Appeal from court or commission in certain circumstances))

Page 13, lines 1 to 6—

omit.

4 Clause 14 (Amendment of s 557 (Appeal from commission))

Page 13, lines 7 to 11—

omit.

5 After clause 14

Page 13, after line 11—

insert—

14A Insertion of new ch 11, pt 8, div 4

Chapter 11, part 8—

insert—

Division 4 Miscellaneous

578AA Other orders for contravention of s 876K or 876P

(1) This section applies if a person contravenes the civil penalty provision in section 876K(2) or 876P(1).

- (2) On an application under section 572, the relevant industrial tribunal may make any other order the tribunal considers appropriate.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the relevant industrial tribunal may make an order requiring a person to comply, wholly or partly, with a notice given to the person under section 876K(1).
- (4) This section applies whether or not a civil penalty order is made in relation to the contravention.

578AB Expiry

This division expires on the day chapter 12, part 15A expires.

14B Insertion of new ch 12, pt 15A

Chapter 12—

insert—

Part 15A Administration of C&G division of CFMEUQ**Division 1 Preliminary****876A Application of part**

This part applies if the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU (federal), and its branches, have been placed under administration under the Commonwealth Registered Organisations Act.

876B Purpose of part

- (1) The purpose of this part is to enable the C&G division to be placed under administration to—
 - (a) protect the public interest; and
 - (b) ensure the C&G division acts lawfully and appropriately and in the interests of its members; and
 - (c) complement any corresponding administration scheme that is in effect.
- (2) In this section—

corresponding administration scheme means—

 - (a) the administration scheme for the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU (federal) mentioned in section 876A; or
 - (b) a scheme for the administration, under the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW), of the Construction and General Division of the organisation of employees registered under that Act with the registration number EE70.

876C Definitions for part

In this part—

administration notice see section 876E(2).

administration scheme see section 876E(2)(a).

administrator means a person appointed, under an administration notice or a gazette notice under section 876F(2), as the administrator of the C&G division.

CFMEU (federal) means the CFMEU within the meaning of the Commonwealth Registered Organisations Act, schedule 3, clause 1.

CFMEUQ means—

- (a) the organisation named, immediately before the commencement, the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland; or
- (b) if the organisation mentioned in paragraph (a) changes its name—the organisation under its new name; or
- (c) if the organisation mentioned in paragraph (a) amalgamates with another organisation under part 14, division 2—the amalgamated organisation.

CFMEUQ rules means the rules of the CFMEUQ to the extent the rules relate to the C&G division.

C&G division means the State Construction and General Division within the meaning of the rules of the CFMEUQ as the rules were in effect immediately before the commencement.

876D C&G division placed under administration

- (1) The C&G division is placed under administration on the later of the following days—
 - (a) the day an administration notice takes effect under section 876G;
 - (b) the day an administrator is appointed under the administration notice.

- (2) The administration ends on the day the administration notice is revoked under section 876H.

Division 2 Making of administration scheme and appointment of administrator

876E Power of Minister to make administration notice

- (1) This section applies if the Minister is satisfied it is in the public interest for the C&G division to be placed under administration, having regard to—
- (a) the purpose of this part; and
 - (b) any other matters the Minister considers relevant.
- (2) The Minister must, by gazette notice (an **administration notice**)—
- (a) establish a scheme for the administration of the C&G division (the **administration scheme**); and
 - (b) appoint a person to be administrator of the scheme.
- (3) The administration notice is a statutory instrument, but is not subordinate legislation.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (2)(a), the administration scheme may provide for any of the following matters—
- (a) the functions and powers of the administrator in relation to the scheme;
 - (b) the suspension, including suspension without pay, or removal of officers of the C&G division;
 - (c) the taking of disciplinary action, including the expulsion of members of the C&G division and disqualification of officers and former officers of the C&G division for up to 5 years;
 - (d) declaring stated offices in the C&G division to be vacant;
 - (e) terminating the employment of employees;
 - (f) the filling of positions of officers of the C&G division, including the holding of elections;
 - (g) altering the CFMEUQ rules;
 - (h) the engagement of persons to assist the administrator in performing the administrator's functions;
 - (i) the delegation of the administrator's functions or powers;
 - (j) requirements about reporting in relation to the administration;
 - (k) obligations of the administrator to cooperate with an inquiry by a law enforcement agency or regulatory body into—
 - (i) the CFMEUQ or the C&G division; or
 - (ii) officers or employees, or former officers or former employees, of the CFMEUQ or the C&G division;
 - (l) matters that are ancillary or incidental to the matters mentioned in any of paragraphs (a) to (k).
- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that the administration scheme may provide for the taking of disciplinary action in circumstances not provided for in the CFMEUQ rules.
- (6) The disqualification of an officer or former officer of the C&G division under the administration scheme is not limited by part 9, division 2.
- (7) The Minister is not required to provide procedural fairness in making the administration notice.

876F Period of administrator's appointment etc.

- (1) The administration notice may provide for—
- (a) the period of the administrator's appointment; and
 - (b) the terms of the administrator's appointment, including the remuneration the Minister considers appropriate.
- (2) The Minister may, by gazette notice, do any of the following—
- (a) terminate the appointment of the administrator;
 - (b) appoint another person as the administrator;
 - (c) vary the terms of the administrator's appointment.

876G When administration notice takes effect

The administration notice takes effect on—

- (a) the day the notice is published in the gazette; or
- (b) if a later day is stated in the notice—the stated day.

876H Variation and revocation of administration notice

- (1) The Minister may, by gazette notice—
 - (a) vary the administration notice, including to vary the administration scheme; or
 - (b) revoke the administration notice.
- (2) However, the administration notice must not be revoked earlier than the day that is 3 years after the day the scheme started unless—
 - (a) the administrator is satisfied the C&G division is functioning lawfully and appropriately and in the interests of its members; and
 - (b) the administrator gives the Minister a written notice stating the administrator is satisfied of the matter mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (3) In deciding whether to vary or revoke the administration notice, the Minister must have regard to—
 - (a) the purpose of this part; and
 - (b) any other matter the Minister considers relevant.
- (4) The Minister must obtain the consent of the administrator before varying or revoking the administration notice.
- (5) The Minister is not required to provide procedural fairness in varying or revoking the administration notice.

876I Interaction with chapter and CFMEUQ rules

- (1) This section applies if the administration notice or administration scheme is inconsistent with—
 - (a) a provision of this chapter; or
 - (b) the CFMEUQ rules.
- (2) The administration notice or administration scheme prevails to the extent of the inconsistency and is not limited by the provision of this chapter or the CFMEUQ rules.

Division 3 Functions and powers of administrator**876J Functions and powers of administrator**

- (1) While the C&G division is under administration, the administrator—
 - (a) has conduct and management of the affairs of the C&G division; and
 - (b) has control of, and may manage, the property of the C&G division; and
 - (c) may dispose of property of the C&G division; and
 - (d) may perform any function, or exercise any power, the C&G division could perform or exercise if it were not under administration.
- (2) To remove any doubt, it is declared that in performing functions and exercising powers as administrator, the administrator may undertake investigations into past practices of the C&G division.
- (3) The administrator also has the functions of—
 - (a) promoting compliance by the C&G division with the laws, including workplace laws, of the State and the Commonwealth; and
 - (b) ensuring officers and employees of the C&G division have complied (including before the commencement), and continue to comply, with their obligations under this chapter; and
 - (c) to the extent an officer or employee of the C&G division has not complied with an obligation under this chapter (including before the commencement)—as far as reasonably practicable, ensuring the officer or employee is held accountable for the noncompliance.
- (4) In performing functions and exercising powers as administrator, the administrator must have regard to—
 - (a) the purpose of this part; and
 - (b) the objectives of the CFMEUQ as stated in the rules of the CFMEUQ as in effect on the commencement and to the extent the rules are lawful.
- (5) A reference in this section to property of the C&G division includes a reference to property of the CFMEUQ that, immediately before the commencement, was solely or predominantly used for the benefit or purposes of the C&G division.

876K Providing assistance to administrator

- (1) The administrator may, for performing the administrator's functions, by written notice to a relevant person, require the person to do the following—
 - (a) give the administrator documents in the person's possession that are reasonably required by the administrator to perform the functions;

- (b) give the administrator any other information or assistance reasonably required by the administrator for the performance of the functions.
- (2) A relevant person who is given a notice under subsection (1) must comply with the notice unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Notes—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | This subsection is a civil penalty provision. |
| 2 | See also section 571 in relation to persons involved in a contravention of a civil penalty provision. |
- (3) It is a reasonable excuse for the relevant person not to comply with the notice if doing so might tend to incriminate the person.
- (4) In this section—
- relevant person** means—
- (a) an officer, agent or employee of the CFMEUQ or any of its divisions; or
- (b) a former officer, agent or employee of the CFMEUQ or any of its divisions; or
- (c) a person who provides, or provided, services to the CFMEUQ or the C&G division under a contract or agreement; or
- (d) a person prescribed by regulation.

876L Reporting to Minister

- (1) The administrator must give the Minister a report about the operation of the administration scheme—
- (a) no later than 6 months after the administration notice takes effect under section 876G; and
- (b) within 28 days after the end of each subsequent 6-month period until the administration notice is revoked under section 876H.
- (2) The Minister must table a copy of a report in the Legislative Assembly within 15 sitting days after the Minister receives the report.

876M Protection from liability

- (1) The administrator is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under this part.
- (2) If subsection (1) prevents civil liability attaching to a person, the liability attaches instead to the State.

876N Actions of administrator under administration scheme

- (1) Actions of the administrator, including actions mentioned in section 876E(4)(b) and (c), have effect—
- (a) regardless of the ending of the administration under section 876D(2); and
- (b) after the expiry of this part; and
- (c) despite any provision of this chapter or the CFMEUQ rules.
- (2) A regulation may prescribe the effect of actions taken under the administration scheme for the purposes of other laws.
- (3) This section does not limit the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, sections 20 and 20A.

876O Application of pt 15, div 3

Part 15, division 3 does not apply in relation to the administrator in performing functions or exercising powers under this part.

Division 4 Other provisions for operation of administration scheme**876P Anti-avoidance provision**

- (1) A person must not, without a reasonable excuse, engage in conduct if, as a result of the conduct—
- (a) another person is prevented from taking action under the administration scheme; or
- (b) the administrator is prevented from effectively administering the administration scheme.

Maximum penalty—6,000 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

Notes—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | This subsection is a civil penalty provision. |
| 2 | See also section 571 in relation to persons involved in a contravention of a civil penalty provision. |
| 3 | See also the Criminal Code, section 7 and section 937 of this Act in relation to parties to an offence against this subsection. |

- (2) A criminal proceeding may be started against a person for a contravention of subsection (1) regardless of whether a civil penalty has been imposed on the person for the contravention.
- (3) However, a civil penalty must not be imposed on a person on the grounds of a contravention of subsection (1) if the person has been convicted of an offence against subsection (1).
- (4) This section applies despite section 571(1).
- (5) In this section—
conduct includes a course of conduct.
convicted means found guilty, or having a plea of guilty accepted, by a court whether or not a conviction is recorded.

876Q Disclosure of information to administrator by registrar or inspector

- (1) This section applies to a person who is or was either of the following (each an **official**)—
 - (a) the registrar;
 - (b) an inspector.
- (2) The official may disclose to the administrator, for the purposes of the administration scheme, information about the C&G division that is in the official's possession or control.
- (3) The administrator may use information disclosed under this section for the purposes of the administration scheme.
- (4) A person who, acting honestly, discloses or uses information under this section is not liable, civilly, criminally or under an administrative process, for the disclosure or use.

876R Costs of administration

Subject to the administration notice, the costs of the administration, including the costs incurred by the administrator in acting under the administration scheme, are payable by the C&G division.

876S Alteration of CFMEUQ rules under administration scheme

- (1) This section applies if an alteration of the CFMEUQ rules is made under the administration scheme.
- (2) The administrator must, within 35 days after the alteration is made or a longer period decided by the registrar, file written notice of the particulars of the alteration.
- (3) The notice must include a declaration by the administrator that—
 - (a) the alteration was made in accordance with the administration scheme; and
 - (b) the particulars stated in the notice are true and correct to the best of the administrator's knowledge and belief.
- (4) The registrar may, with the administrator's consent, amend the alteration to correct a typographical, clerical or formal error.
- (5) The alteration does not take effect unless—
 - (a) subsections (2) and (3) have been complied with for the alteration; and
 - (b) the registrar has certified that, in the registrar's opinion, the alteration—
 - (i) complies with, and is not contrary to, this Act, the Commonwealth Fair Work Act, modern awards and enterprise agreements; and
 - (ii) is not otherwise contrary to law; and
 - (iii) has been made in accordance with the administration scheme.
- (6) The alteration takes effect on the day it is certified under subsection (5).
- (7) This section applies despite part 6.

876T Decision about excluded matter final

- (1) Unless the Supreme Court decides that a decision about an excluded matter is affected by jurisdictional error, the decision—
 - (a) is final and conclusive; and
 - (b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside or called in question in any other way under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or otherwise (whether by the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity); and
 - (c) is not subject to any declaratory, injunctive or other order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on any ground.
- (2) The *Judicial Review Act 1991*, part 5 applies to a decision about an excluded matter to the extent it is affected by jurisdictional error.
- (3) In this section—
excluded matter means a decision to make, vary or revoke an administration notice.

Division 5 Expiry
876U Expiry

This part expires on the day that is 5 years after the day this section commences.

6 After clause 15

Page 14, after line 4—

*insert—***15A Amendment of sch 3 (Civil penalties)**

(1) Schedule 3—

insert—

Chapter 12—Industrial organisations and associated entities				
s 876K(2)(Providing assistance to administrator)	(a)	the administrator under chapter 12, part 15A	the commission	1,200 penalty units
	(b)	a person prescribed by regulation		
s 876P(1)(Anti-avoidance provision)	(a)	the administrator under chapter 12, part 15A	the commission	1,200 penalty units
	(b)	a person prescribed by regulation		

(2) Schedule 3, entry for chapter 12, as inserted by this section—

*omit.***7 Clause 35 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 9, div 2A)**

Page 22, line 33, 'and'—

*omit.***8 Clause 40 (Amendment of s 220 (Insurer's responsibility for rehabilitation and return to work))**

Page 28, line 10, '221A'—

omit, insert—

221AA

9 Clause 50 (Replacement of s 486A (Code of practice))

Page 35, line 31—

omit, insert—

(iv) section 232AB(1); or

(v) section 232AC(2); or

10 Clause 51 (Amendment of s 486B (Effect of code of practice))

Page 36, line 16, '486B'—

omit, insert—

486A

11 Clause 60 (Amendment of sch 4A (Specified diseases))

Page 51, before line 1—

insert—

primary site uterine cancer 10 years

12 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 56, line 12, '(4)'—

omit, insert—

(5)

13 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 56, lines 19 to 22—

*omit, insert—***12 Section 325Q(2), examples, 'an industrial organisation'—***omit, insert—*

a registered industrial organisation

- 14 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)**
Page 57, line 1, '325S(2)(b)(ii)'—
omit, insert—

325S(2)(a)(ii)

- 15 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)**
Page 58, line 9, '(2)(b)(viab)'—
omit, insert—

(1)(b)(viab)

Question put—That clauses 10 to 65 and schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 12, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 13 and 14 omitted.

Clauses 15 to 65 and schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the long title of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


Question put—That the long title of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.04 pm to 2.00 pm.


DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Pitt, Hon. C

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I want to add my own few words of congratulations to Mr Speaker as I will not get the opportunity to speak from the floor this afternoon. It has been a great pleasure to work with Mr Speaker in many capacities over the last decade, and I knew him for many years before that. I wish him all the best in the future. I know he will definitely treasure his time with his family. On that point, it would be remiss of me not to wish my mother-in-law, Nola Adams, a happy birthday. I am very sad I cannot be there today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Victims of Crime, Women


 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.00 pm): The LNP opposition believes victims of crime, the LNP opposition believes domestic and family violence victims and an LNP government will believe domestic violence victims—unlike those opposite. Today we heard the police minister and the Premier claiming to have not known about the issue of releasing the private information of a domestic violence victim. This was the person they needed to protect, but in fact they protected the perpetrator. This victim had done everything to protect herself, and I want to applaud her for her courage in coming forward to the minister, not just once but three times, where it fell on deaf ears. This highlights a systemic failure by the minister's office and the Police Service that he oversees.

The LNP have pointed out system failures over the past four years, with the DNA lab debacle being the greatest of them. We saw hundreds of victims failed by this Labor government. We continue to stand up for victims. We continue to believe women. Women are not safer under this Labor government. I hear those opposite, particularly the female members, scaremongering across this state. I give an undertaking to women across this state that they will be safer under an LNP government, that they do not have anything to fear about their personal health and safety and their choices. When they come forward to make a decision to flee domestic and family violence, when they come forward to make a choice about their body, when they come forward to make a choice about the way in which they want to live their life in this state, they should be able to do that in a way that is free, that is safe and that is respected by the government that leads this state.

DV victims under this Labor government are not safer. Women under this Labor government are not safer, and that has been demonstrated time and time again by every statistic that is out there. Those opposite want the women of Queensland to believe that they are safer, but they do nothing but pay lip-service. Under an LNP government, we will make sure that women are safe, we will make sure that perpetrators are held to account and we will make sure that ministers take accountability and action when a victim cries out for support.

(Time expired)

Lytton Electorate, Community Organisations

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.03 pm): Brisbane's baysiders are caring and loving people. I am blessed not only to represent but also to live in such a compassionate community, where vulnerable people can access a range of services and help from many brilliant local community organisations. From St Pete's Pantry, Silky Oaks, the Y Hub, the Wynnum Baptist Church, Rosies and so many others, hundreds of dedicated volunteers across my community are changing lives with their food drives and support services. Thank goodness for these wonderful professional organisations and their volunteers.


I recently toured the Wynnum Baptist Church, whose industrial-sized kitchens, freezers and pantries can cater for hundreds of hungry baysiders. With their army of loving and well-trained volunteers and parishioners, they stand ready and able to serve the needy and the hungry. They provide a playgroup for their community and support for young families.

I am a regular volunteer and supporter of St Pete's Pantry. In fact, I dropped in just a fortnight ago to help a young man who was homeless and sleeping at the back of my electorate office in the car park. When I attended, there were 40 people at St Pete's Pantry enjoying a warm breakfast and a cuppa after a cold evening as well as a lot of nice social inclusion and access to a range of community services. There was a bus at the rear to give them the opportunity to wash and refresh their clothes. There was nothing but love and care given to those gathered and in need by the group of committed volunteers from across the community and all faith groups.

There is the YMCA Wynnum Community Hub, or the Y Hub as we like to call it, just across the road which has been proudly supported in Wynnum by the Queensland government since 2022. The Y Hub provides a magnificent range of services for everyone to connect and seek support. The Y Hub is open Monday to Friday in the Wynnum Community Place on Florence Street in Wynnum. Services include resources for housing, seniors, family and domestic violence in our community as well as food relief and emergency relief funding. I worked so hard to obtain funding for a community centre and I am thrilled to see the Y Hub's work and support. I am so proud of the highly professional staff and the management at the Y Hub. They continue to carry out their roles diligently and compassionately. They have a proven track record of supporting our most vulnerable in the bayside.

We live in a wonderful and caring community, and we can all have faith that these groups will continue to go above and beyond to meet the needs of those most vulnerable on the bayside. Truly, angels walk among us in the bayside.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.06 pm): My views and my experience around domestic and family violence are well known in this place. Domestic and family violence is a scourge on our society. I am a survivor of domestic and family violence and I have seen its wretchedness firsthand. As the LNP's shadow minister for women, I think it is important to acknowledge that when we have this conversation we must recognise that this scourge affects women at significantly higher rates than men. That is a well-known and well-established fact. Despite this, the scourge does not necessarily discriminate on age, class, religion or creed. Often it lurks in the dark, hidden in plain view across the


cities and towns of our state. The impacts are real and severe. There is a societal impact of course, but the individual impacts are those which are most frightening. For those who have lived through it, the impacts do not ever leave. They are forever etched into their memory, into their minds and into their very being. The scars can be physical or they can be psychological—often both.

Every situation and circumstance is different but the level of courage it takes to come forward is truly immense. In some cases, coming forward might literally be a case of someone putting their life on the line. That is how serious this is. When a victim comes forward, we as a society need to make sure that victim or victims are cared for, that the necessary support services are wrapped around them and, perhaps most importantly, that they are protected. Through reporting in the media, we knew some time ago that victims of crime may have had their personal details leaked to the perpetrators who committed the crimes against them. The scale remains somewhat unknown. We understand that in at least one case the victim of crime was in fact a victim of family and domestic violence.

Just imagine: the person from whom you have fled in fear of your safety, in fear of your life even, now has your personal details, including your address. The fact that CCTV cameras had to be installed in that individual's house at the expense of the government shows that something went seriously wrong, yet despite estimates senior police saying they were not aware of the issue, it has now come to light that the minister knew. He knew as early as March that a victim's details had been given to their perpetrator. When asked about it this morning, the minister first said he did not know anything about it. Then by the time of the next question, all of a sudden he knew everything about it. Minister, you cannot have it both ways. If there is a serious problem—and this is a serious problem—then Queenslanders deserve to know about it. Victims and survivors of family and domestic violence need to know about it and their protection has to be paramount. It has to be. If a problem was known and not acted on, that is gravely concerning. The government owes it to victims to be doing better than this.

(Time expired)

Bribie Island Satellite Hospital

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.09 pm): I cannot begin my contribution without addressing the comments of the member for Whitsunday. Like many women on this side of the chamber, I spent the 2020 election surrounded by Cherish Life activists who were campaigning actively against a woman's right to choose, using corflutes that were displayed on LNP A-frames. Those opposite cannot claim to support a woman's right to choose. Shame on you.

On a more positive note, every day I hear how Labor's vision to deliver free hospital care in the heart of our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital is changing lives for the better. Bribie local, Kate, told me—

At the satellite hospital on Tuesday night, I have no words for how amazing the doctor I saw was. So I personally, as a resident, would like to thank you for our satellite hospital.

That is what Labor governments do: we build hospitals; we invest in public health care closer to home; we back our health workers; we do not sack them in their thousands; and we do not close hospitals like the LNP did.

I fought every day to deliver our Bribie Island Satellite Hospital and to now see stage 2 built which will deliver chemotherapy services into our community. I say to our community: make no mistake, our satellite hospital is under threat from the LNP. The LNP attacked our satellite hospital every step of the way. The very day we announced it, LNP figures rang me to demand we spend the money on a private hospital instead. They have denied that there are doctors at our satellite hospital, they have said there is no X-ray equipment, they have attacked the services, and they have told people not to use our satellite hospital. This is dangerous fake news. It risks locals not seeking health care when they need it. It has been disappointing to see attacks on our satellite hospital being spread by the LNP's candidate for Pumicestone; that is, when she is not boasting that she will be the youngest woman ever elected.

Who can forget the last time the LNP elected the youngest ever MP, Campbell Newman's member for Lytton, the young man who stood by while Campbell Newman closed Wynnum Hospital, the young man too inexperienced to stand up for his own community hospital? We do not want to see that history repeated in Pumicestone.


We have seen that the Leader of the Opposition is not honest with Queenslanders. He will not answer hard questions like whether his business traded while insolvent or failed to pay tax. He could not balance the books on his business and he will not come clean with his plan for health cuts.

LNP shadow ministers admit they have already identified areas they can prune. The member for Burnett called health worker entitlements 'unrealistic'. The shadow health minister attacks our satellite hospitals and calls regional health workers 'duds'.

Despite the Leader of the Opposition's shifty silence, we know what is in the LNP's health cuts plan. They will privatise our satellite hospital, they will downgrade the critical services it offers, and they will sack local doctors and nurses. The LNP have gutted Queensland Health before and they will do it again. We cannot trust the LNP on health.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime, Release of Identifying Information

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.13 pm): I want to quote the Information Commissioner who said, 'For vulnerable members of the community, such as domestic violence victims, a privacy breach can mean serious and irreversible harm, potentially a matter of life or death.' Those comments were part of the Information Commissioner's submission to the Coaldrake review that was published in June 2022, *Let the sunshine in*. What has this government learned since that statement was made and the recommendation from the Coaldrake review to have a mandatory data breach notification? It appears nothing, because we heard this morning that one of the most vulnerable members of our community whose life was potentially at grave risk from a perpetrator seriously threatening their life and, in a domestic violence situation, had their private details released to the perpetrator. It seems to be that the government is more concerned about covering up than admitting they knew and taking action in a timely way.


Coaldrake recommended mandatory data breach notifications. It has taken this government a long time since then and we will not see most of that implemented until the middle of next year, even though it had been recommended since 2020 by the CCC and other agencies to have a mechanism in place.

There was already a duty of care for this government to ensure safety. They had a vulnerable DV victim write to them saying, 'There has been a breach. It has impacted my safety.' Multiple times they contacted the police minister, yet the police minister is still vague about what he knew and what action he took. In fact—

Mrs Gerber: He says he didn't know.

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, he said he didn't know. The systemic issues are insulting to the people most vulnerable who could have lost their lives because of this breach. This government has not taken responsibility. They have not come clean and they have not fessed up to the most damaging situation. They should not have to wait for the law to be implemented next year before action is taken; they should uphold their duty of care to act immediately and to not cover up. Still we have not had the police minister advise when he knew and when he advised and why his staff had these emails and he allegedly did not know. It is time that the victims of crime were listened to. It is time that women who are victims of domestic violence are protected. This government has failed in their duty of care to do that.

Cape York and Torres Strait, Health Care

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.16 pm): I rise to speak on some of the good things our Miles Labor government is doing to address health outcomes in Cape York and Torres Strait. Cook is one of the most complex electorates in Queensland, and communities in the Torres Strait and Cape York are probably one of the most socially disadvantaged area in the electorate. Job opportunities are few and far between, and because of the lack of employment opportunities there is a large majority of people on low wages. I also acknowledge that the tyranny of distance adds a lot of pressure on the health and wellbeing of people living in these communities, so when it comes to health, you cannot just look at health through a narrow lens.


Health is not only about the physical aspect of an individual's wellbeing; health is also about the social, emotional, mental, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of a person. When addressing health, it is important the government looks at health from an holistic perspective. The Miles government is committed to closing the gap for health outcomes in Cape York and Torres Strait. Some of the investment that we have delivered in Cape York and Torres Strait includes: the Thursday Island Hospital redevelopment; the TI Primary Healthcare Centre redevelopment; refurbishment of four primary healthcare centres on the outer islands of the Torres Strait, including Masig which I visited two years ago; brand new primary healthcare centre on Mer Island in the Torres Strait; delivering a brand new

clinic in Pormpuraaw; staff accommodation in Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw, Laura and Bamaga; we have reinstated the birthing suite in Weipa; and we have committed to redeveloping Cooktown Hospital which I am very proud of. We are doing a lot of good things by investing in infrastructure because we acknowledge that quality of care is important and people living in these communities deserve the best health care.

Our strategy to addressing health care in the regions includes building on our nation-leading health equity legislation and our Making Tracks investment. Our First Nations First strategy aims to accelerate reform to improve health and wellbeing with First Nations Queenslanders.

There is lots we have done in this space to also look at the social determinants of health. Cost of living is one. We held a cost-of-living summit on Thursday Island in 2023. As a result of that, we have announced a \$64 million freight subsidy. We have increased the 5.2 per cent discount at the cash register to 20 per cent which is a huge increase, making food affordable in communities. Like I said, we need to look at health from an holistic perspective. We are delivering houses and more support for services looking after vulnerable Queenslanders.


Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.19 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I want you to imagine this. You are a domestic violence survivor. Your DV perpetrator has stalked you, has harassed you, has threatened serious harm and violence against you and has been convicted. You have multiple DV orders against this perpetrator. He has threatened your life. You feel so unsafe that to protect you and your family you flee, moving multiple times in order to keep your location secret, only to discover that the Miles Labor government handed over your home address to your DV perpetrator. It was written there, inked in black and white, on a document given to your perpetrator. This happened to five victims of crime that we know of. It gets worse. The very same government that is meant to protect you claims it was not aware of this systemic failure until it saw it on the news.

Today we learned that victims emailed the minister in March, in April and in May to alert him to this systemic failure. They also wrote to Premier Miles. They risked their lives. The minister's own office referred the matter to the CCC and offered the victims CCTV cameras, as if that would be enough to protect them. Still, the minister and the commissioner claimed at estimates that they did not know. How can women feel safe under this state Labor government when, despite all of this, the minister claims he did not know. It was his job to know. It is their job to protect women and to believe women survivors who come forward to highlight systemic failures in the DV space and in the victim space.

This is a fundamental failure by those opposite. That the minister claims he did not know but in the same breath claims they are taking action is an absolute disgrace. That tells you everything you need to know about this Miles Labor government. They cannot protect women from domestic violence; they cannot protect women who are suffering as victims of crime. They have failed in their utmost responsibility as a government—that is, to keep victims of domestic violence and victims of crime safe. This is a state Labor government that is more interested in protecting itself. This minister is more interested in protecting himself than in protecting victim-survivors of DV and victims of crime.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.22 pm): The Miles government is doing what matters for Queensland. In the just over two weeks since 50-cent fares started, we have seen South-East Queensland commuters return to public transport, with public transport use in South-East Queensland reaching 99 per cent of pre-COVID levels. This includes heavy rail, up 15 per cent from last year. In my first speech in this place I made my commitment to delivering a better integrated transport network. This included a train station at Strathpine that was equipped with improved equity of access. Through strong advocacy, this is something I have already delivered, with our government's accessibility upgrade at Strathpine station. I also spoke in my first speech about having a train station at Strathpine without a dangerous level crossing to remove lengthy delays for commuters and allow for more train services.


I am determined to deliver what matters for my community, whether it be cost-of-living relief through 50-cent fares, equitable access to Strathpine station or the unfinished business of the open level crossing at South Pine Road, Strathpine. This is in stark contrast to the LNP. We know that they will never invest in our transport system. When last in government they cut \$1.6 billion from our transport budget and sacked 1,700 rail workers.

We have overseen a record investment in our transport system through South-East Queensland including Cross River Rail, and this opens up so many more possibilities. We can deliver more services more often along the Caboolture line, but we need to fix the Strathpine level crossing to make the most of this huge investment. I know that the Strathpine level crossing is increasing commute times on our roads and is continuing to cause safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians. It is the entry to a critical artery for the bustling industrial hub of Brendale. South Pine is an essential road in our network as well. Right now it is a choke point, and I want to see it functioning with far less delays.

Busting congestion and creating safer roads are two of my top priorities. That is why I am launching a local campaign and taking up the fight to fix the Strathpine level crossing. Our growing community deserves to be heard and I want them to be. That is why I can inform the House that I am kicking off a campaign to fund a level crossing study for Strathpine. We can start the process of removing this dangerous level crossing for our community.

I recall that when I first was elected Shelley took me to that spot. She is in a motorised scooter. She was at the level crossing as a pedestrian when she was hit by a train while trying to cross the road at South Pine. I have seen firsthand the impact this is having on the lives of members of our community. I want to make sure that we make improvements to this space. That is why I am so committed to ensuring this campaign kicks off.

Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services; Parole Board, Former President

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.25 pm): I was waiting with great anticipation for Minister Boyd to stand up and give a recollection of her events from estimates. She could not recall a lot when she was asked questions about issues surrounding the resignation of the Parole Board former president. We asked her questions about it yesterday and today. I was waiting in anticipation for her to give an explanation, but she has not. She has neglected the opportunity to explain what she knew and when she knew it, because none of it makes sense.

There is a stench around the resignation of the Parole Board former president. It started at budget estimates when my honourable colleague the shadow minister was asking questions of Minister Boyd about any allegations. She said, 'Not that I can recall.' If you go through *Hansard* you will see, 'I cannot recall', 'I cannot remember', 'Not that I can recall'—time and time again.

On the Monday following Friday's estimates hearing, the minister tabled a statement through parliament that said, 'I have been reminded that I did know about certain allegations about the Parole Board president.' The next day, the Tuesday, she did a media conference to further clarify the situation. I would say she made it even more muddied. Then she wrote a letter to the parliamentary committee which further, in her words, 'clarified' but I think muddied the story even further.

Here is the reality: the minister knew exactly what she was doing. Nothing gives me more satisfaction than watching a new minister come into estimates. They are so arrogant.


An opposition member: Cocky!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. She came in, she was so cocky, she knew what she was doing—'I'm going to slaughter the opposition.' At the very first question she went to water, looked to the sky: 'Not that I can recall'. It turns out she did know. Here are the questions that need answering. Why did the minister seek Crown Law advice if she knew nothing about the allegations? Why does a minister go to Crown Law? What advice did she seek? She should table the advice and let us all know. When were the allegations against the Parole Board former president made to the CCC? She has not answered that question.

Why did the minister meet with Mr Byrne after being notified he was subject to a Crime and Corruption Commission referral? She deliberately and knowingly had a meeting with Mr Byrne that afternoon—and without any departmental staff. Yet when she was told about the allegations by the commissioner in the morning, she did have departmental staff. All of a sudden, departmental staff are kicked out of the room and Mr Byrne comes in. What was discussed? The minister will not tell us. Why was her office negotiating a resignation date—a resignation date that fell one day after the seven-year anniversary of his appointment, meaning he gets \$30,000 extra a year in pension for life? This is dodgy. Something smells and Minister Boyd must explain herself more than she has.

(Time expired)

Member for Broadwater

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.28 pm): Do you know what stinks? Two hundred thousand smells over there. I love speaking after the member for Kawana. He came to my electorate the other day and my polling went through the roof! He can come up anytime he likes. I will give him an office; that is how badly I want him there.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: They certainly do, and they do not like you.


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

Mr SAUNDERS: The minister visited my electorate the other day at the new rural fire training centre in Maryborough. We have been talking about that today on Yellow Ribbon Day. It is fantastic for our rural fires. It was great to be there with the minister to turn over the old TAFE site. Guess who closed the old TAFE site? It was the LNP. Maryborough is on fire at the moment with the great things that the Miles Labor government is delivering. We have the Torbanlea facility on track and building the trains. Everything is going ahead. Of course we will probably have the 'Crisafulli express' if those opposite get elected; those trains would go back over to India.

All those opposite do is talk about law and order. However, when they were in power the LNP sacked 15 people from the Maryborough Correctional Centre. They were key prisoner rehabilitation positions that included trade instructors, counsellors, program officers, education officers—staff that are critical to break the cycle of crime. They sacked 15 from that correctional centre, and then they come in here and talk about crime. They have more hide than Jessie the elephant to come in here, carry on and talk about that. It really shows there is no depth to it.

I want ask a question. Has everyone seen the movie *Jerry Maguire*? Show me the money! I want to say: show me where the money has come from, that \$200,000. Who has a lazy \$200,000 in their back pocket? Who has a lazy \$200,000 they can pay? I want to know. This is a question for the Leader of the Opposition. He should stand up and say where the \$200,000 came from. If it came out of his bank account, he should show it. Show us the money. Is it hush money? Where did it come from? Did it come from the mining lobby? Where did it come from? We would like to know. I personally would like to know where the \$200,000 came from. I know there are not many in my electorate who have 200,000 lazy dollars sitting in their back pocket they could pay a bill with. Let's see where the money came from. I want to see the money trail. We have digital banking now; we can prove it. Just print off the things and show us where the \$200,000 came from. It is like the *Jerry Maguire* movie: show me where the money came from. That is all I want to know. Show me where the money is.

Parole Board, Former President; Yellow Ribbon Day

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.31 pm): If you have something to say, just say it. Those were the words of the Minister for Corrective Services on 26 July during the estimates hearing. In fact, the minister used those very same words again when being asked about the resignation of the former president of the Parole Board. Despite encouraging others to 'just say it', the minister seems reluctant to follow her own advice. A short time later when asked if she was aware of those allegations relating to allowances claimed by the former president, the minister replied, 'Not that I can recall,' and went on to say that when she met with Mr Byrne on 12 June she said—

... I stressed the importance of having a parole board that was well managed and operating effectively and one that the community has confidence in.


We now know, as the minister stated in this House yesterday, she had sought and obtained advice from Crown law prior to the meeting on 12 June. It is fair to wonder why a minister would need advice from Crown law prior to a meeting, especially seeing as the minister merely intended to speak about the importance of good management, effective operations and community confidence.

On several occasions during the course of that estimates hearing and in this House the minister was given the opportunity to, as she suggested, 'just say it'. We know that when the minister met with the former president of the Parole Board she was aware that he had been referred to the CCC, a fact she could not recall during the estimates hearing. A few days later the minister's recollection magically returned via both a public statement tabled on 29 July and in an interview with the *Courier-Mail*. Given the fact that prior to the 12 June meeting the minister knew about the CCC referral and had sought advice from Crown law, Queenslanders would be right to jump to conclusions, let alone the fact that the resignation date agreed upon ensured Mr Byrne would receive—and wait for it—an additional \$30,000 per year for the rest of his life. Queenslanders should not have to jump to conclusions when it comes

to statutory bodies and the actions of ministers and senior Labor staffers. This government promised transparency and Queenslanders deserve the truth. Instead, we are being referred time and time again to written statements. I say to the minister: please follow your own advice and if you have something to say, just say it.

In the time I have remaining I acknowledge all of our rural fires on Yellow Ribbon Day as part of Rural Fire Service Week. They do a great job right across the state and we appreciate everything they do for us.

Liberal National Party; Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): The hypocrisy and the audacity of some of the LNP members' contributions in this chamber beggars belief. Seriously, it is remarkable. I pick up where the member for Pumicestone left off. I recall vividly those horrendous billboards that Cherish Life put out when it came to termination of pregnancy. They were horrific. I had constituents ringing me as their kids were seeing those billboards. They were asking me, 'What can you do to remove them? They are just that awful.' I say to the member for Whitsunday that there is not one person from the LNP sitting in the chamber currently who was in here for that debate who voted for termination of pregnancy. Not one! The only three who crossed the floor were the member for Chatsworth, the member for Clayfield and the former member for Currumbin. They were the three who crossed the floor.


I do not know if the member for Whitsunday has spoken to the LNP candidate for Oodgeroo or the current member for Oodgeroo, but I can certainly tell her what their position is on termination of pregnancy and voluntary assisted dying. People's ability to have choice, autonomy and dignity is not something that is represented on that side of the chamber. Quite frankly, I would really love to hear the member for Whitsunday's explanation given that was the voting pattern in this chamber.

Turning to something more positive, though, next week is going to be huge in the Redlands. We have community cabinet coming to the Redlands. The Premier and all the cabinet ministers are coming out to see all the wonderful things that are occurring in the Redlands. People will have an opportunity to meet one on one with ministers, which will be a fantastic opportunity for locals to come and talk about the issues that matter most to them. I am extraordinarily excited for that and for the town hall that will happen. We have Minister Ryan coming to a breakfast with the commissioner to thank all of our frontline emergency responders. That is particularly important on Yellow Ribbon Day today because our rural fires do an amazing job.

I am really pleased we are going to have community cabinet in my electorate. There is so much to show them. I think TAFE might be one of the sites we will be visiting. It is important to have reputable training organisations delivering high-quality training. Never has delivering quality training been more in the spotlight than this week. It will also be exciting to check out our satellite hospital, something that I know the opposition has no desire to maintain. They came out last week and all they had to announce in the Redlands was that they were going to change the name of the satellite hospital. That is all they had to offer for Redlanders. The contrast is so stark between the LNP and our Miles Labor government in terms of what we are delivering: the satellite hospital, the new intensive care unit that will open next year with an extra 38 beds as well as the Lagoon Ward. There is so much work happening out in the Redlands. I cannot wait for next week.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Law and Order

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.37 pm): Labor has failed regional Queenslanders. They have left them to fight for themselves in a state that is rapidly becoming lawless and without leadership. Queensland has become the pin-up state for crime. Criminal gangs and recidivist youth offenders are more likely to be included in a sentence to describe Queensland than our beautiful beaches and laid-back lifestyle. Reports of brazen acts of crime lead every news bulletin. Crimes that once took place in dark, seedy underbellies are now commonplace on suburban streets and in occupied family homes. No matter where people live, they either have been or know a victim of crime.


Crime in regional Queensland has surged four times higher than in Brisbane. Sadly, once quiet and safe towns in regional Queensland have become the epicentre of Labor's crime crisis. Allow me to give honourable members a snapshot of recent QPS statistics. In Mount Isa 4,000 offences per 100,000 people were recorded. This is an astonishing figure. Townsville has the second highest crime rate of 1,541 offences per 100,000 people. Far North Queensland recorded 1,373 offences per 100,000. In

Capricornia 1,081 offences were recorded per 100,000 people and in Mackay 953 offences were recorded per 100,000 people. These figures are alarming and proof that under Labor regional Queenslanders are treated like second-class citizens and are worse off.

People living in Brisbane do not feel safe either. In North Brisbane 885 offences were recorded per 100,000 people and in South Brisbane 713 crimes were committed per 100,000 people. Labor's crime crisis has torn communities apart. Proud regional cities from Cairns to Mount Isa and even in my home town on the Sunshine Coast have been hijacked by a generation of untouchables. Just last night an elderly couple in Fairmeadow Road in Nambour were threatened with a knife by two young offenders trying to steal their car. This has become a daily occurrence thanks to the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor government that proudly and loudly watered down the laws in 2015, and regional Queensland has borne the brunt. Despite all of Labor's promises, announcements, media releases, meetings and forums, nothing has changed. It has only become worse.

Only the LNP has the right plan for Queensland's future, and that includes making our communities safer. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws will be introduced before the end of the year. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy will restore consequences for actions, with youth offenders held accountable for their crimes. An LNP government will make essential changes to the Youth Justice Act, including removing detention as a last resort and enshrining in legislation the rights of victims ahead of offenders. Our laws will restore consequences for actions and send a strong message that if you commit serious crime you will pay with adult time.

Fire Ants

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.40 pm): We know that the LNP cannot be trusted when it comes to biosecurity. I was astounded to read in the *Sunday Mail* last weekend—and I table a copy of the article—that the leader of the National Party, David Littleproud, was casting doubt on the national fire ant program, alluding to treatment impacts on pets.

Tabled paper: Extract from the *Sunday Mail*, dated 18 August 2024, regarding fire ant mitigation [[1579](#)].

It is disgraceful that a former agriculture minister of this country was dog whistling about an eradication program—in fact, Australia's largest biosecurity eradication program. The LNP's David Littleproud was the on-and-off agriculture minister of this country from 2017 to 2022 and chair of the Agricultural Ministers' Meeting that oversights this program, as well as the Commonwealth government being the main funding contributor to the program at a 50 per cent cost share. This gave David Littleproud years to get briefed on this program and appreciate the facts, yet he is wilfully ignoring the facts, never bothered to learn them or, more concerningly, is deliberately spreading misinformation about the program.

David Littleproud should know some basic facts when it comes to the bait containing insect growth regulators. For example, an average suburban residential block of approximately 500 square metres would receive about 100 grams of treatment product containing only half a gram of IGR. Based on the available scientific literature and data collected by the department over approximately 20 years of use, the concentration of the IGR treatment used by the department is not considered toxic to humans, flora, fauna or aquatic systems. He should know this as I sent this to him in a letter in July this year. I table a copy of that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 July 2024, from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, Hon. Mark Furner, to the Leader of the National Party and federal member for Maranoa, Hon. David Littleproud, regarding the National Fire Ant Eradication Program [[1580](#)].

Biosecurity should not be politicised. There will always be legitimate queries and debates, but the recent contributions from David Littleproud should be condemned.

The science regarding this pest is clear. I thank those members of the House who attended the Invasive Species Council briefing by Associate Professor Robert Puckett from the Texas A&M University just this week. The situation in the United States is dire when it comes to fire ants. They cost billions of dollars every year. Robert Puckett is confident that we can eradicate fire ants. He has been out in the field and seen some of the examples of the success of this program down towards the Gold Coast and other locations, and he is convinced that we are on the right path to eradicating them.


An opposition member interjected.

Mr FURNER: I take that interjection. There were a number of LNP members who were invited. It was not my invite; it was an invite through the Invasive Species Council.

Now is the time for all sides of politics to support this important information and the national eradication program for the good of agriculture, the environment and livability. It is important that people understand the truth behind this and do not listen to the dog whistling and the social media rants disregarding this excellent program that is operating for not only the good of agriculture but also the good of the nation.

(Time expired)

Dockside Boardwalk; Middle East


 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.43 pm): It is unacceptable that the state Labor government and the Minister for Resources have allowed the Dockside boardwalk to remain closed for well over a year now. This state owned public boardwalk is on the Brisbane riverfront in one of the most densely populated suburbs in the whole state—Kangaroo Point. This is a piece of crucial public infrastructure and it is disgraceful that the government has let the private leaseholder completely ignore his responsibilities for maintenance for over a year now.

In February the minister's office assured us that the leaseholder was finally going to fix the boardwalk. Almost seven months later, down at the site there is no evidence that any repairs have started. It looks exactly the same—fenced off, rotting boards, decaying. The community has been asking the Minister for Resources to come and meet with them to hear their concerns, but he has not shown up. Why is the Labor government letting the leaseholder—the same leaseholder who owned the ill-fated Drift restaurant—off the hook time and time again? Enough. Minister, it is time for the state government to step in and get this public boardwalk fixed.

I turn now to a broader global issue. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the genocide in Gaza. Last month the International Court of Justice declared that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is unlawful. The ICJ said that all nations were obligated to cease any aid or assistance contributing to Israel's presence in Palestinian territories, including Gaza and the West Bank. In January the ICJ found that Israel is carrying out a plausible genocide and has since issued multiple orders that Israel has disregarded. Despite this, neither the federal nor state Labor governments have taken any action to ensure that we also are not aiding and assisting the occupation or the genocide.

Following my question to the Treasurer during estimates, it seems that the state government has taken no action or due diligence to investigate whether weapons companies receiving government funds here in Queensland are exporting weapons bound for Gaza. Despite the ICJ calling on all countries to cut any trade with Israel that entrenches the occupation of Palestine, the federal Labor government has continued to allow the export of weapons, parts and materials bound for Israel. The International Criminal Court has issued warrants of arrest for Israeli politicians, yet the federal Labor government has not taken any diplomatic or trade actions against Israel. All governments, including here in Queensland, have an active responsibility to withdraw any and all support for the Israeli government, the illegal occupation and the genocide. We are calling on the federal and state governments to cease their unconditional support for Israel and to actively push for an end to the genocide.

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.46 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of announcing further services being delivered to the people of Hervey Bay—and, as we know, they come thick and fast for the regions under this Miles Labor government. Last month I had the opportunity to join with the federal assistant minister for rural and regional development, Emma McBride, when we announced that a new Medicare urgent care clinic will be opened in Hervey Bay. This service is a game changer for GP services in Hervey Bay. For the first time, the people of Hervey Bay will have a seven-day-a-week, free, bulk-billed, no-appointment-required, extended hours GP clinic service available to them.


It has been 25 years since I came to Hervey Bay and I cannot recall a GP service being open and available for seven days a week free of charge—an absolute game changer providing care for urgent but not life-threatening conditions. I want to thank the Albanese Labor government through Senator Anthony Chisholm and supported by the Miles Labor government through Minister Fentiman for hearing my call for this game-changing GP service for the people of Hervey Bay. I have been advised that the urgent care clinic should be in place by the end of this year—another cost-of-living saving for the people of Hervey Bay. Free is about as good as you can get as a cost-of-living saving.

Further, I was recently honoured to stand alongside my parliamentary colleague the member for Maryborough on our electorate border when we turned the first sod on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road/Pialba Burrum Heads Road intersection with Fraser Coast regional councillor Michelle Govers. This massive piece of road infrastructure, as promised, has been delivered. Once complete, this renewed intersection will have new traffic lights installed, additional turning lanes, improved off-road cycle and pedestrian paths and dual-lane carriageways each way leading from the intersection.

The member for Maryborough and I know that this project would have not been commenced if it was left in the hands of the LNP because, as has become so apparent by the rantings and ravings of the shadow minister on his many journeys to Hervey Bay, he has no clue how a road project is scoped and designed through its various phases. The member for Maryborough and I did not hear him saying thanks to the local members for delivering this massive piece of road infrastructure when he was in Hervey Bay last week and for the hundreds of jobs that will come with it for our local workers. I know we are both devastated by that—not!

As we have said many times in this chamber, all the LNP stands for is slick slogans and misinformation. These two projects are a great example of how Labor governments are delivering what matters for the people of Hervey Bay and another great example of how Labor governments always deliver for regional Queenslanders whilst the LNP only cuts, sells and sacks. Again I want to thank the Miles government for delivering new infrastructure and services, as promised. I particularly want to thank the member for Maryborough for the work that he did in getting this project up. There were a number of stops along the way, but he got there in the end. Because of his advocacy, this project is well and truly underway and it is going to be a great intersection for the Hervey Bay and Maryborough electorates.

Economy

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—Ind) (2.49 pm): Over the past four years, as a Queensland state member of parliament I have done what I could to advance the principles of individual liberty and personal responsibility, which were the values of the Australia I grew up in. From the time I was elected to represent the wonderful people of the Mirani electorate, often I have taken a different view of things in this House. It is a view that nothing we face as a country, no matter how urgent or dire it seems, should require us to scrap all of our nation's hard-won rights and freedoms. Governments should never be in the business of closing down small businesses, churches or our hospital and health services. To my way of thinking, doing any of those things is unnecessary and I believe that the facts have since borne that out. Questioning and challenging public policy is the role and responsibility of us all as elected representatives. I believe it is the most important role.

For decades, rural Queenslanders have been burdened by government interference in their lives. I have always sought to champion important issues for those people who feel increasingly ignored by governments, bureaucrats and even their elected representatives. Australian businesses are operating in an increasingly tough global marketplace, burdened with government generated costs and bureaucratic red tape, which is destroying their competitiveness and livelihoods. As a result, the number of business insolvencies is now sky-high. I know one farmer whose rates have gone from \$13,000 to nearly \$50,000 in the past two years. Forty-eight per cent of horticultural businesses are facing going broke as they have made no profits for the past four years.

Australian businesses are operating in an increasingly tough environment. In the regions we are seeing closures everywhere. The cost of electricity is killing businesses. I know of one bloke in my electorate who was paying \$1.50 per tonne to water his cane and is now paying between \$7 and \$10 per tonne. That is cruel. The true problems are masked by a strong coalmining sector but it too is now under a sustained attack. How long it will be able to continue propping us up is a matter for debate.


I know that people are getting angry, particularly in the regions, due to the proliferation of gigantic wind factories, solar farms and transmission lines or the tyre-wrecking potholed roads and overcrowded towns and cities. The Queensland economy is in trouble. Productive activity is drowning under the burden of bloated government and stifling bureaucracy for which climate change has become a handy catch-all excuse for every repetitious and onerous measure that they seek to impose.

The era of government cost shifting onto business is going to come to an end. Government has been saying, 'We'll just shift the cost onto business and they will pay.' However, businesses cannot pay any more. They are going under or are completely closing down. I do not think many people realise

that. The transition will end up costing us our freedom, our food, our energy, our health and our way of life. That is what happens when, for over a decade, you refuse to invest in new generating capacity. Unless there is a radical change in direction we are all heading for much less—

(Time expired)

Ripley Valley

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.52 pm): I am proud of the enormous investment that Queensland Labor are putting into the growing Ripley Valley in Ipswich. The Ripley Valley is expected to see the largest growth of any SA2 in Queensland, with up to 120,000 people moving there by 2046. To put that into context, that is around half the current population of Ipswich.

In the past four years, our government has built two new primary schools and a high school in the Ripley Valley. We are planning to build more schools over the next 20 years as more families move to the area. Labor governments are committed to kids' education and we are building new and, can I say, really fabulous schools where they are needed most.


I cannot talk about schools in Ripley without mentioning our fabulous Minister for State Development and our fabulous Minister for Education, with whom the member for Bundamba and I have worked closely on a project to build a school at Scott's Farm. Scott's Farm is the last remaining bit of wildlife space in the Ripley area. It has been in the Scott family since 1892. A school was allocated to be built there in around 2040. Obviously, the family were very upset and the entire community were very upset at the thought of losing that valuable piece of land and a lot of history. After working with the ministers involved and the member for Bundamba, we were able to have that decision investigated and overturned by the Department of Education. It was a great win for that part of the world.

We are also committed to quality health care in the growing regions. That is why we built the new Ripley Satellite Hospital. Since it opened 12 months ago, Ripley Satellite Hospital's Minor Injury and Illness Clinic has seen around 25,000 patients. Importantly, those patients are being diverted away from our emergency department. Since the opening of the Ripley Satellite Hospital, the Ipswich Hospital ED has seen the number of category 4 and category 5 presentations drop by 24 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. The Ripley Satellite Hospital is already expanding with a new subacute care facility currently under construction. Once opened, it will provide 90 new beds; a new multistorey car park; and rehabilitation, geriatric, palliative and interim care specialist services. A new ambulance station has already been built and is open. The satellite hospital and ambulance station mean that people can access quality health care closer to home, which is what it is all about.

Another great initiative that we recently announced is the new \$25 million police station, which was a commitment made at the last election. That project is now well and truly underway. We are looking forward to seeing that come to fruition. It will replace the Yamanto Police Station. It is going to have all of the equipment that modern policing needs.

One thing that Ripley residents often raise with me is the terrible road infrastructure in the old part of Ripley. Recently we announced an additional \$25 million from catalyst funding to go with the council funding to upgrade that.

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.55 pm): Labor has failed Queensland students, parents and teachers. Last week we saw the release of the 2024 NAPLAN results, which represent a monumental fail for this third-term state Labor government. Yet again, Queensland students received the poorest NAPLAN results of any mainland state. Almost two in five students are failing to meet national standards for literacy and numeracy. This year, all Queensland students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 received lower results for reading and spelling than the year before. That is a damning indictment of the Labor state government's decade-long neglect of improving student outcomes. Every year when presented with the latest shocking data, Labor's minister for education will tell Queenslanders that these results are nothing more than a reflection of a moment in time. That is the point: every time a moment is selected to measure the success and educational outcomes of our students, Queensland receives confirmation that our students are being let down by this state Labor government.


Queensland parents deserve meaningful answers from Labor's Minister for Education, who has failed to articulate any comprehensive plan to improve literacy and numeracy results in Queensland. The minister's answer needs to be more than just pointing to Labor's Equity and Excellence strategy. Countless education stakeholders, including frontline teachers and principals, have said to me that this

strategy has done plenty to focus on equity but the state Labor government pays no attention to improving excellence. Only the LNP has the right priorities for Queensland's future, including lifting educational outcomes and standards in Queensland.

On Labor's health and hospital crisis, an appalling new low benchmark was revealed this week when it was reported that the Labor state government has hired ministerial and political staff for their own offices at a greater rate than frontline health staff. Not only that, it has been revealed that doctors and nurses are leaving Queensland Health in record numbers under Labor's appalling management of the hospital and health system. Latest figures show that the rate of nurses leaving is nearly double what it was when Labor took office. The rate is now at 6.12 per cent. The rate of doctors leaving is the highest it has been since Labor came to power in 2015. Recent data has also shown that the elective surgery waitlist has blown out to 61,421 Queenslanders. That is an appalling Labor legacy for Queensland. The Miles, Palaszczuk, Bligh and Beattie Labor governments are all the same. It is clear that Labor cannot make a diagnosis, let alone offer a second opinion.

We know that a crime crisis is impacting the western suburbs of Brisbane, South-East Queensland and, in fact, all of Queensland. There is a housing affordability crisis. There are cost-of-living pressures that need urgent action beyond what has been done. All residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane are entitled to receive support from their government. There are crises across Queensland. On 26 October we can change the government and get Queensland back on track.

Home Ownership, Palm Island

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (2.58 pm): It is hard to put into words the significance of an announcement I made on Palm Island last week. The Miles government will ensure that people on Palm Island will be able to own their own home in the future. We are taking the first step towards achieving this goal by championing a community-led home ownership scheme on Palm Island. As part of the proposed scheme, 300 social homes owned by the council will be made available for residents to buy over the next 10 years.

I want to thank Palm Island Aboriginal shire councillor Alf Lacey, who called a town meeting so both of us could speak directly to the community about this. There was huge emotion attached to this announcement, as I am sure everyone in this House can appreciate. I have been working with the council and different mayors and CEOs on this for a number of years, so we were all incredibly proud to get this done.

This is an important first step which will give people on Palm Island the chance to own their own home. We will continue to work directly with the council and the broader community to ensure we make this happen. Home ownership gives people pride of place in where they live, and that is why this is so important. Every Queenslanders deserves the chance to own their own home. As a government, we will work in partnership with the community and the council on the scheme, identifying legislative barriers and considering options to address them to ensure the scheme will be sustainable for home owners and, of course, the council.


The emotion from everyone on Palm last week said it all about how much it meant to people. I had people of all ages a little bit emotional—one or two in tears—about what this means to them. I will quote what Mayor Alf Lacey said because he was over the moon. He told ABC Radio last week—

It's certainly quite exciting because it now leaves a legacy for the new generation of this community and a lot of our First Nations communities in Australia to aspire to owning their own home.

I know that for Alf Lacey and the Palm Island community, which I am proud to represent as both the local member and the ministerial champion, this is probably an understatement of the importance of this announcement. There has been blood, sweat and tears put in by so many people to get to this point and I am thrilled for the amazing community of Palm Island. Let's contrast that with what the LNP opposition leader promised the people of Palm Island on his last visit to that beautiful place: a copy of the family's recipe for date slice. The difference is chalk and cheese.


MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Byerwen Coalmine, Death

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (3.01 pm): I am aware of reports of a fatality at QCoal's Byerwen coalmine. I understand that emergency services are on scene right now. The initial reports I have received are that there has been an incident between

a haul truck and a light vehicle. I have spoken to the independent health and safety regulator, Resources Safety & Health Queensland. They are preparing to head to the mine site right now. There will be a full investigation into this fatality. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone in this House when I say that my thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of those involved.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 10 September 2024.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


Portfolio Committee, Referral of Auditor-General's Report

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's *Report 15: 2023-24—Reducing serious youth crime* be referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee.

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

Resumed from 1 May (see p. 1370).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (3.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Every Queenslander deserves to be safe and to feel safe. This bill demonstrates the Miles Labor government's commitment to supporting victims, delivering for our front line, detaining offenders, intervening early and preventing crime before it happens. It is a key part of our Community Safety Plan for Queensland—a plan based on facts, a plan based on evidence and expert advice, a plan based on feedback from Queensland and a plan that is beginning to work.

Implementation of our \$1.28 billion community safety plan is well underway and we are already seeing a positive emerging trend. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that the latest statistics comparing the financial year 2022-23 to the financial year 2023-24 reveal a reduction of 6.8 per cent in the annual rate of juvenile offences. Over that time there has been a nine per cent reduction in the number of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences by young people and a 9.6 per cent reduction in the number of unlawful entry offences committed by young people. Importantly, the rate of unique juvenile offenders has decreased by four per cent compared with the previous financial year and has decreased by 32 per cent compared with 2012-13.

The passage of this legislation will mark another important milestone in the implementation of our community safety plan. The bill is detailed and comprehensive. The bill and its extrinsic material total over 360 pages. It flows from significant work conducted by members of this House through the select committee chaired by the member for Noosa. The members for Thuringowa, Cooper, Hervey Bay, Lockyer, Ninderry and Currumbin were part of that bipartisan committee and contributed a lot towards the formation of this bill. The members of the legal affairs committee, chaired by the member for Toohey, have also contributed through their analysis of the bill and their report to the parliament.

This bill is the result of listening to Queenslanders, including outstanding Queenslanders such as Brett and Belinda Beasley and the Jack Beasley Foundation and also Claudine Snow and her family. I acknowledge all of them in the public gallery today and I thank them on behalf of all Queenslanders for their advocacy. Brett, Belinda and Claudine and their respective support networks, friends and family

have all experienced unimaginable grief but they have found purpose in advocating for positive change that will enhance community safety and, ultimately, save lives. We are all truly indebted to these outstanding citizens.

The Queensland Community Safety Bill proposes to: (1) amend youth justice principle 18 in the Youth Justice Act to remove the reference to detention as a last resort and make it clear to the courts that community safety must be the priority; (2) open the Childrens Court to the media and victims of crime; (3) expand electronic monitoring of certain children who are serious repeat offenders; (4) expand Jack's Law; (5) increase the maximum penalty for possession of a knife in a public place; (6) crack down on posting and boasting about criminal offending on social media; (7) introduce a firearms prohibition order scheme; (8) introduce a verification process for purchasing ammunition; (9) strengthen firearms safety legislation in line with the recommendations made by the Queensland Audit Office; (10) increase the maximum penalty for dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death or grievous bodily harm; (11) introduce Susan's Law, which creates a new circumstance of aggravation for dangerous operation of a vehicle where the offender evades police and causes death or grievous bodily harm; (12) create offences for ramming an emergency vehicle and driving a vehicle in a way that could injure or endanger the safety of a police officer or emergency service worker; (13) increase the maximum penalty for damaging or stealing an emergency vehicle; (14) strengthen anti-hooring laws; and (15) introduce a number of other important reforms to enhance support for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

The Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee examined the bill and tabled its report on 2 August 2024, recommending that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support of the bill and those who made invaluable submissions or appeared before the committee.

I would like to address the opposition's statement of reservation to the committee's recommendation. In relation to the opposition's comments about the amendments in the bill to youth justice principle 18, I note the committee's comment on page 13 of the report, which states—

The committee notes the position of several submitters that the amendments to principle 18 have the effect in the submitters' view of removing the principle of 'detention as a last resort' in its entirety.

The Queensland Police Union's submission states—

The QPU is very supportive of this sensible approach. The Judiciary must now be on notice to get on with the job of locking up recidivist youth offenders who are committing increasingly violent and dangerous crimes in our community ...

They went on to say—

This reframing on this vital issue should remove the legal loop hole that has allowed magistrates to keep these offenders in our community.

Clause 132 of the bill inserts a new principle 18 into the Youth Justice Act, namely—

A child should be detained in custody—

- (a) where necessary, including to ensure community safety, and where other non-custodial measures of prevention and intervention would not be sufficient; and
- (b) for no longer than necessary to meet the purpose of detention ... a child should be detained in custody, where necessary, including to ensure community safety, where other non-custodial measures of prevention and intervention would not be sufficient, and for no longer than necessary to meet the purpose of detention.

This is a complex issue and we acknowledge that some submitters have formed the view that this amendment proposes a more restrictive test that could, in their view, lead to more young people in detention. I want to assure members that, in drafting this amendment, the government obtained specialist legal advice to inform our approach. We are providing the courts with all the necessary tools in their toolbox to make decisions in the interest of community safety. It cannot be any clearer than that. We believe clause 132 of the bill, and the extrinsic materials, will provide the judiciary with the necessary information required to interpret this parliament's intent.

Simply removing principle 18, as the opposition proposes, would leave only the established case law, offering no greater clarity for the judiciary and doing nothing to enhance community safety. The government's position is the stronger position because it ensures clear guidance to the courts—it removes the reference to detention as a last resort and it reinforces that community safety must always be the critical consideration for the courts.

The opposition made comments in their statement of reservation regarding the online criminal content scheme, specifically that the scheme should not capture people who dissent with the government. Nothing in the bill or the extrinsic materials suggests this is the case. It is aimed squarely at material that glorifies criminal conduct or is meant to increase someone's reputation because they

participated in the criminal conduct. That scheme enables authorised officers to give a notice to a social media platform or online social network requiring them to remove material depicting criminal offending. The Miles government is of the firm view that victims should not be further traumatised by viewing these types of offences through material published on social media. Social media companies need to do more to prevent this kind of harm, and they will be held to account through this legislation.

This bill contains critical amendments to the Weapons Act 1990 by introducing a firearm prohibition order scheme in Queensland. This is a decisive step forward in our ongoing efforts to curb gun violence and other firearm related offending. I want to acknowledge the advocacy of many members, including the member for Springwood and the member for Maryborough, who sought to ensure that the proposed firearm prohibition order scheme, which prohibits high-risk individuals from possessing or acquiring firearms and firearm related items, is not a tool to be used indiscriminately, nor is it aimed at those who responsibly own and use firearms for lawful purposes.

There is already a clear process in the Weapons Act 1990 that addresses concerns in relation to weapons licence holders and considers whether they are fit and proper to hold a licence. This process will remain the appropriate mechanism to manage potential suspensions or revocations of weapons licences and is strengthened by amendments in this bill. Therefore, it is crucial to not confuse the provisions relating to weapons licensing decision-making and the proposed firearm prohibition orders scheme in this bill.

The firearm prohibition order scheme responds to a specific cohort of individuals who represent a significant risk to our community, for example: individuals who have demonstrated a willingness or propensity to engage in acts of violence, particularly involving a weapon, and who present an ongoing threat to the safety of others; individuals who are members of criminal or terrorist organisations, including known associates who are involved with illicit or dangerous activities such as trafficking in illicit firearms; and individuals who perpetrate significant family and domestic violence and seek to utilise firearms as a tool of intimidation and control, and represent a risk of using a firearm in a deadly attack.

Let me make it very clear: a firearm prohibition order will never be made against a law-abiding firearm owner. I say this so it is in black and white in the permanent record of parliament. Sadly, however, the risk of gun violence and the tragic consequences that may arise when firearms fall into the wrong hands is well known in Queensland and around the world. This scheme combats these ever increasing risks by disrupting criminal networks and taking proactive steps to break the cycle of violence and disarm and deter high-risk individuals to prevent potential tragedies.

I would also like to address specific questions raised during the committee process in relation to who a firearm prohibition order may be made against—for example, whether a law-abiding citizen who did not represent any risk to the community may be subject to an order based solely on their association with a recognised offender. Let me make it clear that the relevant test for issuing a firearm prohibition order is whether it is in the public interest to do so. Guidance is provided to decision-makers through several provisions in the bill to support this assessment, including identifying that decision-makers may consider a person's criminal and domestic violence history, their behaviour and any threats of violence they have made and whether they are a member of a criminal or terrorist organisation.

Consideration of the public interest is not a novel concept. It is already well established at common law and is already utilised within the Weapons Act 1990, in addition to being a primary feature in analogous firearm prohibition order schemes in other jurisdictions in Australia. Whilst it may be a relevant consideration to the decision-maker if an individual has an association with a recognised offender, given this may evidence that person's involvement with a criminal organisation like a terrorist organisation, the mere existence of an innocuous association without risk or concern in relation to the individual themselves would not satisfy the necessary threshold to warrant making an order.

Acknowledging the importance of striking the right balance between promoting community safety and security and protecting the rights of the individual, numerous legislative safeguards have been incorporated into this scheme which are beyond those in any other jurisdiction in Australia. They include, for example: requiring the Public Interest Monitor overview and report on the operation of the firearm prohibition order scheme; introducing a legislative requirement that the scheme be independently reviewed after two years of operation and again after five years of operation; enabling an appropriate judicial appeals process; imposing statutory record keeping requirements and legislative safeguards surrounding the use of police powers; and limiting the duration of commissioner issued orders, in addition to limiting the delegation authority for making such an order to officers with a rank of superintendent or higher. These safeguards are collectively unique to Queensland and means that the

Queensland scheme is the most robustly transparent and accountable scheme in the nation. Accordingly, the examples from the application of different schemes in other jurisdictions are not applicable to Queensland and should not be used as a point of comparison.

The committee also examined the potential liability of farmers who may inadvertently employ a person subject to a firearm prohibition order and supply them with a firearm. I would like to make it clear that, whilst it is an offence to supply a firearm to an individual subject to an order, a person will only commit this offence if they knowingly supply the firearm to someone who is subject to a firearm prohibition order. That means the person was aware of the existence of the firearm prohibition order prohibiting the individual from possessing a firearm and, nonetheless, has shown a blatant disregard for the order and supplied a high-risk individual with a firearm, placing themselves and the community at risk of harm. Innocent parties who unknowingly supply a firearm to a person subject to an order will not be captured by this offence.

This is a critical test for this House. If we are serious about tackling crime in Queensland, we must support the introduction of a firearm prohibition order scheme. The Police Commissioner informed the committee of the type of offenders who may be subject to a firearm prohibition order. The Police Commissioner said—

They are very much aimed at the worst of our high-risk offenders. We are talking typically about people who are involved in organised crime. It could be a terrorism threat or high-end, highly violent domestic and family violence perpetrators and we believe, in the public interest, it is necessary for them not to have a firearm in order to prevent violence being perpetrated.

In fact, the opposition previously supported a firearms prohibition order scheme. In 2019 the LNP's spokesperson said—

Firearm Prohibition Orders ... allow police to prohibit high risk offenders with a history of violence or links with criminal or terrorist organisations from acquiring, possessing or using a gun.

FPOs have helped mitigate gun crime in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

The simple fact is that the LNP previously introduced legislation to the parliament that sought to introduce a firearms prohibition order scheme with limited safeguards and court oversight, but it could not be supported by the parliament at that time. It is quite clear that if you are soft on guns you are soft on crime. This firearms prohibition scheme will ensure the Queensland Police Service has robust processes in place to help keep the community safe from high-risk offenders obtaining firearms.

I would like to foreshadow that I intend to move several amendments during consideration in detail of the bill. These amendments have been circulated to the House. Amendments are proposed to clarify certain provisions in this bill and other legislation to confirm that police officers have the ability to issue a direction for the facilitation of a firearm prohibition order, irrespective of whether the order was issued by the Commissioner of Police or the court.

Amendments will clarify that changes to the mandatory exclusionary period for when a person is fit and proper to hold a weapons licence does not capture non-recorded convictions. In respect of this amendment, I would like to again acknowledge the advocacy of many members of the House, including the member for Springwood and the member for Maryborough. Amendments will confirm the meaning of 'specified person' in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to make clear the circumstances where a device access order may be granted against the person.

In response to feedback received during consultation of the bill, amendments are proposed to the new verification process in relation to the sale of ammunition in the bill. These amendments provide greater clarity regarding the operation of the provision and introduce an alternative process which may be followed when a seller is unable to utilise the online verification system to confirm the validity of a licence. This includes clarifying that, if a seller is unable to utilise the online verification system due to an internet outage in the seller's community, business continuity will not be disrupted as the seller will be able to conduct the sale, obtain the buyer's information and complete the verification process once the internet disruption has been resolved. This will ensure businesses in regional and remote areas will not be adversely impacted by the new verification process, noting the unreliability of internet connection in some of these areas.

I will also move an amendment to clarify the amendment in the bill in relation to the investigation of parent-child disciplinary matters and family disputes with children under 18 years that do not involve domestic and family violence. The bill seeks to remove the obligation for police officers to investigate incidents between an adult and a relative child as domestic and family violence. This is because no protection order can be made for these relationships under section 22 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. However, for intimate personal or informal care relationships between an adult and a child, the requirement will continue to apply because a protection order is able to be made.

The amendment will allow police officers responding to parent-child disciplinary matters and family disputes to investigate and take action under more appropriate frameworks, like the child protection framework or the youth justice framework. This enables the most appropriate protections for the child to be applied more quickly.

I will also move amendments to the removal of online criminal content scheme. This scheme defines some terms by reference to the Commonwealth Online Safety Act 2021. I will move amendments to replace these references with new definitions which are broadly consistent with the Commonwealth scheme.

At the committee hearing some stakeholders raised concerns that journalistic material may be inadvertently captured by the scheme. It is not intended that any such material could be the subject of a removal notice. This material would not meet the purpose element—that is, it was not published to glorify the criminal conduct or increase the reputation of someone involved in the criminal conduct. To remove doubt, the scheme will be amended to provide an explicit exemption for journalists. This brings a consistent approach with that of the new summary offence for publishing similar material.

I will also move an amendment to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to roll out body worn cameras in watch houses to civilian watch house officers, aligning with the police review into watch houses. The demand on watch houses continues to grow. Body worn cameras provide a reliable video and audio record of events. The amendments clarify it is lawful for watch house officers to use body worn cameras and affords them exemptions from offences in the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 where body worn cameras may inadvertently record a private conversation.

I would like to acknowledge the complex environment in which watch house officers operate to keep our communities safe. The integrity demonstrated by watch house officers is often recognised and the use of body worn cameras in watch houses will continue to uphold standards expected by the community concerning conduct, while ensuring the professionalism of watch house officers is maintained.


I will move a further amendment to allow regulations to be made to prescribe a building or part of a building to be state buildings if those areas are to be used for an activity with which the state or a local government is concerned. This will allow police officers and protective services officers to use the full suite of security powers found in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in securing prescribed local government buildings. This is in the public interest as local government buildings should be a safe environment for government employees and attendees. It is important to note that a local government building can only be prescribed by separate regulation and will only ever be prescribed with the agreement of the relevant local government. I want to acknowledge First Nations mayors, the Queensland Police Service and the Family Responsibilities Commissioner, Tammy Williams, for their advocacy and work on amendments associated with this bill.

During consideration in detail, I will seek leave of the House, in accordance with standing order 151, to move amendments to the Maritime Safety Queensland Act to validate the appointment of general managers of Maritime Safety Queensland at any time before 24 April 2024 and to give the minister the power to appoint an acting general manager for up to six months. The general manager for Maritime Safety Queensland manages Queensland's shipping and ports. Prior to 24 April 2024, its general managers were employed under the Public Sector Act but not appointed by the Governor in Council as required by the Maritime Safety Queensland Act. The amendments validate the functions and powers exercised by general managers prior to 24 April 2024 and enable relieving arrangements for the general manager.

I will also move an amendment during consideration in detail to provide for a Childrens Court trigger in the Family Responsibilities Commission Act. This was a recommendation of the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee and will enable the Family Responsibilities Commission to work with parents and caregivers to address issues at home which may contribute to a young person's offending. This is an important early intervention measure aimed at developing strategies to address inappropriate behaviour at home before it escalates, in order to reduce youth crime and contribute to community safety.

Once again, I acknowledge the work of the select committee, chaired by the member for Noosa, with representation by the member for Ninderry, the member for Hervey Bay, the member for Thuringowa and others. I also again acknowledge the advocacy of the Family Responsibilities Commissioner, Tammy Williams.

I take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation to our frontline workers, particularly police officers, police staff and those involved in the youth justice system. These people work hard every single day to keep the community safe. This government recognises the importance of ensuring Queensland's community safety and takes its obligation seriously. We are dedicated to improving processes to support our front line and ensure they are appropriately and properly resourced to respond to and investigate crime. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise today to contribute to the Community Safety Bill 2024, which is 180 pages dedicated to fixing a crime crisis of this government's own making. The highest priority of any government is to protect the safety of its citizens. There is no doubt that Queenslanders not only feel less safe than they did 10 years ago but the evidence indicates they are less safe. Under the LNP's tough crime laws back in 2012-14, QPS statistics revealed the number of crime victims in Queensland was trending down and had decreased by around 30,000. Before I address the amendments in this bill, it is important to look back at the path that led us here. Labor's first order of business when they won office in 2015 was to proudly water down the laws and implement their soft-on-crime regime. The Attorney-General said at the time—

Evidence clearly shows that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending nor does it reduce reoffending.

...

This bill reflects evidence on what works to reduce youth offending.

In relation to breach of bail, the youth justice minister at the time said—

We repealed this offence in 2016 because the evidence is clear that harsher penalties do not work to reduce youth offending and they do not make our communities safer.

Since then crime has exploded and Queenslanders are less safe. Regardless of Labor's made-up metrics such as the ones we just heard, police have admitted that crime and the level of violent crime reached all-time highs by the end of 2023 and that trend was continuing into 2024. This admission was confirmed more recently by national crime data released by the ABS, which revealed that Queensland had the highest number of victims of crime in the nation in 2023—a staggering figure of almost 300,000 and an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

Crime has spiralled out of control over the past decade with assaults, car theft and robbery spiking nearly 300 per cent in parts of Queensland. Over a dozen people have died over the past few years at the hands of young killers. In a small and belated way the Community Safety Bill answers the LNP's calls for more protection through tougher laws. Do the ministers who conducted their soft-on-crime experiment, ministers who hold the same portfolios today, now acknowledge that by introducing this bill they admit they were wrong to introduce their soft-on-crime regime? Given the hundreds of thousands of lives negatively impacted by crime since they started their experiment, will they apologise to those families who have become victims of crime on their watch?

As part of their series of amendments to weaken the Youth Justice Act, Labor, along with reinstating detention as a last resort, closed the Childrens Court, keeping victims and the public's right to know out to protect the criminals within. The rights of young repeat violent offenders to harass, victimise and terrorise innocent families and communities with impunity is no longer reasonable, in my opinion. Regardless of your age, if you can steal a car, drive it dangerously and ram police, invade a home and stab someone with a knife, you are committing adult crimes and you should serve adult time. Queenslanders have read too many tragic headlines of innocent victims of crime and innocent lives lost like Vyleen White, Emma Lovell, Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter. These devastating acts and these defenceless victims are just a few of too many to list here today. Too many families and communities have been torn apart by the crime crisis created by the Labor government here in Queensland. Behind every crime statistic is a victim—a victim who has been touched by crime and will never be the same again.

It is not just statistics and the number of victims that continue to rise under this government: the level of violence and criminality is rising too. This bill aims to address a whole new crime class, a level of violence never seen before in this state and rarely seen outside of Queensland—a crime class unique to Queensland and one created by a generation of untouchables: serious repeat violent offenders who just thumb their nose at police, steal cars and ram them. The new offences to combat serious vehicle offending, keep emergency service workers safe and protect emergency service vehicles are welcome, but it is another example of this bill trying to address a crime issue of this government's own making.

While Labor is fence-sitting when it comes to tackling youth crime and tinkering around the edges, the LNP does have a better way. I foreshadow that I will today table amendments to this bill to open the Childrens Court like it was before Labor closed it, because we know that for justice to be done it needs to be seen to be done. I also foreshadow that I will move amendments to this bill to remove detention as a last resort—not reword it—with the government’s own documents admitting this will not change the law. I now table the amendments, the explanatory notes, the statement of compatibility and the statement about exceptional circumstances which I intend to move during consideration in detail.

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, amendments to be moved by Mr Dan Purdie MP [\[1581\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Mr Dan Purdie’s amendments [\[1582\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Dan Purdie’s amendments [\[1583\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, statement about exceptional circumstances contained in Mr Dan Purdie’s amendments [\[1584\]](#).

I would now like to turn my attention to the firearm component of this bill. The government’s own explanatory notes paint a dire and alarming picture of the explosion in gun violence, the proliferation of stolen firearms in our community, and the increasing number of organised crime groups, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, engaging in the use and trafficking of illegal firearms over the past 10 years. The explanatory notes state—

The rate of firearms reported as stolen has also increased by at least 21% within the last decade, with over 779 firearms reported stolen in 2023. Coupled with continuing challenges in recovering stolen firearms and the longevity of a functioning firearm, there is a corresponding increase in the risk that these weapons come into the possession of high-risk individuals and are used in the commission of an offence. The risk to the community is apparent when considering the increased number of reported offences involving firearms in Queensland, which has risen at least 30% in the last decade, with approximately 3,352 reported firearm offences in 2023.

What has the government done about this over the last 10 years, and where in this bill does it crack down on criminals who steal guns? Currently, the penalty for stealing a firearm is 10 years imprisonment. This falls below the maximum penalty imposed by other Australian jurisdictions—namely, New South Wales and Western Australia. In 2022 the Western Australian government increased penalties for stealing a firearm. Evidence has shown that since the penalty was increased to 14 years firearm theft has gone down 20 per cent between 2022 and 2023.

More than five years ago, in 2019 the LNP brought legislation into parliament to raise the maximum penalty for someone who steals a firearm or ammunition which proposed to increase the penalty from 10 years imprisonment to 14 years imprisonment, but this was ignored by the government. Since that time the number of firearms stolen in Queensland has increased by over 45 per cent. Over the past three years there have been almost 2,000 firearms stolen in Queensland. Knowing that police only recover about 25 per cent of stolen firearms, that is 15,000 firearms that are still in circulation in our community and no doubt unlawfully in the hands of people who would not be considered a fit and proper person to have them.

Today the LNP will show leadership and offer solutions. I will table amendments to increase the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition in Queensland from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. The LNP believes the focus should be applied to criminals who steal firearms because, as we have seen in other states, this does act as a deterrent and reduces the number of unlawful firearms that end up in the hands of violence criminals or organised criminal gangs, ultimately improving community safety.

Now I would like to turn to another form of gun crime which is not addressed in this bill or governed by a standalone offence which is further enabling criminal activity largely committed by organised crime groups—that is, drive-by shootings. Unsurprisingly, a good indicator of organised crime activity is the number of drive-by shootings—an offence the police know is on the increase in Queensland. Drive-by shootings are becoming more commonplace not just in Queensland, which is why other states have been increasing penalties to capture this type of offending. These are just a few examples of this type of offending here in Queensland: in 2019 in Tara shots were fired into a child’s room during a drive-by shooting; in March 2021 seven shots were fired at a house in Robinson, Brisbane, from a stolen BMW allegedly with strong ties to the Comanchero outlaw motorcycle gang; in April 2022 in north Brisbane police investigated a drive-by shooting after a family’s home was fired at in the early hours of the morning; in November 2023 on the Gold Coast a man was arrested for firing a gun into the side of a car; and recently in June 2024 shots were fired into a Gold Coast home in Mudgeeraba, killing a dog and injuring a woman.

Typically, this type of offending is a key indicator of organised crime and too often innocent bystanders become the victims of these violent attacks. I said in my maiden speech that I am a firm believer that crime should be punished and when governments are perceived as—or actually are—too soft on crime, an inch given leads to a mile taken. I believe and will continue to argue that we must not give criminals and criminal organisations an inch as we constantly seek to provide Queenslanders with a safe and secure community.

As the increase in gun crime and organised crime activity is bringing the state of Queensland to its knees, the government have previously admitted in an answer to a question on notice that they could not accurately measure and therefore track this alarming crime trend because these crimes can be recorded as a minor good order offence. They are often recorded as a relatively minor offence such as wilful damage by firearm or dangerous conduct with a weapon, which carries a maximum penalty of four years compared to up to 16 years in other states like New South Wales, which has a dedicated drive-by shooting offence which has been operating for well over a decade. In fact, in 2012 the already existing offence was reviewed and a new aggravating form of drive-by shootings targeted at organised criminals was adopted, imposing a penalty of 16 years imprisonment. In his first reading speech New South Wales Attorney-General Greg Smith is quoted as saying—

The primary goal of the new offence is to recognise that a greater degree of criminality is involved where these shootings occur in connection with the activities of criminal groups, and to ensure that this is reflected in appropriately high penalties.

Labor have had a decade to follow in New South Wales's footsteps but their failure to do so has turned Queensland into a breeding ground for organised crime groups to engage in reckless behaviour, exposing Queenslanders to harm. That is why today I will be tabling an amendment to this bill to introduce a new offence to the Weapons Act to crack down on drive-by shootings. The offence named 'Firing at dwelling houses, buildings or vehicles'—drive-by shooting offence—will impose a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment for any person who fires a firearm at a dwelling house, another building or a vehicle with reckless disregard for the safety of any person. This will increase to 16 years for any person who fires a firearm in the course of an organised criminal activity. With the introduction of these two amendments, the LNP is today putting a firm marker in the ground that we will not give criminals, particularly criminals who steal and unlawfully use firearms, an inch.

I would like to turn my attention now to firearm prohibition orders. In mid-2015, while the government were frantically watering down youth crime laws, they must have forgotten they signed on to the National Organised Crime Response Plan, which was endorsed by all of the Commonwealth, state and territory attorneys-general and police ministers at the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council COAG committee meeting in Canberra. This plan proposed each jurisdiction consider the introduction of a firearms prohibition order scheme to address increasing concerns regarding the rising number of stolen firearms, the use of illicit firearms in the commission of an offence and the impact on the Australian community because of increasing firearm related offending.

Labor's amendments to the Weapons Act in this bill mark a decade of inaction which has meant violent perpetrators have been able to gain access to and use firearms to commit violent crimes. Labor have had their priorities all wrong for way too long. While they flapped around and spruiked their efforts to solve the domestic and family violence epidemic, under Labor's watch domestic violence offences involving firearms skyrocketed by 340 per cent. In 2012 there were 103; in 2022 there were 454. Always late to the party, Queensland Labor at the eleventh hour now respond to the 30 per cent increase of offences involving stolen firearms, an estimated 200,000 firearms in the illicit market and a 21 per cent increase in stolen firearms. While these trends have been plain to see over the past decade, it is only now that Queensland will introduce laws that will bring us into line with the rest of the country.

Currently, Queensland is the only jurisdiction in Australia that has not yet introduced an FPO scheme. The proposed firearm prohibition order scheme brings Queensland into line with other states and territories which introduced FPO schemes as part of the National Organised Crime Response Plan some time ago. The scheme prohibits a dangerous high-risk individual subject to an FPO from possessing, using or acquiring a firearm or firearm related item. It also empowers police officers to conduct searches of the individual, their vehicle or residence to ensure they are complying with the order. Under this scheme, an FPO can be issued against high-risk individuals if the decision-maker is satisfied that it is in the public interest to make the order. It is not aimed at law-abiding registered firearm owners like farmers who are acting in accordance with their weapons licence. I acknowledge the minister for pointing that out in his recent speech.


This scheme is a hybrid scheme, unlike other jurisdictions. A 60-day FPO can be issued by a police commissioner or his delegate of rank no less than superintendent. A 10-year FPO will be issued by the court. A 60-day firearm prohibition order can be appealed after the 60-day period has lapsed.

Under this scheme an FPO can be issued against high-risk individuals, such as organised crime, a terrorism threat or a high-end domestic and family violence offender, if the decision-maker is satisfied it is in the public interest to make the order. I acknowledge the minister's amendment earlier and thank him for our meeting last night and for listening as he acknowledged MPs in this House across both sides of the chamber, lobby groups and the law-abiding licensed firearm holders who had concerns around some definitions and the online registration check system.

Knife crime is another escalating issue in Queensland and I support the measures in this bill to increase the maximum penalty for someone found with a knife in a public place. I acknowledge that, in stark contrast to their views in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, tougher penalties do act as a strong deterrent, like it would with stealing firearms. I also support the expansion of the Jack's Law wandering trial, though I am aware police are concerned about knife crime in all public places, not just those on the prescribed list.

There is a lot to cover in this 180-page bill and I am mindful that a lot of other members want to contribute in the limited time that has been allocated for the debate. Queensland is coming last in the race to crack down on organised crime groups and high-risk individuals committing serious violent firearm offences. This is a Labor government that is slow moving. The police minister sat on his hands for almost 10 years before implementing an FPO scheme. Minister Ryan is the longest serving police minister in our state's history and under his watch violent crime involving weapons committed by high-risk individuals and organised crime gangs has increased over the past decade and maybe could have been prevented. This is another example of Labor having the wrong priorities and not giving our police the laws they need to do their job and keep Queenslanders safe.

If the government changes at the end of the year, the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be legislated. That will embed Adult Crime, Adult Time. If the government does not support our amendments today, we will open the Childrens Court and remove detention as a last resort and embed sentencing provisions that put the rights of victims ahead of offenders. There must be consequences for actions. We will get serious about gold standard early intervention and we will embark on rehabilitation with a purpose. I call on the government to support the amendments we have tabled today that will drive down crime and make Queensland safer.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. The Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee tabled its report No. 15 of the 57th Parliament in this Assembly on 2 August 2024. The Hon. Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety, introduced the Queensland Community Safety Bill into the Queensland parliament on 1 May 2024. In his speech he said—

Today I will introduce into the parliament a comprehensive set of new community safety laws. It is part of our comprehensive plan—a plan built on a considered and effective approach to enhancing community safety. The Community Safety Plan for Queensland delivers more police, more resources, more interventions, more preventions, more victim supports and more new and strong laws. It is a plan backed by the evidence. It is a plan focused on five key pillars: supporting victims; delivering for our front line; detaining offenders to protect the community; intervening early; and preventing crime before it occurs. This plan unlocks \$1.28 billion in additional investment from the government.

The bill was then referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee for detailed consideration. The primary objective of the bill is to implement law enforcement and crime prevention strategies and interventions over various statutes to enhance community safety. Stakeholders and subscribers were invited to make written submissions on the bill, and the committee received 250 submissions including six form submissions from 44 submitters. The committee received a written briefing on 13 May 2024 and the public briefing on 24 May 2024 from the Queensland Police Service in conjunction with Department of Youth Justice, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

On 24 May 2024, the first public hearing and briefing were held in Brisbane to speak with stakeholders and departmental representatives. Along with the extension of the reporting date, as approved by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, the committee held a second public hearing with invited stakeholders and a public briefing with departmental representatives on 10 June 2024.

The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the bill included the following: the impact of amendments to youth justice principle 18 on the levels of children currently in detention in Queensland; the criteria to be satisfied for the issuance of a firearm protection order and the breadth of search powers given to police officers in respect of compliance with firearm protection orders; the impacts of the changes to knife-related offences to persons who carry knives lawfully for employment reasons; the licensing implications on both individuals and weapons dealers due to changes in the 'fit and proper person' test in the Weapons Act 1990 Queensland; the availability of online licence

verification systems for sellers of small arms ammunition in regional and remote areas; clarification on the offending intended to be targeted by the amended spectator offence for hooning activities; the effectiveness of the current Jack's Law handheld scanning trial; the evidence supporting expansion of electronic monitoring of children on bail; the 'glorification' prerequisite for online content offences and the new online content removal scheme; the safeguards in place for the recording of phone calls from youth detention centres; and informed consent in the context of electronic service of documents.

I would now like to deal with some of the youth justice reforms and clarifications of amendments in the bill. The proposed amendments change the way the Human Rights Commissioner is referred to in the bill, for consistency with other oversight entities. The amendments also insert a consideration for a particular decision in relation to transfers of youth detention detainees over 18 years of age to adult custody. This consideration—the security or good order of the detention centre—was fundamental.

The committee noted the position of several submitters that the amendments to principle 18 have the effect, in the submitters' view, of removing the principle of detention as a last resort in its entirety. Whether it is clarifying the law or changing the law, there appears to be agreement that the effect of the amendment may allow for detention to be ordered in circumstances other than where there are no other reasonable options available.


It is noted that the department stated that this was a clarifying provision and therefore the statement of compatibility did not contain an assessment of the amendments for consistency with human rights. Given the contentious issues raised by the amendments, the committee is of the view that submitters would have benefitted from the statement of compatibility containing a more comprehensive explanation of the limitations on the rights of the child impacted by these amendments as opposed to a blanket statement that the amendments were a 'clarifying provision' and did not invoke the requirement to consider the human rights implications.

The bill proposes various amendments to legislation to respond to recent incidents of knife related crime and heightened community awareness of such crimes. Since 2021, police officers have been granted temporary powers to use handheld scanners without a warrant in designated safe night precincts to detect unlawfully possessed knives. The introduction of Jack's Law in 2023 extended this temporary power to 30 April 2025 and expanded the scope of the scanning provisions to include public transport stations and vehicles.

The committee acknowledges the concerns of submitters in respect of the ability for police officers to select individuals for scanning in expanded locations for an extended period of time. The committee is particularly aware of the concerns raised surrounding the risk of abuse of powers and unconscious bias, as well as the impacts on ongoing relations between the Police Service and those from diverse cultural groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. In that regard, the committee notes the information provided by the Police Commissioner that concerns in respect of the implementation of the trial have been addressed with officers in various forms of training.

The committee is satisfied that, having regard to the policy objectives of the expansion of the trial and the application of safeguards in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act concerning where and how scanning is to be carried out, and the training, the limitations imposed on human rights by the expansion of the handheld scanning trial proposed by the bill are reasonable and justifiable. The committee is satisfied that the bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of parliament. The committee recommended the bill be passed.

In concluding my contribution, I take the opportunity to speak about some of the proposed amendments to the Queensland Community Safety Bill which are to be moved during consideration in detail and to add my support to the passing of the proposed amendments. There is further explanation in relation to the Explosives Act, the Weapons Act and also further technical amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. There are also amendments to the clarification of meaning of terms used in the existing search powers framework. There are also further amendments to be moved in consideration in detail in relation to the use of body worn cameras which we have heard the minister speak about. There are amendments to the expansion of protective services officers' jurisdiction and clarification of amendments in the bill that were also spoken about in relation to intimate personal relationships or informal care relationships with other parties. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.57 pm): The Queensland Community Safety Bill has some important amendments, as we have heard, to create greater safety. Our chair, the member for Toohey, went quite extensively into that, so I will just touch on a couple of concerns. Firstly, as I outlined in my statement of reservation, components of the gun laws create issues for our farmers. While the new firearm prohibition orders, or FPOs, are a sensible reform, there are aspects of how they are implemented that are not practicable. As raised by AgForce in the public hearings, agribusiness owners

may inadvertently and unknowingly engage the services of an employee who is the subject of an FPO where the farmer would then have to remove all firearms and ammunition from the property. Given the nature of farm work, this is not realistic, and how will any agribusiness owner become aware that a potential employee is the subject of an FPO?

Another issue raised is a person's previous court-issued no conviction recorded being used when deciding on an application for an FPO. However, as the department responded, an FPO is discretionary and a range of information is used to ascertain whether the possession of a firearm would pose a risk to public safety. This includes criminal and domestic violence history determined by a court after an application by the Police Commissioner.

I turn now to youth justice. There are a number of amendments; however, I will only speak about a couple that were of concern to submitters.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock. Members, please keep your talk to a lower level while members are on their feet.

Ms BOLTON: With regard to youth justice, there are a number of amendments; however, I will touch on the ones that were of concern to submitters. One amendment relates to clarification around the much politicised and headline-grabbing 'detention as a last resort'. This is in the Youth Justice Act for sentencing decisions as one of the 21 principles from the UN charter of youth, which is utilised in some form globally not only for youth but also for adults. As one witness at a hearing said, 'If detention is not the last resort, what is?' So why is it in the bill? It may be an attempt to correct a misunderstanding that, under detention as a last resort, courts are unable to impose detention if there are other measures or penalties that could be imposed by the court. As Queensland has one of the highest rates of youth detention alongside New South Wales, what is the reality? As found previously in the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee's inquiry as well as during the scrutiny of this bill, there was no overall consensus from witnesses and submitters on what the actual impacts of this principle will be on court determinations, nor what effect this amendment will have. The Queensland Law Society submitted—

We hold the strong view that detention should be reserved as a last resort for both adults and children. Removing this principle for children while retaining it for adults creates a vexed situation that is both bizarre and inappropriate.

From what we have heard, this amendment does not remove that. PeakCare said that the provision does not appear to substantively change the law, and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties stated that 'we would accept that on the face of it this amendment does not change the law'.

It was due to this lack of clarity that the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee made recommendation 51, that the Queensland government immediately review the operation of section 150 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to determine whether community safety is being impacted by the detention as a last resort principle or whether there are other elements identified such as inconsistency in the use of offender history or that the four pillars of the Youth Justice Strategy have been utilised without the framework to prioritise community safety and confidence. In addition, recommendation 53 spoke to lowering the threshold at which serious repeat offender declarations can be made and broadening its criteria to further target the specific cohort that is creating angst in our communities. Speaking above the noise that appears to continue—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): There is too much noise in the chamber. Members, if you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

Ms BOLTON: This needs to be implemented whilst waiting for data on the current declarations and their effect. Understandably, victims of crime, regardless of the age of the offender, need to see consequences for actions. Communities need to feel safe and for those who threaten that safety to be removed from where they do harm; however, the responses to deep, complex issues involving perpetrators who were often victims themselves are not resolved by quick fixes, media grabs and slogans. It takes multiple responses, not only to the offender and their families—hence why there were 60 recommendations from the youth justice reform inquiry.

It has been good to see that the proposed youth justice model from Keith Hamburger AM, whom we again heard from during these hearings and was the previous director-general of Corrective Services, has been referred to the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council for evaluation. We look forward to their response. As I said in my chair's foreword to the youth justice inquiry in relation to reducing crime and creating safer communities—

We cannot do this without accepting that young Queenslanders who have repeatedly made bad choices, require good choices to be made for them, with, or without, their or their parents' consent. There must be consequences for actions, as these consequences can actually provide a pathway out from the reasons for offending.

It is positive that government has supported the 60 recommendations from that inquiry either fully or in principle, with over half of them in some form of progress; some are within this bill. As yet, there has not been any response from the opposition to those recommendations. This is deeply concerning. It is not in line with what Queenslanders asked for in efforts to create safer communities. I ask again for the opposition to respond to what they will or will not commit to from those recommendations. Victims and their families and all of our communities deserve—at the very least—clarity on this. In closing, I thank our chair, the member for Toohey, fellow committee members, submitters and witnesses.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution to debate of the Queensland Community Safety Bill. I thank the committee members for their time and work on the report: Peter Russo, the chair and member for Toohey; Jonty Bush, the member for Cooper, who remains one of the most passionate advocates for victims of crime in Queensland; Sandy Bolton, the member for Noosa; Mark Boothman, the member for Theodore; and, lastly, Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim. The secretariat, as always, provided first-rate support to all members and I thank them for their hard work yet again. The Minister for Police and Community Safety, Mark Ryan, introduced the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024 into Queensland parliament in May of this year and it was referred to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. The committee has made a single recommendation to this House—that is, that the bill be passed.

Our kids in Queensland are absolutely fantastic. The LNP consistently referring to them as ‘a generation of untouchables’ is quite disgusting. Our government’s Community Safety Plan for Queensland includes evidence-based prevention and intervention services which focus on five key pillars: supporting victims, delivering for frontline workers and services, detaining offenders to protect the community, intervening when people offend and preventing crime before it occurs. As Police Commissioner Mr Steve Gollschewski correctly and professionally identified, the bill was introduced to enhance community safety through initiatives outlined in the Community Safety Plan for Queensland.

Part of the bill’s consideration proposes to extend the persons who may be present in court under section 20 of the Childrens Court Act for criminal proceedings only and to also include persons who have a proper interest in the proceedings, accredited media entities and representatives from Child Safety or Youth Justice. The bill proposes to enable the court to exclude particular persons from the courtroom if, after considering prescribed matters, the court is satisfied that it is necessary to prevent prejudice to the administration of justice or for the safety of any person, including and especially the child. The overarching policy justification for this amendment, as outlined in the explanatory notes, is to enable criminal proceedings in the Childrens Court to become more open. While the Youth Advocacy Centre and Queensland Law Society expressed opposition to these changes, Australia’s Right to Know supported the principle of these changes. For the committee’s part, we are satisfied that sufficient protections are incorporated into the amendments to minimise the potential impact on young people in the criminal justice system.

With community safety uppermost in mind, these changes are proposed to the youth justice principles. Currently, youth justice principle 18 provides that a child should only be detained in custody for an offence as a last resort or for the least time that is justified in the circumstances. This bill proposes to reword principle 18 to clarify that the child should be detained, where necessary, including to ensure community safety and where other non-custodial measures for prevention and intervention would not be sufficient and, just as importantly, for no longer than is necessary to meet the purpose of detention.

On the very rare occasion where the LNP have been asked to expand on some of the thought bubbles they have around youth justice, they have completely floundered. If the LNP want to claim they have some sort of judicial magic potion, the people of Queensland are going to need more than the phrase ‘it’s complicated’ from their shadow ministers by way of an explanation. There was significant concern raised by a number of submitters whose opposition to the amendment included: an increase in incarceration of children, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, noting Queensland currently has the highest rates of youth detention in Australia; an increase in the length of custodial sentences for children and young people; and additional children becoming traumatised by contact with the criminal justice system leading to further criminality. In response, the Department of Youth Justice repeatedly noted that the amendments to youth justice principle 18 are clarifying provisions to correct the incorrect perception that principle 18 as it is currently drafted prevents the court from ordering detention as a penalty for youth offenders where other penalties are available. It does not.

Another amendment I am personally very pleased with is in response to a rise in online sharing of content by offenders relating to criminal conduct. The sharing or advertising of offences online is already an aggravating factor in the sentencing of various offences. However, the bill proposes to grant

new powers to authorise police officers to issue removal notices to online publishers and social media providers if the content is glorifying unlawful conduct or increasing a person's reputation due to their involvement in unlawful conduct. The Free Speech Union of Australia had concerns about the ability of police officers to determine the intention of the poster of the material being relevant to whether the material was published for the purpose of glorifying the unlawful conduct on belief and discretion alone. I myself have every confidence that a police officer of even moderate experience can identify online content that is intended to glorify and promote criminal or dangerously irresponsible acts. Most other submitters, including PeakCare and Local Government Association, were supportive of these changes.

So far as knife crime is concerned, in 2021 police officers were granted temporary powers to use handheld scanners without a warrant in designated safe night precincts to detect unlawfully possessed knives. The introduction of Jack's Law in 2023 extended this temporary power to 30 April 2025 and expanded the scope of the scanning provisions to include public transport stations and vehicles. In response to community concern regarding knife related crime in Queensland and the number of knives seized in accordance with the Jack's Law framework, the bill proposed to expand the powers of police officers to operate handheld scanners in public places.

I will take a moment at this point to highlight the excellent work of Michael and Kerri-Lyn Stewart, a dedicated Sunshine Coast couple who tragically lost their only son, Balin, to knife crime in 2022. These incredible people have now dedicated themselves, at great personal cost, to ensuring this never happens to another family by founding the Balin Stewart Foundation. This foundation leads discussion and education sessions in our schools, highlighting both the dangers of carrying knives and how it is possible 'to bin the blade for Balin'. I was delighted to join with Minister Mark Ryan earlier this year to secure significant funding for the foundation so they could continue their excellent work.


I myself am supportive of the expansion of these powers, noting the department's response that a scan is not a search. The scanned person is not touched by a scanning wand, but if they have a metal object on their person which they fail to produce when given a lawful direction then they may, as a consequence of their own actions, be subject to a search.

Offences surrounding the possession of a knife were perhaps the most accidentally, or perhaps deliberately, misinterpreted element of the amendments, so please let me capture the QPS response in relation to farmers and chefs et cetera possessing knives. In response to concerns raised by AgForce and other submitters regarding the carrying of pocketknives or knives used for legitimate purposes, such as food preparation et cetera, QPS noted that a person will only commit the knife possession offence if they possess the knife in a public place or school without reasonable excuse, which will include for use for a lawful practice or activity. QPS stated at the second public briefing—

For example, if a farmer has a knife for legitimate purposes and they happen to be in a public place, there will continue to be a reasonable excuse provision for that. There will be no changes to how it is currently operated in practice.

I would finish by providing reassurance around the introduction of firearm prohibition orders, an amendment that perhaps more than any other attracted misinformation. Sadly, if the correspondence my EO received on this matter is any indication, I fear that a significant proportion of this misinformation was deliberately manufactured and distributed. I am mindful of the very significant point made in the explanatory notes that reported an increase in the number of reported offences involving firearms since 2013. As with knife crime, let me simply reiterate the sentiment of no less an authority than our Queensland Police Commissioner, who noted that those who would most likely meet the threshold requirements for issuance of an FPO would likely have already had their licence cancelled due to their offending behaviour.

Community safety has been at the heart of my working life for more than two decades prior to being elected the member for Caloundra. On that very basis I am happy to commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.14 pm): As a member of the committee that reviewed this bill, I want to make a few comments mainly around the changes to the Weapons Act. I think the role of the committee has been quite instrumental in this bill. As a non-government MP, part of my role is to get to the bottom of what is actually contained in the amendments but also to call out the government when they fail in their process and in some areas of the bill. I think a lot of concerns have been raised especially in relation to provisions that amend the Weapons Act for the reason that very little consultation was undertaken with stakeholders prior to the introduction of this bill. When there have been discussions, some of those concerns were able to be allayed.

In fact, we are seeing amendments foreshadowed by the minister that are a result of that consultation that took place, unfortunately after the committee process and after the bill was introduced. If that consultation had been done beforehand, we would not be having to make those amendments. Also the concern in the community would have been at a far lower level if there had been proper consultation. For example, while the Firearm Dealers Association were consulted, they informed the committee that they were unable to consult with their members given the timeframes involved. The other thing that the committee has to do and what I will seek to do through my comments is to also point out where the government has marked their ground about the impact of this bill and, in particular, the firearm prohibition orders.

The introduction of this bill was the start of the bizarre nature of how this bill proceeded. It was introduced at 9.30 am on a sitting day, and it is very unusual for a bill to be introduced at that time. It was all rushed at first. The committee was given a reporting deadline of 14 June. It was a very tight timeframe for this to be turned around. We proceeded to have a very short submissions period and we were to report by 14 June. In the end that was pushed out to 2 August. Bizarrely, though, the committee had almost finished its entire process by 14 June, which deprived people of the time to make submissions in a considered matter. It also gave the impression that it was being rushed.

I want to point out that the commissioner, the department and now the minister have repeatedly stated that firearm prohibition orders are only for the most serious and violent offenders, not for law-abiding people and likely not even for licence holders. Commissioner Gollschewski said at the public briefing on 10 June—

... we are talking about ... people involved in major and organised crime, people who have very violent tendencies such as high-end domestic and family violence offenders ... I cannot imagine a situation where we are going straight to an FPO with a person who is holding a licence.

We need to take the commissioner, the government and the departmental officials at their word on this because the issuance of a firearm prohibition order by the Commissioner or by a delegate can have effect for 60 days before it needs to be reviewed by a court, but the impact on a licence holder is that their licence is immediately revoked. Even if the FPO is not reinstated after 60 days the licence remains revoked, which means they have to go through the entire process of applying for a licence again. If someone works in an industry or in a rural area where they depend on having a licence to make their livelihood, to earn money, that is a very serious implication. We need to hold the government to their word that these FPOs will not be levelled at licensed firearm holders and only at the most serious violent offenders, people involved in organised crime and the like, because that is what they have said. The implementation is the most important issue when it comes to the issuance of FPOs.

I also want to talk about the fit and proper person test, which was set out in the bill and which has been dealt with by one of the amendments foreshadowed by the minister. The fit and proper person test set out in the original bill would have changed the definition of people who would fail that test significantly. Again, it is a failure of consultation because the people who are stakeholders in this were not consulted properly about the original bill. I note that the amendment being put forward by the minister will deal with many of the concerns that have been raised after the committee process in relation to the fit and proper person test, but there is just one other point that needs to be made in that regard—that is, whether or not unrecorded convictions are taken into account as part of the fit and proper person test.

There is a reason why judges and magistrates are given the discretion not to record a conviction in some cases and there is a reason why in the Weapons Act at the moment unrecorded convictions are not a part of the process. The original bill would have changed that situation dramatically and the amendments deal with most of those concerns, but they do not deal with the issue of people who may be able to use a firearm on a firing range or a sporting range. Whilst it takes the issue of unrecorded convictions out of the remit of the fit and proper person test, there does remain an obligation on people to notify the police about an unrecorded conviction for a whole range of offences either before the commencement of this act—so retrospectively—or after the commencement of this act. That brings me back again to the issue of the intent and the words of the commissioner and the minister and the departmental officials about how this bill is going to be implemented and the way in which those provisions will be implemented after the commencement, bearing in mind that the discretion of judges and magistrates in relation to unrecorded convictions has been utilised at the time of trial and decisions were taken by those judicial officers not to record convictions.

The other issue that has raised some concerns, especially for dealers, is in relation to the changes to the Explosives Act and the use of an online verification system for licensees and what would happen to that business, especially in rural areas, if the online verification system run by the state was


unavailable at the time of a sale. That would require not only the production of a licence to purchase particular ammunition but also the online verification through electronic means across the internet of those licence details. We all know that sometimes online things do not work perfectly and there were concerns raised about this. I note that the amendment to the bill does appear to deal adequately with those concerns, although it would certainly have been preferable if it had been dealt with in the initial bill.

There were also concerns raised about the issue of people working on farms where they are employees who have a firearm prohibition order issued against them. I point to the words of the departmental officers in the committee process where it says that there is only one offence that may apply to somebody else—that is, in relation to an FPO—and that would be supplying a firearm if someone is subject to a firearm prohibition order, but in order to be liable for that offence the person has to knowingly supply that weapon. If you are employing someone and you have no idea that they are subject to an FPO, there is no chance that a farmer or a farm manager is going to be caught up in that firearm prohibition order regime.

There was also consternation about what is an associate of a person who is involved in crime. Again, the department was quite clear that there is a very specific list of offences that someone has to be convicted of and then you have to associate with those people in order to be caught up in that regime. The consorting provisions—that is, the laws implemented in relation to organised crime and bikies—are the list of offences. It is set out in the legislation, but, again, there was very little consultation at the outset.

The other issue that was raised in relation to knives—I know that AgForce had some things to say about this—was whether people who carry knives in their daily vocation would be caught up by the legislation. There is no change to the knife provision in this bill. There is a change to the penalties that can be applied for people who breach the knives provision, but there is no change in relation to how the offence of unlawfully carrying knives applies. People who carry knives in their daily vocation—like farmers, who do it as a matter of course—are not subject to the law now and there is no change in this bill in relation to that.

There could have been better consultation. The committee process was obviously disjointed from the start. We had a very short reporting date and then pushed out right to the end. If we had a better process, it would have been a better bill from the start.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. The Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024 is a landmark legislative package designed to tackle crime and enhance public safety and security. The bill includes comprehensive amendments to key police, justice and transport legislation to address public safety concerns and ensure our police and justice system are effective and responsive to emerging challenges. The bill includes amendments to the Criminal Code aimed at increasing penalties for serious offences, protecting emergency workers and vehicles, as well as addressing the misuse of social media to glorify criminal activities. Through amendments to the Childrens Court Act 1992, the bill also introduces measures to support victims and improve transparency in the judicial process. I will be focusing my contribution today in these areas.

In its draft interim report, the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee stated it heard evidence that transparency in the youth justice system, including its accessibility to victims, has a significant impact on the community's confidence in that system. While criminal proceedings against a young person heard on indictment or in the Supreme Court are open to the public, there are limitations on who may be present during proceedings where matters are not heard on indictment, such as matters progressing through the Magistrates Court. The amendments contained in this bill will enable greater access for victims, their families and the media to attend proceedings not heard on indictment. Amendments to the Childrens Court Act 1992 will ensure that victims and relatives of victims who have passed away can be present during Childrens Court criminal proceedings. They will only be able to be excluded if they are in contempt of court; are otherwise excluded due to other closed court provisions such as when a special witness is giving evidence; or the court is dealing with specific matters under the Mental Health Act 2016 and it is not considered in the interests of justice for them to be present.

The amendments also allow a victim's representative, a person with a proper interest in the proceedings and media organisations accredited under the Supreme Court's media accreditation policy to be present during those proceedings. However, as a safeguard, the court will retain the power to exclude those persons if it is necessary to either prevent prejudice to the administration of justice or

protect the safety of any person, including the child. Offences regarding the prohibition of the publication of identifying information about a child will continue to operate. The government consulted with the media in the development of the amendments and will continue to work with media representatives to ensure that the changes achieve their intended outcome to promote the principle of open justice and transparency and public confidence in the justice system. These amendments are another way the Miles government is supporting the rights of victims of crime.

The bill also includes significant Criminal Code reforms to protect our police and emergency workers and safeguard emergency vehicles. Our police and emergency workers routinely perform their duties in dangerous situations where they are exposed to an increased risk of work related violence and aggression. These workers deserve to be safe when performing their vital functions in taking care of Queenslanders. That is why the bill introduces two new Criminal Code offences of 'damaging emergency vehicle when operating motor vehicle' and 'endangering police officer when driving motor vehicle', both of which carry a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. These new offences are designed to deter individuals from engaging in driving behaviour that puts the lives of our police and emergency personnel at risk.

The bill also increases the maximum penalties for wilful damage to property where the property is an emergency vehicle, unlawful use or possession of emergency vehicles, and unlawful entry of an emergency vehicle for committing an indictable offence. By strengthening these penalties, we reinforce our commitment to upholding the highest standards of protection for those who serve on the front lines. These changes will help prevent disruptions to emergency operations and ensure that our emergency workers can perform their duties without dangerous interference.

The bill also cracks down on other serious vehicle offending by increasing the maximum penalty for dangerous operation of a vehicle where it causes the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, another person from 10 years imprisonment to 14 years imprisonment. Where additional aggravating circumstances apply, a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment applies. This is an increase from the current maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment.

The bill also inserts a new circumstance of aggravation for dangerous operation of a vehicle where the offender was evading police and causes the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, another person. Consistent with the amendment to the existing circumstances of aggravation, the proposed maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment will apply to this new circumstance.

When individuals post about their criminal activities online, they not only flaunt their disregard for the law but also potentially compromise ongoing investigations and judicial processes. The bill addresses this issue by introducing a new summary offence that targets individuals who use social media to advertise their involvement in criminal activities. This new offence is intended to deter the use of social media as a platform to promote and normalise criminal behaviour.

In addition to creating a new summary offence, the amendments also introduce a circumstance of aggravation for certain Criminal Code offences when the offender posts about their criminal activities online. The circumstance of aggravation applies to the Criminal Code offences of dangerous operation of a vehicle, going armed so as to cause fear, common assault, assault occasioning bodily harm, burglary and the Weapons Act offence of possession of a knife in a public place or school. This means that individuals who commit these offences and boast about their crimes on social media will face harsher maximum penalties.

In an age where digital platforms play a significant role in our daily lives, it is imperative that we set clear boundaries for acceptable behaviour online. By criminalising the act of boasting about criminal activities, we are encouraging individuals to use social media responsibly and ethically. Of course, this is an issue that we are facing not only here in Queensland; this is a national issue and challenge and it is a global issue. We must address these issues. We must try to get ahead of these constant technological changes and the way that social media is being used not to provide benefits to the community but to create further harm.

These tough laws are a key part of the government's Community Safety Plan for Queensland, which is accompanied by \$1.28 billion in whole-of-government funding aimed at supporting victims, delivering for our front line, detaining offenders to protect the community, intervening when people offend and preventing crime before it happens. This bill supports the government's comprehensive roadmap for tackling crime and addressing the complex root causes of crime to stop it happening in the first place. I end by thanking my department not only for the work that they did in relation to this bill but also for what we do to support victims and the justice system overall. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland Community Safety Bill. This bill amends 14 different acts. It was introduced on 1 May 2024 and submissions closed on 16 May, which means there were only two weeks for affected people to be consulted on this very important bill. If there had been more consultation on this bill, even before the original bill was tabled, fewer negative concerns would have been raised and we probably could have negated most of the concerns that submitters put forward. The bill amends the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Criminal Code, the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Explosives Act 1999, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Summary Offences Act 2005 and the list goes on.

Given what my local residents see happening on our streets and in our local community, a lot of them simply say, 'This has to end.' These days, criminal individuals are so emboldened that we need laws to protect police and emergency vehicles from being ramraided. It is absolutely ridiculous that we have come to the point where criminal individuals are no longer fleeing from the police; they are running at them.

In my area, residents Grant and Duncan own a business that has been broken into many times. They have had stock taken and facilities damaged. They have to pay extensive excess on their insurance and their insurance premiums keep rising. This is happening in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. Pat is a local resident who showed me some shocking footage of youth offenders breaking into his house. He is lucky that his wife did not disturb the intruders as they were armed when they broke in. If she had disturbed them then she could be another statistic. While no-one knows what they would have done to Pat's wife, we can imagine how horrific it could have been. Jan had been a victim of multiple break-ins at her home. Offenders lifted the garage door, entered her home and stole property. She said that in the end she gave up. She decided to sell her home and move to a gated estate, where she feels safer. Members can understand the anger felt by residents given the situation we are in today. That situation has been 10 years in the making following the 2015-16 changes to the law.

As a member of the committee that looked at this bill, I want to express some concerns I have. In our statement of reservation, we wrote about online social media posts. I understand the government's intent in trying to stop individuals from boasting about their behaviours to garner support from their friends so that they can feel big and powerful. However, throughout history there have been some very pivotal moments that have garnered the support of our fellow constituents to progress change in relation to something that was deemed to be unjust. That is why that matter was raised in the statement of reservation. I acknowledge that the minister will be moving some amendments in relation to that, which are welcome.

I highlight the amendments to be moved by the shadow minister relating to drive-by shootings. Unfortunately, over many years the northern Gold Coast has been subjected to illegal criminal activity where elements of organised crime, you could say, have done drive-by shootings. Making this a separate offence could result in better data and a stronger penalty would apply when individuals are sentenced. For instance, if passed, the shadow minister's amendment would increase the maximum penalty to 14 years imprisonment. If it was an organised crime activity, the maximum penalty would be 16 years imprisonment.

When it comes to drive-by shootings, a lot of innocent people are put in harm's way. That is why this offence needs to be clamped down on. Back in 2018, an article in the local newspaper on the Gold Coast said, 'Police are yet to lay charges in three urban shootings on the Gold Coast in the past two months.' For this reason, we certainly need to have a clampdown on these offences.

If there had been far better consultation on the bill in relation to firearm prohibition orders a lot of the concerns could have been alleviated, as the member for Scenic Rim has spoken about quite eloquently. When putting bills together, the government needs to ensure that proper consultation is undertaken. Two weeks is certainly not enough, and it is not enough for individuals to put forward their viewpoints and concerns.

There are many other members who wish to speak to this bill so I will conclude by saying that Queenslanders are sick and tired of dealing with this youth crime crisis. People are paying more for car insurance. People are having to pay their insurance excess even though they are the victims. It is not their fault that they have been the victim of malicious acts by these young criminals, yet they are the ones getting punished by having to pay excesses and higher insurance premiums. This has to stop.

Queenslanders will have a clear choice at the next state election in October: continue down the path we are on or seek change with the LNP, which will get tough on crime and will make a difference. We will ensure that if you do an adult crime you will do adult time.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. I thank the Minister for Police for his carriage of the bill and I thank the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee members for their deliberations.

We know that community safety is a big concern for Queenslanders. It is why earlier this year we released our community safety plan, which is our comprehensive plan to support victims, deliver for our front line, detain offenders, intervene when people offend and prevent crime before it occurs, and the Queensland Community Safety Bill is a key component of this plan.

We have invested over half a billion dollars in early intervention and prevention programs, including our Putting Queensland Kids First plan and the youth engagement program as well as programs such as our Youth Co-Responder Teams, intensive case management and on-country programs, many of which are starting to see real results. We have built more detention centres and the new centres, including the new Wacol remand centre, are therapeutic because, if we do have young people in detention, our aim is to not see them back again. We have progressively introduced laws to keep the community safe. Aside from the Northern Territory, on any one day we now have more young people in detention than any other state.

It is as a result of this continued evidence-based investment—investment based on expert advice and the advice of stakeholders—that we have seen a turnaround in youth crime from the 2023-24 year: an 18 per cent reduction in serious repeat offenders and a 6.7 per cent drop in reported youth offences. These figures are so promising, but I am very conscious when I say them out loud that if you are a victim of youth crime then they are probably of little comfort to you. If you are a victim of a heinous crime—and I acknowledge that Brett and Belinda Beasley and the Snow family are in the gallery today—please know that we are serious in our intent to increase our support to you, including to see those figures continuing to trend downwards.

The Queensland Community Safety Bill includes a number of amendments to various acts, taking a whole-of-system approach to give police, the courts and my department the tools they need to make a difference. As touched upon by the Minister for Police and Community Safety, the bill seeks to amend the Youth Justice Act, amongst a number of others. In the interest of time, it is these I will speak to. In doing so and in not speaking to the other incredibly important amendments, I am by no means diminishing their impact. I say that quite specifically, paying respect to those in the gallery today. Each amendment to the Youth Justice Act plays an important role as a small part of our broader whole-of-government approach to addressing the root causes of youth crime.

On principle 18, in recommendation 51 of its draft interim report the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee recommended the government review the youth justice sentencing principles to determine whether the central principle of community safety was being overshadowed by the principle of detention as a last resort, as it relates to sentencing, and whether that misinterpretation was having the effect of undermining public confidence in the youth justice system. This has come about because of misinformation that principle 18 means courts are unable to impose detention if other penalties are available. That is not correct, according to established case law. Community safety is the first principle.

Principle 18 requires a court to consider all options reasonably available. If satisfied that other options are not appropriate in the circumstances, then detention can be imposed. Courts impose detention practically every day all over the state, on sentence and by refusing bail. Nevertheless, to address the misinformation, clause 132 clarifies the principle.

The government has commissioned a trial to assess the advantages and disadvantages of electronic monitoring and draw overall conclusions as to its effectiveness at reducing reoffending by serious repeat offenders on bail. The trial will be evaluated to inform consideration of whether the provisions should become permanent. Clause 119 of the bill will include more serious repeat offenders in the trial cohort to better determine whether electronic monitoring reduces reoffending among certain children who appear to be serious repeat offenders and whether it is an effective alternative to detention.

Although the evidence is equivocal, it does indicate factors that increase the likelihood of success, and we have drawn on that evidence for the model we are trialling in Queensland. For example, a young person's suitability is assessed prior to the court considering bail; there are wraparound supports to ensure young people subject to electronic monitoring are best positioned to meet the conditions imposed by the courts; and responses, when required, are primarily done by our Youth Co-Responder Teams. I am looking forward to seeing the outcomes of that trial.

Some stakeholders have told us that the current wording of section 52A has led to some misunderstanding as to exactly when courts should consider what bail conditions might assist to mitigate risks. This includes conditions such as curfews, participating in programs and electronic monitoring. While it is understood that the actual impact of this misunderstanding is minor, clause 118 clarifies that risk and any conditions that may mitigate them should be considered in the one decision-making process.

This government has a well-established position that youth detention centres are not suitable for adults. Upon turning 18 years old, a person whom the courts have sentenced to custody or deemed an unsuitable risk to remain in the community on bail should be transferred into adult custody. Clause 126 has the effect of refining the existing transfer provisions to address aspects that were not working as intended.

With clauses 120 and 124, the government is taking steps to implement feedback from advocates and oversight agencies to enhance the wellbeing of young people in watch houses by transporting them to youth detention centres, where practicable, for physical exercise and educational and other programs. We acknowledge that this will only benefit children in watch houses that are close to youth detention centres, but that is not a reason to not make this option available. New purpose-built therapeutic youth detention infrastructure in Woodford and Cairns will alleviate the need for children to be held in watch houses beyond normal processing times.

As a secure environment, detention centres are subject to stringent operational policies and procedures. Clause 127 codifies one such policy, prohibiting photographs and video in youth detention centres without the chief executive's permission to protect the security of the centre and the privacy of children. Oversight entities are excepted.

The bill also seeks to address an identified issue that a small number of detainees' phone calls are being used to engage in offending behaviours, such as colluding with people with whom a detainee is not permitted contact, or breaching domestic violence orders. We will develop arrangements, including appropriate safeguards, and we will engage thoroughly with stakeholders before we progress.

The bill implements the government's response to recommendations made by the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce with implications for Queensland's youth justice system. Specifically, the bill makes the following changes to the Youth Justice Act: introducing protections to allow young people to freely participate in therapeutic programs without fear that the act of participating, or statements made throughout, can be used in evidence against them; amending the youth justice principles to clearly require the department to identify and meet the disability needs of children in the criminal justice system; and providing clarity and safeguards for how counsellors and other supporters of victims deal with confidential information relating to children in the youth justice system.

Clause 128 also amends the Youth Justice Act to require work health and safety entry permit holders to appropriately maintain the confidentiality of any identifying information they gain while undertaking their official role when visiting a youth detention centre. This government is clear and transparent in its commitment to addressing community safety.


The member for Ninderry reminded us that the LNP see youth crime merely as a way to get more votes. It is just over five weeks until we enter the caretaker period and it is time now for the LNP to tell us what their plan is for youth crime—not slogans, not just the same small number of words over and over—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Currumbin, you are on the speaking list next—contain yourself.

Ms FARMER: Members opposite say that Queenslanders have a clear choice. Unfortunately, they do not because they do not know what the choice is when it comes to the other side of the House. Queenslanders now need the details. Victims now need the details. The LNP need to tell us what they will do.

I thank all those who have been responsible for this bill coming to the House in its current form. In my portfolio, there is my Youth Justice Reference Group and all the stakeholders who work so passionately in this space. I thank the victims, who, despite the impacts of crime on themselves, have been so committed to making change to save others. I thank the director-general of my department, Bob Gee, and his entire team and our agencies partners across Queensland. They all make a difference. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.51 pm): It is the highest mandate of any state government to keep our community safe, but in my community people do not feel safer today than they did almost a decade ago, when this Labor government came to power. The Miles Labor government know this. That is why they are rushing through this bill on the eve of an election. Premier Miles did not draft this bill with a genuine desire to fix the youth crime crisis that they started. The proof is in the bill itself.

In 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor government loudly and proudly introduced legislation to water down our youth justice laws. They made detention a last resort. They abolished breach of bail. They closed the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. They reinstated sentence review and abolished the ability of the Childrens Court to advise the Family Responsibilities Commissioner of children who have been convicted of an offence, effectively abolishing the Childrens Court trigger. They abolished the sentencing option of boot camps and made findings of guilt where no conviction was recorded inadmissible when the youth becomes an adult and commits offences. In 2019—that is right, they did it again—Labor watered down our bail laws so more youth offenders could get bail and be back in the community. All this has led us to where we are today—in the grips of a youth crime crisis, where teen criminals know their rights exceed the rights of victims.

Let us look at the way they watered down laws in relation to victims first. Nine years ago, Premier Miles, along with every other Labor minister here, sat around that cabinet table and voted to close the Childrens Court to victims and their families. They locked them out and removed the ability of the Childrens Court to notify the Family Responsibilities Commissioner of a child being convicted of an offence.

Let us turn to that Childrens Court trigger first. Today, on the eve of an election, we see the minister rush in and bring forward amendments to allow this trigger to work again. The harm has been done. The Family Responsibilities Commissioner submitted to the select committee that the Labor government have stopped the Family Responsibilities Commissioner and its local commissioner elders from being able to work with parents and the broader kinship to create a healthy family environment for these kids—effectively stopping the commissioner from doing early intervention by abolishing that trigger in 2016. Labor did this nine years ago. Today, on the eve of an election, they come in here to reverse this and fix the problem. This is a problem they created in the first place.

The same goes for Childrens Court. They closed that to victims and their families. The stories we have heard of victims and their families being locked out of the court process are fundamentally shameful. It has taken victims marching in the streets and people to be significantly damaged and harmed for this state government to realise that what they did in 2016 was wrong. Just like the Childrens Court trigger, it is the height of hypocrisy for the Premier to now pretend that this is suddenly an issue he is rectifying. He created this issue. He locked out victims and chose to prioritise offenders. To pretend anything else is simply misleading.

In February this year I tabled the LNP amendments that would have reopened the Childrens Court to victims of crime, their families and the media, but this government voted them down. They were not interested in listening then. This bill proves that they are still not interested in listening. Labor are adopting the LNP's calls to open the Childrens Court to victims and their families but, in true Labor style, they are keeping an element of secrecy. They are not reinstating the openness and transparency of our Childrens Court like it was when the LNP was in power. They are not allowing the media in like they were prior to when they watered down the laws. If Labor were serious about reopening the Childrens Court, they would do it properly and allow the media back in so that Queenslanders could have transparency of the sentences that youth criminals get. Why are they keeping this element of secrecy?

That brings me to the next part of this bill that demonstrates that this government are not serious when it comes to fixing the youth crime crisis that they created. To hear the police minister come into this chamber and say that they are providing the courts with all the necessary tools they need to make decisions to keep this community safe is absolute rot. This government are not removing detention as

a last resort from the Youth Justice Act. Let me step through this for members. In 2016, this government deleted section 150(5) of the Youth Justice Act which, under the LNP, read—

... in sentencing a child for an offence, the court must not have regard to any principle that a detention order should be imposed only as a last resort.

The Miles Labor government deleted that section and instead inserted these words—

... a detention order should be imposed only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period.

They also inserted this as a youth justice principle in the schedule at the back of the act. For almost a decade, our courts have been hamstrung by this section—forced by law to only detain youth criminals as a last resort. In fact, do not take my word for it. The Court of Appeal adjudicated on it. The Court of Appeal said—

The fundamental proposition contained in the Act is, of course, that a child should be detained in custody for an offence only as a last resort and only for the least time that can be justified.

At paragraph 84, the Court of Appeal said—

The injunction in the Act that detention is to be regarded as a sentence of last resort, to be imposed only when the court is positively satisfied that there is no other possible alternative, is, therefore, not merely a platitude or a bromide. It is an emphatic parliamentary order enacted with express deliberation.

It is pretty clear: Labor's actions in watering down our Youth Justice Act and making detention a last resort have meant detention for young thugs, no matter how many offences they commit, under Labor has been a sentence of last resort. They created a generation of repeat youth offenders who know there are no consequences for their actions.

Now, with this bill, they are proposing to reword detention as a last resort, but the intention is the same. Do not take my word for it. Take the member for Cooper's word for it. The Labor member for Cooper in this House said—

In terms of removing detention as a last resort, it is incredulous to me that the LNP is still continuing with this line.

As if more proof is needed, Labor's own statement of compatibility for this bill proves they have no intention to change this aspect of the law. The statement of compatibility states—

The proposed amendments are clarifying provisions and are not intended to change the law.

There we it have folks; those opposite made a decision almost a decade ago and continue to make that decision to water down our laws and keep detention as a last resort. Only the LNP will remove detention as a last resort. Only the LNP will reopen the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. Only the LNP will reinstate consequences for action with Adult Crime, Adult Time. Only the LNP has a plan to fix the youth crime crisis by introducing the Making Queensland Safer Laws by the end of the year.


I am going to turn to a couple of other aspects of the bill. The bill also increases the maximum penalty for serious vehicle offending for dangerous operation of a motor vehicle that causes death or grievous bodily harm. However, increasing the maximum penalty for adults means very little for youth offenders because the Youth Justice Act limits the sentence that a court can give. In general, youth criminals only ever face half the maximum penalty that an adult can get, and in the Magistrates Court the maximum penalty is 12 months. Under the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time, youth criminals who commit serious offences will face the full force of maximum penalties.

The bill further creates a new offence for ramming and wilful damage of emergency vehicles and driving a vehicle that endangers a police officer. The reason we need this new offence is that Labor watered down the laws nine years ago and now youths are running at our police instead of running from them. They are targeting our police. Without the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time, they will not face the full force of maximum penalties in this provision.

For all the government's tough talk on increasing penalties, we have seen their laws fail. When the government increased the penalty to 12 years for unlawful use of a motor vehicle to commit an offence and 14 years if it is at night or with violence, it was revealed at the end of the year that only three defendants were given a sentence of detention for those offences and, of those, one was sentenced to five months and the others to 12 months for a penalty that purportedly contained a maximum of 14 years.

Without the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time, we will see no consequences for action for these youths. We will continue to see this youth crime crisis rip through our state and cause more damage to victims. Only an LNP Crisafulli government will reopen the Childrens Court to victims and their family.

Only an LNP Crisafulli government will create consequences for action in our Youth Justice Act and undo the almost decade's worth of harm this Labor government has created by watering down our laws and creating a generation of repeat young offenders who know that their rights exceed the rights of victims. Only an LNP Crisafulli government will put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.01 pm): What a ridiculous contribution from the member for Currumbin, who said that this bill is being rushed through. The member knows that this bill builds upon six months of work from the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee, where the LNP tried to hide those recommendations for their own political narrative. We are getting on with the job of changing laws to make our community safer. I fully support the Queensland Community Safety Bill. I thank the committee for the work they have done. Indeed, it builds upon a lot of the work that our former select committee had done.

I cannot think how many times I have said in this place that sentencing should meet community expectations. In relation to youth crime, I expect, like my constituents, that there must be consequences for actions and offenders must be held to account. I remain determined to make change and more change in our laws to make our community safer—and that is what this bill does.

I have long lobbied for and have helped make successive changes to laws that have been passed in this place—before the member for Currumbin was even here—with bipartisan support, such as a real breach of bail offence with a real custodial sentence, unlike the Clayton's LNP breach of bail where they all reoffended. I have lobbied that community safety must be paramount for the judiciary in regard to sentencing of youth offenders. I have lobbied for a new clause for declaration of serious recidivist youth offenders who pose a risk to the community and to increase sentencing principles by the judiciary. I have made contributions in my electorate to enhance community safety through my role on the Community Support and Services Committee and my role as a local member. I will talk to those achievements a little later, but they are each unmatched by the LNP.

I want to get on with the main element of this bill—and it is one that I fully support. Clause 132 of the bill inserts a new principle 18 in the Youth Justice Act. We debated this quite a bit in the select committee, but it is here in this bill. I want to thank the committee for the work they have done. I thank the committee members and the member for Toohey for the work they have done on this. That clause says—

A child should be detained in custody—

- (a) where necessary, including to ensure community safety, and where other non-custodial measures of prevention and intervention would not be sufficient ...

I acknowledge that some submitters to the report formed the view that this amendment proposes a more restrictive test that could, in their view, lead to more young people in detention. With respect, and with reference to those views, they are not the views of the people in Thuringowa. They are not the views of my constituents who basically could not care less if more young people are locked up. To make our community safer, they want them in detention. It is their clear view—and it is repeated to me over and over when I meet with victims of crime—that these youth offenders should be removed from the community and placed in detention to make our community safer and that there must be consequences for action. I will talk about post-sentencing rehabilitation and everything we are doing at the front end as well.

For those serious, violent criminal offenders who are causing so much pain to our community, there must be consequences for actions. That is what this bill does. With the passing of this bill, our government is providing the courts with all the necessary tools in their toolbox to make decisions in the interests of community safety. The government's position is a strong position because it ensures clear guidance to the courts. The bill removes the reference to detention as a last resort and it reinforces that community safety must always be the critical consideration for the courts.

In relation to the opposition's comments about the amendments in the bill on principle 18, I note the committee's comment on page 13 of the report, which states—

The committee notes the position of several submitters that the amendments to principle 18 have the effect in the submitters' view of removing the principle of 'detention as a last resort' in its entirety.

The Queensland Police Union's submission stated—

The QPU is very supportive of this sensible approach. The Judiciary must now be on notice to get on with the job of locking up recidivist youth offenders who are committing increasingly violent and dangerous crimes in our community.

They went on to say—

This reframing on this vital issue should remove the legal loop hole that has allowed magistrates to keep these offenders in our community.

As I have said before, I have a track record in community safety and delivering more to Thuringowa, starting in 2016 when I picked up the work that the LNP had not done in their term of government. All they were interested in was hiding crime statistics. We have been completely transparent on that. They set up a rapid action patrol hub with only 20 staff. I did a night shift with them in 2016 and I asked what they needed. They said, 'Twenty more staff. It's not working.' They have 40-odd staff now in that rapid action patrol hub. That is what we do. Then in 2018 I delivered a brand new police station in the Upper Ross suburbs, taking their workforce from two officers to 10, the Kirwan station went from 54 to 90 officers, and I am building a brand new police facility in Thuringowa right now that will have the new academy.

Through strong and ongoing advocacy, I was instrumental in helping establish the Stronger Communities Early Action Group in Townsville, and I note that this model is being rolled out to other areas of the state because it brings all departments together to tackle the front end of crime. I also secured ongoing funding for Project Booyah; the Clontarf Foundation; the Stars academy; the Lighthouse; the after-hours youth engagement program for the Upper Ross—that is recurrent funding; the Indie School in Kirwan; Transition 2 Success; Silver Lining programs; and the Townsville Street University. I advocated to help deliver—and we have received thanks to Premier Miles—the new police helicopter, and we have the JT Academy. Each of these things is working in concert to help keep our communities safe.


Before I get to a couple of areas that make my blood boil—I am so glad there is a clause in this bill around emergency services—I say that our track record is in contrast to the LNP and their empty slogans. I implore one of the LNP members to get up and actually define what 'rolled gold' is. In the select committee we asked the experts what the gold standard was. They said, 'There is no definition.'

An opposition member: Yes, they did.

Mr HARPER: They said there is no definition. In the select committee they made it very clear that there is no definition. The LNP cannot define what 'adult crime, adult time' is. There is no definition. There is no detail. The LNP have a track record of sacking police, failed boot camps where they all reoffended, failed breach of bail where they all reoffended—a legacy of failure. What does the LNP stand for? Lightweight, nothing promises. They make false promises to try to fix what is a very complex problem. We are not waiting 100 days after the election to remove youth detention as a last resort. It is done! It is removed in this bill.

I want to congratulate the government for expanding Jack's Law to reduce offending in the knife crime area; for the introduction of new offences for criminal online material on social media; and for increasing maximum penalties with aggravating circumstances for a number of offences such as going armed so as to cause fear, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, common assault, assaults occasioning bodily harm and burglary.

These are all significantly increased, but there is one thing that makes my blood boil. I have spoken to paramedics whose ambulance has been targeted by ridiculous fools driving stolen cars and placing people at risk. I have spoken personally to police officers who have been rammed. We have had fire emergency vehicles stolen in Townsville. But no more—there will now be a new offence. These vehicles respond to emergencies, but if they are rammed they become unoperational so the next ambulance going to someone who deserves one cannot get there. There needs to be consequences for actions, so I completely agree with the new clause: 10 to 14 years for unlawful entry of an emergency vehicle; up to five years for wilful damage to an emergency vehicle; and 10 to 14 years for unlawful use of an emergency vehicle. This is what we need to do to make sure our emergency services are protected so they can get on with the job of responding to the community. This is a bill that I have been waiting for since we did the youth select committee, and we got there. I will ask the LNP to agree with the clauses. They know that by giving the tools to the courts and the judiciary we can make our communities safer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.10 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Labor government's so-called Queensland Community Safety Bill. The raft of changes to youth justice legislation introduced in recent years by this government, egged on by the LNP, have been completely at odds with the recommendations of every knowledgeable stakeholder, service provider, community controlled organisation and the various statutory bodies established to uphold the rights of children and other vulnerable populations. This bill does nothing more than continue that trend.

The bill removes the current principle that detention of a child is the last resort, a principle that has its basis in no less than the international Convention on the Rights of the Child. Labor says the replacement clause is just a codification of the principle as it is already applied in practice. If that is the case, why change it? This is a purely political response to pressure that at best changes nothing and at worst means more kids will be locked up. The new wording creates a positive obligation to detain children where necessary for community safety. Not only is that a fundamental shift in emphasis but also it is indicative of the fallacy that sits right at the core of this legislation. The truth is that the way we incarcerate children right now is ultimately reducing community safety. Locking kids up for longer and longer periods of time in increasingly overcrowded watch houses and prisons with limited access to rehabilitative programs not only harms those children but also increases the likelihood they will reoffend and makes the wider community less safe.

The bill also enacts a range of measures that either directly or indirectly increase the surveillance of young people. The first example is giving the media a right of entry to Childrens Court proceedings unless a party makes an application to exclude them. Given the media's track record on these issues we can have little confidence that young people will remain anonymous. This is especially concerning in regional and rural towns where children may be more easily identifiable. The likelihood of inflaming community tensions and increasing vigilantism is very real. The media have been excluded from Childrens Court proceedings in recognition of the specific developmental needs of children, ensuring children can participate fully so that appropriate orders can be made. The overriding purpose was to achieve therapeutic outcomes. It still allowed the court to grant media attendance where it would not prejudice the child's interests. Inviting the media into courts tells us this government no longer cares about good outcomes for these children and long-term safety. They are more interested in being seen to do something.

The bill also proposes to expand the electronic monitoring program with the explicit intention of subjecting higher numbers of children to ankle monitors while on bail. Visible ankle monitors lead to isolation, undermine anonymity, stigmatise children within more positive circles and may reify them within antisocial circles, effectively leaving these kids stuck in cycles of reoffending. There is no evidence that electronic monitoring reduces serious offending. This is just an expensive way to keep kids locked up more often and for longer on insignificant breaches of bail. It will be First Nations kids who are worst affected by this, as is already demonstrated by the existing trials.

On that note, I find it pretty telling that the government can find time this week to rush through three bills for three new commissioners, but they cannot find time to appoint an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's commissioner, despite that being an action committed to by all state and territory governments under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children and it being included in the government's community safety plan released in April of this year. If this government was serious about supporting First Nations communities and ensuring everyone in our community is afforded safety they would be funnelling money into culturally appropriate bail support programs instead of expensive and ineffective monitoring technology.

That brings me to the bill's expansion of the use of handheld scanners by police in public places. The expansion of the trial is opposed by a broad cross-section of stakeholders. There is no doubt it is important that people are safe to access public services and spaces, including public transport and shopping centres. The proliferation of police and surveillance, specifically the encouragement of stop and search powers, just will not achieve that. There is still no reliable evidence that this approach is deterring or reducing crimes involving knives.

This bill would also allow for the recording and monitoring of phone calls made by young people in youth detention centres. There is limited information available about how this is intended to be used, but it raises very serious concerns around young people's rights to privacy and may deter young people from staying in touch with family and community members.

An opposition member: They're in detention!

Mr BERKMAN: Yes, they are in detention and they should remain in touch with their communities, which is critical to their rehabilitation and reintegration after release. In addition to expanding the surveillance of children, this bill includes a bunch of increased penalties and expanded offences which we know have no corresponding deterrent effect. Specialised offences for using social media to broadcast offending are about nothing but politics. Instead of dealing with this in sentencing, as would

be more appropriate, Labor is chasing headlines. It is the same with expanding hooning offences to cover spectators. They are giving a huge amount of discretion to police to determine what this includes, potentially criminalising young children for just being near a crime or in the care of an offending adult. How does this deter hooning? How does it keep anyone safe?

Right now we are locking up more children than any other Australian state. Vulnerable young people are being subjected to extended stays in watch houses across Queensland in appalling conditions, lockdowns in youth detention centres, segregation and isolation, the use of force and increased surveillance and policing. Is it working? Is anyone here going to claim that locking up kids is working? It is not. No doubt I could have spent the entire time allotted for this speech addressing the appalling conditions for children in Queensland's watch houses. In just the last few months we have seen media reports of a child being hit with a police baton in a watch house, a 15-year-old asthmatic crying out for help and being told by officers that he can breathe fine if he is talking; and a 13-year-old disabled Aboriginal girl shut in isolation crying in distress. It is difficult to stand here as one of only two people in this place making the case that it is not okay for kids to be detained in police watch houses for weeks on end.


While we do not oppose the proposed amendments allowing temporary transfers from watch houses to youth detention centres for programs, it is hardly something to celebrate. It simply should not be necessary. I understand the QPS has announced an inquiry into watch houses following all of the media scrutiny, but forgive me if I hold little hope for that inquiry. The police and government have failed to respond adequately to even the damning independent commission of inquiry into QPS responses to domestic and family violence. Cops continue to investigate cops and this government continues to legislate away children's human rights.

Briefly, I note the bill also creates a firearm prohibition order scheme for Queensland with expanded police powers to search someone under an FPO, as they are called, without a warrant. Although the Greens and I obviously support this country's ongoing strong gun controls, we know from other jurisdictions that these FPOs are not necessarily being used to improve gun safety at all. They are not used to just target bikies or serious offenders; they are yet another example of ever-expanding police powers without adequate scrutiny.

When I talk to people in my community about crime, the vast majority do not just want a reaction; they want prevention. They do not want more kids in watch houses or prisons after stealing a car or doing worse; they want the offending not to happen in the first place. All the penalties and prisons in the world will not bring back what is lost when the government fails to prevent crime. That is still the missing piece for both Labor and the LNP because they are both stuck in this endless cycle of kneejerk reactive politics when it comes to crime and community safety. Community safety will only come from treating all members of our community as deserving of safety, but this government is failing to see vulnerable young people as deserving of safety—twice over: first when they fail to address the underlying factors that lead children to offend and second when they subject them to violent systems of surveillance, policing and prisons after the offending occurs.

A genuine community safety bill would be about prevention, not reaction. It would champion substantive investment: in public health, wellbeing and disability support services; in education and housing; in culturally appropriate support programs, intensive case supports and early intervention; in rent caps and public housing. All these things could be done if we just spent money where it was required.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.20 pm): I rise in support of the Queensland Community Safety Bill. This bill is a continuation of the Miles government's commitment to community safety and getting on and doing what matters for Queensland. The Miles government leads the way in addressing the risks of harms associated with knife related crime. That is why we have introduced these amendments which target the unlawful possession of knives in public places. Jack's Law, which was introduced by this government in 2021, currently empowers police to use handheld scanners in safe night precincts to detect unlawfully possessed knives. This bill expands upon that framework to include shopping centres, entertainment venues while an event is being held, retail premises, licensed premises, train lines and the Gold Coast Light Rail. It also increases the maximum penalty for unlawful use of a knife.

I have had quite a few conversations with elderly people in my community who do not feel safe that have stuck with me. Just across from my office is the Strathpine Centre. It is one that former premier Mark McGowan loves to visit. Over the last couple of years, we have seen all of the banks at that centre shut up shop in their individual premises along our high street and move into the larger shopping centre. It has in there Big W, Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Target and a number of smaller shops.

I am having more frequent conversations now with women in their 50s and 60s or older who do not feel safe. They have to go to that location now to withdraw cash so they go to the ATM, they withdraw money from the ATM at the Strathpine Centre and they do their shopping there as well. Emerging in those conversations more and more is the feedback that vulnerable community members do not want to visit that location anymore. Despite needing to visit that location, they are trying to avoid it as much as they can because they do not feel safe there. They are saying to me that they want a shopping centre where they feel safe, and I am very much of the view that the expansion of these powers will lead to a safer space.

I met with my shopping centre before we proposed the introduction of these provisions. I have talked to them about increasing security and lighting and the types of things we can work together on to make that a safer space for my community. I regularly hold Coffee with a Cop there at the shopping centre. We frequently have our mobile police beat at the shopping centre as well. I am determined to make sure that people feel safe in this space in our community. It is not necessarily that a high level of crime is occurring there, but a perception has formed in the community—rightly or wrongly—that we have young people who are up to no good. When people see groups of people within that precinct—and they do not necessarily have to be young people or people with particular behaviours—they feel a level of concern. I am all for provisions that can make shared community spaces like shopping centres safe spaces for all of us.

I have met with Brett and Belinda Beasley, who I acknowledge are here in the gallery with us today. I want to thank them for their tireless advocacy to address the risk of knives in public. I know that is advocacy they are doing within other jurisdictions at the moment and I wish them well in that. Their advocacy in terms of reforms that our government is making goes beyond Jack's Law. As the corrective services minister, I want to acknowledge the work they have been doing with me in the parole space as well. The circumstances that led them to becoming champions for community safety are tragic, but what they have achieved is absolutely inspirational and I want to acknowledge that.

This government is committed to providing more police on the front line, and this bill goes further by introducing amendments to enable efficiencies in the service of documents so our police officers can spend more time on the things that matter. It expands the options available to police when serving documents and includes an ability for the electronic service of prescribed documents, which I absolutely support. The bill includes appropriate safeguards to limit the use of electronic services in particular circumstances. The Miles government is delivering the police more time to be available to spend on policing.

I would like to discuss the amendment that is relevant for Queensland Corrective Services, which I have responsibility for. While this bill maintains existing arrangements which empower police officers to personally serve documents to prisoners in correctional centres, it introduces an option to have a corrective services officer serve prescribed domestic and family violence documents to prisoners. I would like to acknowledge the member for Mount Ommaney for the work she has been doing to advocate for this provision for some time.

For good and obvious reasons, gaining access to a prison is not a simple thing. If corrective services officers can provide prisoners with some documents, it means a police officer is not tied up with going through the security screenings required to enter a prison, ensuring the availability of room bookings et cetera. It reduces the time that police officers are spending serving documents to prisoners and it also creates opportunities for Queensland Corrective Services staff to engage more in proactive crime disruption and investigation activities. This bill facilitates a trial arrangement that can be implemented at one or more correctional centres approved by the commissioner.


I want to acknowledge the feedback I have had when meeting with Together union delegates in relation to this trial on who will be involved in this trial and how these things will be carried out as we operationalise the provisions in the trial. Maintaining staff and prisoner safety is the primary consideration in the development of this trial, which will occur in the Wacol precinct. I want to acknowledge the feedback that Together Queensland has provided to us. That is absolutely front of mind in working collaboratively as we roll out this trial so that we can achieve both staff and prisoner

safety. They are the things we are focused on. There is work to be done on the best way to implement the process and the operationalisation of this amendment. It will be the subject of agreement between the police and corrective services commissioners.

This amendment has the potential to unlock significant police resources that are currently being used in serving these documents, and this is in stark contrast to the record of the LNP. The LNP have no respect for our hardworking public servants or the essential work they perform. LNP cuts saw police personnel and administrative support service activities being passed on to our frontline police officers. That administrative burden was put back on our frontline Queensland Police Service officers. As Ian Leavers said, if you take away admin staff, then the frontline police will have to perform those functions which reduces the capacity of frontline police to respond, and that is certainly not what we want. We want to support our frontline Queensland police officers to be able to be with our community, not in offices, not on iPads, not bogged down in paperwork. That is why the provisions contained within this bill are so important.

The Miles government is introducing these amendments really to create those efficiencies for our police officers to spend more time doing the things that matter such as crime disruption and investigating activities. The LNP's record is to increase that administrative burden on police, putting frontline officers behind desks. This is just some of the provisions contained within the bill that have my fulsome support.


Speaker's Ruling, Same Question Rule

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Honourable members, the member for Ninderry has circulated amendments to the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. The Speaker has considered the application of the same question rule to the member's circulated amendments. The Queensland Community Safety Bill proposes a number of amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992. Clause 123 proposes an amendment to section 150 of the act related to sentencing principles.

The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was passed by the House on 22 April 2021. The member for Traeger moved an amendment to the bill to omit section 150(2)(e) of the act relating to the sentencing principles. The House negatived the proposal. Amendment No. 10 circulated by the member for Ninderry to the Queensland Community Safety Bill seeks to omit section 150(2)(e) of the act relating to sentencing principles.

Standing order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not be again proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form. (Speaker Reynolds, *Record of Proceedings*, 9 September 2008, page 2559.)

Standing order 87 has only been suspended with respect to government bills. Therefore, clause 123 of the bill proposing an amendment to section 150 of the act relating to sentencing principles can be proposed to the House, whereas the amendment cannot. As a result, amendment No. 10 enlivens the same question rule and is ruled out of order. Amendment No. 12 circulated by the member for Ninderry seeks to insert a transitional provision, that is consequential to amendment No. 10, so this amendment is also out of order.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Community Safety Bill. This bill makes a broad range of amendments which are supposed to deal with crime. It amends 14 different pieces of legislation. They deal with multiple issues about criminal justice, youth justice, public safety, law enforcement, sentencing, transport, firearms and weapons. Among those issues are the approach to dealing with youth crime, drink-driving, hooning offences, electronic monitoring, safeguards for phone calls from youth detention centres, informed consent about the electronic service of documents, the effectiveness of Jack's Law, handheld scanning trial, domestic and family violence and the Childrens Court.

That a bill as far reaching as this was given only two weeks for people to make a submission—and only two public hearings and two public briefings were held—demonstrates disdain for consultation by a government which does not want to be held accountable.

AgForce called it disrespectful. It submitted that the size of the bill and considerable number of amendments 'raises valid concern that the time allowed for proper consultation, for stakeholders to obtain a thorough understanding of each aspect, is lacking and disrespectful.' The Shooters Union called it unfeasible. The Queensland Council of Civil Liberties' submission raised numerous concerns including that it registered a strong protest against the very short period of time to make a submission.

I wrote to the committee requesting an extension because the time line was insufficient for people to thoroughly review and consider the full ramifications of the bill. That the government is introducing amendments to its own bill demonstrates how prescient that comment was. It is having to amend its own bill. The response I received said that the restricted time line was needed to provide the Queensland Police Service time to respond to issues raised in the submissions, to invite witnesses to the public hearing, and to draft a report. There were only two public hearings and only two public briefings.

I support any legislation which protects victims, reduces the number of victims, and provides consequences for actions for perpetrators of crime. This bill fails to achieve those goals. The government created the youth crime crisis. This has not occurred in the last few months. It has been years in the making. Youth criminals used to run from police; now they run at them.

The public is being asked to dismiss the government's record of the last 10 years. Since 2015-16, offences involving stolen cars have increased 101 per cent; break and enter is up 45 per cent; other theft up 45 per cent; assaults up 190 per cent; and robbery up 123 per cent. The government's priorities are media management and spin. That is why in the four years to March this year it increased the number of ministerial staffers by 21.7 per cent, yet frontline police staff have increased by only 0.46 per cent. That is the priority. This is about appearing to act while the government is philosophically opposed to consequences for actions.

The bill does not remove detention as a last resort. The government's own statement of compatibility revealed the truth when it said the amendments are 'clarifying positions and are not intended to change the law'. The government does not want consequences for action.

The latest data shows that in 2022-23, there were 11,191 children offenders—an extra 557 offenders in only 12 months. More than half of all criminals committing car thefts and break-ins are children aged between 10 and 17.

On every measure, crime has risen substantially under this government. Over the term of this government between 2015-16 and 2023-24, robbery in the Gympie Queensland Police Service division has increased by 550 per cent. In the same period, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 167 per cent; unlawful entry up 87 per cent; other theft up 61 per cent; assault up 110 per cent; and breach of DV protection orders is up 123 per cent.

The total number of offences in the Gympie QPS division have increased from 3,114 in 2014 to 4,398 last year. It is already 2,511 this year with four months to go.

When Labor watered down youth crime laws in 2015-16 by removing detention as a last resort, it created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders. I was on the committee when the government started its ideological campaign to water down the laws. A Townsville resident spoke about her frustration, saying—

The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime. The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no feedback if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see if the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.

Ten years on, the situation has continued to deteriorate.

In contrast, the LNP will remove detention as a last resort. We will install consequences for actions. We will fix the youth crime crisis by introducing the Making Queensland Safer Laws by the end of the year. We will open the Childrens Court to deliver transparency by placing the onus on the court to allow media into the Childrens Court unless there are very real grounds for it causing safety issues for the offender.

The majority of this bill would be regarded as not contentious by most reasonable people. The bill mentions firearm theft but proposes nothing to address it. That is why I welcome the amendments foreshadowed by the shadow minister for police to deal with cracking down on firearm theft, not law-abiding firearm owners. Concerns were raised about the expansion of the fit and proper person test. My office has been inundated with law-abiding firearm owners raising issues. I have forwarded their concerns to the minister. This would not have been necessary if the minister had listened to the members of the ministerial firearm advisory council. This is what happens when you rush legislation.

Bad legislation has unintended consequences. There were genuine concerns about whether people whom courts have decided against recording a conviction for will be captured by these legislative changes. There were genuine concerns about whether they would then be prohibited from holding a weapons licence and there were genuine concerns about whether people captured by these changes would have their weapons licence immediately revoked.

AgForce said that many amendments 'lack credible data and evidence' or adequate justification. It said—

... there are no statistics to indicate that there is any risk to public safety from the holders of legitimate firearms licences.


It raised concerns about the unintended consequences for business owners where a firearm is required to undertake day-to-day operations to care for livestock, deal with distressed livestock and protect livestock from feral animals. AgForce submitted—

... wide-ranging amendments are likely to result in severe unintended consequences, penalising innocent individuals and obstructing community involvement in crime reporting and resolution.

It said that the provisions should be 'fair, practical, and effective in enhancing public safety without infringing on individual rights'.

The government has history in demonising law-abiding firearm owners. In 2020 the police minister and the agriculture minister could not close firearm shops quickly enough. They used the cloak of COVID-19 to unilaterally close licensed dealers and armourers. They gave no notice to farmers, primary producers or affected businesses. Law-abiding firearm owners should have trust in government. Unfortunately, this has been eroded.

It is clear that the government has no enthusiasm for or investment in addressing youth crime. This is a political problem, not a crime problem. The government has treated crime as a management problem which will go away with announcements and carefully crafted media spin. Given the government's track record, it is hard to believe it can address the crime crisis. It is hard to believe it will not water down policies. If the government truly wants to address the crime crisis, I urge members to support the LNP amendments. We owe it to victims to get this right.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (5.41 pm): This government will never stop in its work when it comes to tackling crime. There will always be more that can be done and we will not hesitate to take any evidence-based approach when it comes to tackling crime. Community safety is paramount and people deserve to feel safe in their own homes, as we all know. Addressing crime, particularly youth crime, starts with early intervention, but if someone does the wrong thing they must be held to account. That is what the Queensland Community Safety Bill will do. In Townsville we have seen some absolutely despicable acts when it comes to young offenders in stolen cars that have targeted emergency services vehicles. Put simply, this is disgusting and unacceptable behaviour.

This bill will make ramming emergency vehicles a standalone offence, with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. Anyone ramming an emergency vehicle and putting our emergency services personnel's lives on the line deserves to face the full consequences. Not only do offences like this put emergency services workers in danger, but if someone rams a vehicle that vehicle may not be useable for quite some time while it is being repaired. This obviously puts pressure on resources, too, and can have flow-on impacts. That is why this bill will make sure that people who target our police, paramedics and firefighters will face the full consequences of their actions under this legislation. Through this legislation, we are giving tools to the courts to ensure people are held to account when they break the law and put people's lives in danger. I am proud to be part of a government that is putting in place laws to make sure offenders face the consequences for their actions.

As part of this legislation we are expanding Jack's Law to give our police more power to detect and to find unlawfully possessed knives. For Townsville, these changes expand the framework to include shopping centres, entertainment venues while an event is being held, retail premises and licensed premises. We have already seen great results in Townsville from the initial laws, and these changes will help keep people even more safe. There is no reason whatsoever for someone to unlawfully carry a knife in a public space, and we make no apologies for targeting this.


This legislation is a key part of our \$1.28 billion comprehensive community safety plan. A part of this plan that I would like to highlight is Townsville's dedicated police helicopter. This was one of the first announcements Premier Steven Miles made when he became the Premier, because he knows, as the entire government knows, that community safety is so important. I have heard directly from hardworking police officers in Townsville how much of a difference this is making in our city. We will

always back our police officers with the tools and the equipment they need if they ask for it. This is what we have done with this aerial asset. We know that these efforts are making a huge difference on the ground.

In Townsville, the latest statistics from the Queensland Police Service show that the number of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences committed by young offenders has decreased by 30 per cent. Our community safety plan and this legislation are focused on five pillars that are backed by evidence: supporting victims; delivering for our front line; detaining offenders to protect the community; intervening when people offend; and preventing crime before it occurs.

We all know that early intervention is incredibly important. That is why, through our community safety plan, we are investing in programs like the Townsville Street University, which I know the member for Thuringowa has been a long-time advocate for. This is complemented by our Putting Queensland Kids First plan, which is about ensuring young people get the best start in life. When they do not, often because of their circumstances, they can sadly go down the wrong path and find themselves on the wrong side of the law. I think everyone here would agree that stopping that from happening in the first place is incredibly important and is a key way to drive down crime. But this government will not back away from ensuring those who put our community at risk face the consequences of their actions. They are the community's expectations and they are certainly my expectations as well.

The Queensland Community Safety Bill and our community safety plan are about addressing all aspects when it comes to crime. It is not a four-word slogan; it is a comprehensive and evidence-based plan to disrupt, reduce and prevent crime. The Miles government will always do whatever it can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders is put first. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024 and to address two specific elements contained within the bill. Concerns around this bill have been a hot topic in the electorate of Glass House ever since it was first introduced back in May. Local residents have largely been concerned about the impact that the Weapons Act amendments would have on law-abiding firearm owners. To be blunt, I wholeheartedly shared their concerns. Initially they expressed their frustration that there were just two weeks to make submissions on this sizeable bill—a bill that has garnered a huge amount of community interest statewide. That timeframe was criminally short. The LNP wrote to the committee and the government requesting that the consultation period be extended. I was hopeful this would be approved. It was not, and I should not have been surprised. This Labor government have turned parliament into a legislative sausage factory.

Fast-forward to now, almost four months later. Widespread community fear remains regarding the Weapons Act amendments. Imagine if there had been better engagement, especially with law-abiding firearm owners, from the start. Perhaps those fears could have been allayed. I have listened to the unease of my constituents and sympathise that this Labor government continues to make life hard for law-abiding firearm owners rather than actually going after people doing the wrong thing.

This bill misses an important opportunity to get tough on criminals with firearms. It refers to an increase in firearm theft but does nothing to address it. Instead, it unfairly concentrates on licensed shooters. We know that in Queensland theft from licensed individuals and firearm dealers is one of the most used methods to move firearms from the legal market to the black market. According to the ACIC, very often these stolen firearms come into the possession of organised crime groups. ACIC conservatively estimate that there are 200,000 firearms in that domestic black market. We need to be creating legislation that increases the maximum penalty for stealing firearms or ammunition. Currently the penalty for stealing a firearm is 10 years imprisonment, which falls below the maximum penalty imposed by other states such as New South Wales and Western Australia. If other states are doing their due diligence by cracking down on this domestic illicit market, why aren't we? It is for this reason the LNP seeks to move amendments to the bill which will increase the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm from 10 to 14 years.

Today the shadow minister for police tabled an amendment to section 398 of the Criminal Code to increase that maximum penalty. The amendment has my full support as evidence has shown that since Western Australia increased their maximum penalty for firearm theft reported cases decreased 20 per cent from 2022 to 2023. There is proof that this will work. It just requires a government with the drive to actually crack down on crime. Let's see if this Miles Labor government will back those amendments.

The other concerns raised with me have been around the introduction of a firearms prohibition order scheme, the introduction of a new verification process for purchasing small arms ammunition and just who would be excluded from possessing a firearm for the mandatory five-year exclusion period. At the outset, I say there are people who should not be allowed to own a weapon—no-one disputes that—but we need to be careful about unintended consequences.


I have listened carefully to the minister's second reading speech and viewed the amendments he is proposing and, yes, he has clarified who would be a fit and proper person regarding convictions. I expressly note that the explanatory notes to the amendments say they will clarify in the Weapons Act that when making weapons licensing decisions and applying the compulsory exclusionary period as inserted by the bill, non-recorded convictions are not captured under the non-discretionary application of the fit and proper person test of proposed new sections 10B(4), 10B(5), 10C(2) and 10C(3)(a) but under the discretionary test of sections 10B(1) and 10C(1). The minister has also clarified that, if the small arms ammunition register is down, licensed firearm owners can still buy ammunition. The dealer will need to keep a record of who they have sold it to and when the system goes back up they will need to check if that individual was prohibited and, if they were, notify the police. I do believe these clarifications address the primary concerns raised with me by law-abiding firearm owners in the electorate of Glass House.

Let me move quickly on to the youth justice section of the bill. I and the LNP will always support measures taken to combat the growing youth crime crisis in Queensland. However, this bill does not go far enough. To paint the picture of how dire this crisis is, currently more than half of all criminals committing car thefts and break-ins are children aged 10 to 17. In 2019 Minister Farmer said that her government had a genuine interest in taking youth justice reform out of the too-hard basket and sorting it out once and for all. I guess it never did make it out of the basket. In fact, I think several padlocks have been added to the basket since 2018 as not only is this government not taking any decisive action on youth crime; but also it seems determined to quash any policy suggestions and amendments from our side of the House, and a number have been put forward by our shadow minister to this piece of legislation.

In closing, I had a number of constituents tell me that if I do not vote against this bill they will not vote for me. I wish it was that simple. This is a large bill. There is a lot of good elements to it. It goes some way to addressing the youth crime crisis but it could go further. It raises concerns for law-abiding firearm owners without addressing criminals stealing weapons. Yes, many of those concerns have subsequently and at the last minute been addressed by the amendments moved by the minister earlier today. As such, the LNP will not oppose the legislation, but we will try to amend it. I appreciate that may not be enough for those constituents, but I encourage them to listen to or read this contribution and the contributions of others on the LNP side of this chamber to understand why I and the LNP do so.

As I note we are only minutes away from the guillotining of this debate—a debate that has meant much to many in this chamber—I table page 1 of the speaking list and note the many members on the LNP side of the House who will not have an opportunity to speak because in a couple of minutes this debate will again be shut down by this tired, chaotic Miles Labor government.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Community Safety Bill—p1 of 2' [[1585](#)].


 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.54 pm): In rising to speak to the bill this evening I want to focus my contribution on the part of the bill that, as the corrective services minister mentioned, I have had a large part in advocating for over a number of years. I am very proud and excited on behalf of my community to see the service of DFV documents by corrective services officers included in the legislation tonight.

The bill maintains existing arrangements whereby police officers are empowered to personally serve documents to prisoners in correctional centres but introduces the option of engaging a corrective services officer to serve those prescribed domestic and family violence documents to prisoners. The bill facilitates a trial arrangement that can be implemented at one or more correctional centres approved by the commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services. This amendment streamlines those service requirements, allowing for prisoners to engage with officers who would ordinarily serve them a range of other documents in their correctional centre environment. It reduces the challenges and, of course, the wasted time and the time spent by police officers in serving documents, especially, but not limited to, when a prisoner refuses a visit which ultimately impacts on that prisoner's ability to seek legal advice.

This trial is so important to me and to my community because my community police station at Mount Ommaney services the Wacol prison precinct, which consists of a number of prisons based in the Wacol area. A number of years ago my local police explained to me that, despite knowing exactly

where those offenders are, it can be incredibly time consuming and may take a number of visits by the police, which have to be prearranged with the corrective services facility, to actually serve those documents. Servicing the entire Wacol prison precinct for my Mount Ommaney Police Station is actually a considerable amount of their work. It is a considerable burden on my local police station, which is why I am so delighted and so grateful to see this pilot proceeding. For my community the tangible effects are very real. It will mean we will have more police available in our community because they will not need to serve those documents in our prison precinct so regularly. Those police, of course, will be able to keep our community safe.


I want to thank very deeply the local police in my Mount Ommaney station for their persistence and advocacy over a number of years. They did a wonderful job of bringing up this issue and explaining very clearly the tangible benefits that our community would receive: essentially a boost in the number of police officers who will be available to service our community because they would not need to service the Wacol precinct so comprehensively. I also want to thank the Together union for raising the concerns they did. It is really important that we get this trial right. I also would like to thank my staff who worked on this issue and were very persistent, especially my electorate officer Rachel, who really beavered away on getting this issue across the line, along with our local police. I will leave my contribution there. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Community Safety Bill. The bill contains amendments to no less than 14 pieces of legislation and this guillotined debate limits members' time to speak on this legislation. Some of the legislation amended is, in fact, watered down legislation from 2015-16. I want to thank the many people who have contacted me in relation to this legislation and raised their concerns. I particularly want to thank the shadow minister for police and member for Ninderry for his advocacy in relation to seeking changes from the government to a definition of 'conviction' that ensures there are no unintended consequences from this bill. I want to thank him for his advocacy. Clarity on this definition was certainly needed.

There are also changes relating to access to small arms ammunition agreed to by the government. This will be of assistance to many of the mixed businesses in my electorate that sell ammunition. The bill talks about how the number of firearms reported as stolen has increased by 21 per cent in the last decade. The explanatory notes state that there were 779 firearms stolen in 2023 alone. Whilst the bill talks about illegal firearms, there is not one penalty for illegal firearms; nor is there one new offence for illegal firearms in the bill, and the bill does nothing to crack down on these illegal firearms. If the government is so concerned about them, why not take this opportunity to crack down on illegal firearms?

Whilst Labor talks about firearm theft, it does not get tough on it, and that is what is needed. In this bill the Labor government has missed that opportunity to get tough on the illegal gun owners. The difference is that the LNP is proposing to crack down on illegal firearms and crack down on those involved in organised crime through drive-by shootings. In 2019 the LNP proposed an increased penalty for the stealing of firearms or ammunition and the shadow minister for police has proposed amendments that increase the maximum penalty for stealing firearms and ammunition from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. What we know from the evidence in other states is that this increased penalty on those illegal firearms and ammunition purchases has shown that firearms theft has decreased.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (6.00 pm), in reply: I take this opportunity to thank all members who have contributed to the debate on the Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024. The Miles government is doing what matters for Queensland. This historic Community Safety Plan for Queensland matters because it supports all Queenslanders. It is a comprehensive, evidence-based, \$1.28 billion plan that enhances community safety. It is a plan that supports police in their efforts to protect the community. It is a safety plan that features new and expanded laws—the very ones we are debating today. It is a safety plan that supports police with more personnel and more resources. It is a safety plan that delivers expanded Polair capability to the Far North, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay regions.

It is a safety plan that expands nation-leading initiatives like Jack's Law. It is a safety plan that creates a new law known as Susan's Law. Susan's Law directly targets those individuals who evade police and then cause the death or grievous bodily harm of another person. It is a safety plan that further targets those who post and boast on social media. It is a safety plan that also targets social media

platforms that do not respond to police take-down notices—those social media companies that are not fulfilling their social licence with our community. It is a safety plan that will impose firearm prohibition orders on individuals like terrorists, high-risk domestic violence offenders and people involved in organised crime. I have only just scratched the surface of this comprehensive plan. There are many more elements, but it is clear that the scope of this plan is broad ranging. It is a plan to enhance community safety, support police and support victims of crime.

I will now address the issues raised by members during the debate. I want to firstly address a matter raised by the member for Noosa in relation to the firearm prohibition order scheme and the suggestion that the scheme has the potential to negatively impact farmers and the agricultural community. I note that the matters raised by the member during the debate were also outlined within the member's statement of reservation in the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report. Firstly, I want to address the member's suggestion that a farmer would be placed in an untenable position if they hired a person subject to a firearm prohibition order, given the farmer would be required to remove all firearms and ammunition from the property.

In response to this concern, I would like to reiterate that this scheme targets high-risk individuals only. This cohort may include individuals who have shown a blatant disregard for the law, who have a history of violence or extensive criminal connections and involvement in criminal organisations. This cohort of individuals represents an unacceptable risk of harm to the community if they were to be in possession of a firearm and cannot be trusted to have access to these deadly weapons. They are the very antithesis of a law-abiding firearm owner. This is not the type of person whom our hardworking farmers want on their lands and having access to their firearms. Therefore, this scheme makes clear that any person subject to a firearm prohibition order is responsible for abiding by the conditions of the order. The scheme is not designed to target farmers or employers; instead, it places the obligation of compliance on the high-risk individual themselves.

Secondly, I would like to make it very clear that any person who unknowingly or inadvertently allows a person the subject of a firearm prohibition order to have access to firearms is not guilty of an offence under this scheme. The scheme introduces strong penalties for the individual who is the subject of a firearm prohibition order if they seek to acquire firearms or firearm related items, and the responsibility for ensuring this is clearly placed on the high-risk individual and not an innocent employer.

I will now turn to other amendments proposed by members. Firstly in respect of the amendment regarding stealing firearms or ammunition, I am advised that the proposed amendment is ill-conceived for a range of reasons. Increasing the penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition—item 15 of stealing—from 10 to 14 years imprisonment creates distortion of the penalty framework within the code stealing offences and makes it inconsistent with the entire penalty framework. For example, item 14 in section 398 provides for 'Stealing firearm for use in another indictable offence'. This offence already carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. Secondly, increasing the penalty to 14 years will mean that it must be heard on indictment and will have significant flow-on consequences for the courts.

In respect of the amendment around firing at dwellings, the amendment that is proposed with respect to the Weapons Act 1999 will introduce two new offences: a new section 57A(1), providing that a person must not fire a firearm at a dwelling, house, another building or a vehicle with reckless disregard for the safety of any person, with a maximum penalty of 14 years; and a new section 57A(2), providing that a person must not commit this offence in the course of an organised criminal activity. These offences reflect serious mainstream criminal conduct and do not belong in the Weapons Act.

The Criminal Code is the act in Queensland that reflects a compiled volume of Queensland criminal law. The Weapons Act, on the other hand, is relevant to the imposition of strict controls on the sale, possession and storage of weapons to improve public and individual safety. That being said, there are a number of existing offences already in the statute book relevant to conduct that involves a firearm being fired at a dwelling house. For example, a person who engages in such conduct may, depending on the circumstances, be charged with the offence of murder, which has a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, or attempted murder, which has a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Other offences may also apply, depending on the nature and circumstances of the offending.

In relation to these specific offences, the drafting reflects other practical issues that confirm it should not be passed. The terms 'organised criminal activity' and 'reckless disregard' are new terms on the statute book in the criminal law context and it is not clear what a court would be required to consider when determining the meaning of these terms in the context of a prosecution. In any event, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 already provides for a serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation to a prescribed list of serious offences often associated with organised criminal activity. It

is a circumstance of aggravation if at the time the person commits the prescribed offence the person was a participant in a criminal organisation and that person knew or ought reasonably to have known that the offence was being committed at the direction of a criminal organisation or in association with a participant in a criminal organisation or for the benefit of a criminal organisation.

The consequence of conviction for a prescribed offence committed with the circumstance of aggravation is to enliven a new targeted sentencing regime specific to these offenders—namely, that the court must sentence the person to a term of imprisonment for the prescribed offence. The length of this base sentence is to be decided by the court having regard to the circumstances of the case. However, the court cannot have regard to the mandated component of the sentence and therefore cannot ameliorate the base sentence in any way because of this and must impose the mandated component of the sentence—that is, a fixed cumulative jail term to be served wholly in prison without parole release. The length is to be seven years imprisonment, or for a prescribed offence that is punishable by a maximum penalty of less than seven years imprisonment the fixed cumulative term is to be the length of the maximum penalty for that offence. The penalty regime cannot be mitigated or varied except in prescribed circumstances—that is, the person provides cooperation of significant use to a law enforcement agency in the investigation of or in a proceeding about a major offence.

'Criminal organisation' is defined as a group of three or more persons, whether arranged formally or informally, who engage in or who have as their purpose engaging in serious criminal activity and who, by their association, represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community. The fact of the matter is that the existing arrangements in the legislation, including the existing circumstance of aggravation in respect of people conducting themselves pursuant to a criminal organisation clause, are stronger than what the member is proposing in his amendments. Of course, the other thing is that the member's drafting is ill-conceived and not precise enough to capture the intent of what the member was hoping to achieve.

That being said, I will move on to the amendments in relation to the Childrens Court. The amendments that the LNP seek to move during consideration in detail to allow a member of a victim's family are not necessary as the bill's current amendments to the Childrens Court Act allow members of a victim's family to be present either as their representative or where the victim has passed away.

The amendments with respect to ensuring that a representative of the media be present in the courtroom unless the court is satisfied to do so would risk the safety of any person are inconsistent with the bill's objectives of ensuring that the media can be present during Childrens Court proceedings not heard on indictment with appropriate safeguards. The bill does allow media organisations accredited under the Supreme Court's media accreditation policy to be present unless the court makes an exclusion order because it is necessary to prevent prejudice to the proper administration of justice or for the safety of any person, including the child.

Allowing media entities to be present even where the court has determined that it is necessary to exclude them to prevent prejudice to the proper administration of justice is not appropriate. The safeguards in the bill also ensure that media organisations are not present when a magistrate is considering a child's matter under the Mental Health Act 2016.

In tabling the amendments, the member said words to the effect that the LNP's amendments would restore open Childrens Court proceedings under the Childrens Court Act 1992 to what they were under the Newman government. However, they do not do that. Under the Newman government's 2014 amendments to the Childrens Court Act, only Childrens Court criminal proceedings not heard on indictment that involved a repeat offender were held in open court and even then the court could be closed if it was considered necessary and desirable in the interests of justice. Where the court was hearing matters in relation to first time offenders, it was a matter for the court as to whether the media could be present.

The bill also allows accredited media organisations to be present during Childrens Court criminal proceedings not heard on indictment regardless of whether the child is a first-time offender. The bill provides two grounds on which the media may be excluded: firstly, where it is necessary to prevent prejudice to the proper administration of justice; or, secondly, where it is necessary for the safety of any person, including the child. These grounds provide clear guidance to the courts on what basis media organisations may be excluded.

In closing, I want to thank the police and corrective services officers, the youth detention centre workers and the youth justice workers who go to work every day with a determination to help make Queensland a safer place. I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our new Premier and my ministerial

colleagues including the Attorney-General, the Minister for Youth Justice, the Minister for Transport and the Leader of the House for the collaborative way we tackle these very difficult, complex and challenging issues together.

I acknowledge and thank the Queensland Police Service Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch and the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Command for their work on this bill and the amendments. In particular, I acknowledge Anthony Brown, Helen Spencer, Acting Superintendent Michael Ede, Karen Messori, Michael Shears, Nadine Seifert, Inspector John 'Hendo' Henderson, Acting Inspector Jacquelyn McLeod, Acting Inspector Nicole Powell, Inspector Rowena Hardiker, Inspector Simon James, Andrea Joseph, Jamie Impson, Jessica Mudryk, Anna Papoutsakis, Emma Francis, Laura Manley, Melissa Akroyd, Acting Senior Sergeant Sarah Ellis, Acting Senior Sergeant Selina Arthur, Allyra Forrester, Ashleigh Veivers, Ciara Morgan, Jayme Say, Kirstin Moss, Kylie Asnicar, Naomi Mole, Sarah Joslin, Vanessa Campbell, Dee Falzon, Daniella Visini, Kirra Bartz, Marko Miceta and Natalia Quinn. It is important to acknowledge the people whose names are on that long list because it has been a huge effort by many people within the Queensland Police Service and partner agencies to deliver these substantial reforms. It reinforces, of course, the comprehensive nature of our response and how it is evidence based and based on the work of experts.

I also thank the officers from the Department of Youth Justice; the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; the Department of Transport and Main Roads; the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts; Queensland Corrective Services; the Queensland Fire Department and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. In particular, I acknowledge Helen Ferguson, Jill Sorensen, Jenny Newton, Jacoba Peereboom, Anna Huynh, Kathy Parton, Letitia Farrell, Gillian Leslie, Peter Wilkins, Sussan Osmond, Anita Eenink and Rachelle Stacey.

I also acknowledge Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski, Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice, Bob Gee and Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Jasmina Joldic for their support in the development of this legislation. I acknowledge the incredible staff at the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their work on this bill and the amendments. Thanks also to Darren Cann from the Premier's office who has been instrumental in the development of this bill and the amendments.

In recent years, this parliament has passed many pieces of legislation all possessed of a common ambition to bring change—change for the better. The many pieces of legislation that I have had the honour of introducing to the parliament possess that ambition: an ambition to enhance community safety; an ambition to provide police with the tools and supports they need to provide security, protection and safety for the community; and an ambition to better support victims. Today, yet again, we are here in this parliament with those same ambitions and the ambition to create a safer community. It is a lofty goal but it is a worthy goal.

I know there are those who have certain and varied views about politicians. I would like to say to every member of this parliament that we are part of something worthy, something noble. We have our disagreements. Some people make them more personal than others.

Mr Stevens: Some are less worthy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, member! Pause the clock. You will withdraw that.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any more interjections and I will ask you to leave.

Mr RYAN: Some people have outbursts that reflect on their own character rather than the character of others. This parliament enshrines laws that can make a very real difference to the everyday lives of Queenslanders and we are doing that here today because of the important contributions of so many people. There is the legislation team who I acknowledged earlier and the dedicated legal experts from police who navigate the language of the law to create legislation that gives expression to our ambitions for a safer community.

Today, in particular, those ambitions for a safer community actually came from the community. Brett and Belinda Beasley are here today. They are here today as we enshrine the expansion of Jack's Law. Jack's Law is Jack Beasley's legacy. Jack's Law is Brett's and Belinda's legacy. It is a life-saving legacy. Claudine Snow is here today. Like Brett and Belinda, Claudine has suffered traumatic loss. Like Brett and Belinda, Claudine has advocated strongly in a bid to ensure that no-one else needlessly suffers the kind of loss she has. Thanks to Claudine's advocacy, today we will enshrine a new law that we will call Susan's Law in honour of Claudine's mum. It is a new law that targets those who evade police and then cause death or grievous bodily harm to another.

I say to Claudine and your family and to Brett and Belinda, your actions have made a difference. Your actions will keep communities safer.

Today, the parliament will express the will of the people. The parliament will express the will of good and decent people such as Claudine, Brett and Belinda. It is a good thing to do. It is the right thing to do. It is a thing that we all have the honour of being a part of. I take this opportunity to commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

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

AYES, 79:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

NOES, 6:

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: S. King, Mickelberg; Sullivan, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mr RYAN (6.26 pm): I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 16, lines 7 to 17—

omit, insert—

material means any material capable of being published online using a social media platform or online social network, including, for example—

- (a) sounds, including speech or music; or
- (b) visual images, whether moving or not; or
- (c) text; or
- (d) material that is any combination of sound, images or text; or
- (e) material that is digitally created, altered or manipulated.

provided, in relation to material on a social media platform or online social network, means the material is accessible by, or delivered to, 1 or more persons using the platform or network.

provider, of a social media platform or online social network, does not include a person that merely provides a service that enables material to be accessed or delivered but is not, of itself, a social media platform or online social network.

Examples—

- a carriage service under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cwlth)
- a caching or hosting service

2 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 16, lines 19 and 20—

omit, insert—

removed, in relation to material on a social media platform or online social network, means the material is not accessible by, or delivered to, any person in Queensland using the service.

3 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 17, line 1, 'an online service'—

omit, insert—

a social media platform or online social network

4 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 17, line 16, 'posted the material on the online service'—
omit, insert—

published the material on the social media platform or online social network

5 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 17, lines 28 and 29, 'posted on the online service'—
omit, insert—

published on the social media platform or online social network

6 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 17, after line 31—
insert—

(1A) However, this section does not apply in relation to material posted on a social media platform or online social network by a journalist in the course of their activities as a journalist.

7 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 17, lines 33 and 34, 'online service'—
omit, insert—

social media platform or online social network

8 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 18, line 1, 'service'—
omit, insert—

platform or network

9 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 18, after line 22—
insert—

(7) In this section—
journalist see the *Evidence Act 1977*, section 14R.

10 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 18, lines 25 and 26, 'an online service'—
omit, insert—

a social media platform or online social network

11 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 19, lines 19 and 20, 'an online service'—
omit, insert—

a social media platform or online social network

12 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 21A)

Page 19, line 26, 'an online service'—
omit, insert—

a social media platform or online social network

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

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1586\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [\[1587\]](#).

In speaking to the clause, there has been particular interest around this particular amendment so it is important to put on the record the background to it.

These amendments relate to the removal of particular online content scheme. Once material is published online, it can be difficult to control how it is shared and by whom it may be accessed. The prevalence and rapid spread online of material depicting unlawful conduct, particularly following events of major criminal offending, has highlighted that some social media companies put profits above the community by not consistently self-applying standards relating to content removal.

Despite attempts by authorities to use consensual removal schemes, including those under social networks' terms of use, it remains difficult to have material removed. Decisions about removal can be inconsistent and untimely, leading to further traumatising of victims and their families. I must

say that we should not have to have amendments like this. We should not have to have take-down powers for the Police Service and other law enforcement agencies. These social media companies have a social licence. They have a social licence to protect communities from being retraumatised by displaying the criminal offending, by glorifying criminal offending but also by facilitating the distribution of child exploitation material and other offensive and horrid crimes. We are acting because the social media companies will not and because the social media companies are not fulfilling their social licence to our community.

The bill will enable authorised officers to ensure the community feels safe by requiring providers to remove access to the criminal material within 24 hours. Strong penalties apply to those social media providers who do not comply. The Police Commissioner will be empowered to apply to the Supreme Court for a civil penalty of over \$1 million. In fact, it is up to \$1.6 million. That is the strongest, harshest regime in the nation.

This scheme aims to prevent the glorification of crime and the promotion of criminal behaviour to protect victims from retraumatisation from public visibility of the material because of the borderless environment of the internet. The scheme applies to foreign corporations which operate online social networks outside Queensland or Australia.

The Queensland government continues to ensure that the Queensland Police Service has the tools it needs to ensure our communities are safe and feel safe, and this scheme is another tool in the police toolbox to do so. Of course, it complements the work of the eSafety Commissioner, who also has take-down powers, but it enhances the number of law enforcement agencies who have the ability to rely on these powers. Let's hope this sends a strong message to those social media companies that they must act to fulfil their social licence in keeping communities safe.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 4, the House must now consider clauses or remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note that the minister's amendments Nos 27, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 13 to 48, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

13 Clause 5 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 20, line 13—

omit.

14 Clause 5 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 20, line 14, 'on an online service'—

omit, insert—

in relation to material on a social media platform or online social network

15 Clause 5 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 20, line 16, 'of an online service'—

omit, insert—

of a social media platform or online social network

16 Clause 5 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 20, line 20, 'from an online service'—

omit, insert—

in relation to material on a social media platform or online social network

17 Clause 42 (Insertion of new s 43A)

Page 45, line 5, 'before selling'—

omit, insert—

for sale of

18 Clause 42 (Insertion of new s 43A)

Page 45, lines 23 to 27—

omit, insert—

- (b) if a verification system is prescribed by regulation for the licence or authority—
 - (i) if the verification system is available for use by the seller—the seller has verified the validity of the licence or authority using the verification system; or
 - (ii) if the verification system is not available for use by the seller—the seller has recorded the information required under subsection (3).

19 Clause 42 (Insertion of new s 43A)

Page 45, lines 29 and 30—

omit, insert—

- (3) For subsection (2)(b)(ii), the following information must be recorded for each transaction for the sale of the small arms ammunition to a buyer—
 - (a) the date and time of the transaction;
 - (b) the type and quantity of the ammunition;
 - (c) the name and address of the buyer;
 - (d) the buyer's licence number or authority number;
 - (e) the expiry date of the buyer's licence or authority;
 - (f) if the licence or authority is an interstate firearms authority—the state that issued the interstate firearms authority;
 - (g) if the verification system is not available for use by the seller in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (3B)(b)—
 - (i) the reason the seller is unable to access the internet, if known; and
 - (ii) the seller's internet service provider.
 - (3A) If a seller sells small arms ammunition to a buyer when a verification system prescribed under subsection (2)(b) is not available for use by the seller, the seller must—
 - (a) as soon as practicable after the system becomes available for use by the seller, verify the validity of the licence or authority using the verification system; and
 - (b) if the verification system indicates the buyer's licence or authority is not valid—immediately report the transaction to police.
- Maximum penalty—140 penalty units.
- (3B) For this section, a verification system is not available for use by a seller if—
 - (a) the system is not operational; or
 - (b) the seller is unable to access the internet because of an event out of the seller's control.

Example for paragraph (b)—

a power outage that causes the seller's internet to be inaccessible

20 Clause 58 (Amendment of s 10B (Fit and proper person—licensees))

Page 55, lines 16 to 18—

omit, insert—

- (7) For subsections (4) and (5), the conviction—
 - (a) must be a recorded conviction; and
 - (b) may be a spent conviction.

21 Clause 59 (Amendment of s 10C (Fit and proper person—licensed dealer's associate))

Page 57, lines 7 to 9—

omit, insert—

- (4) For subsections (2) and (3)(a), the conviction—
 - (a) must be a recorded conviction; and
 - (b) may be a spent conviction.

22 Clause 73 (Insertion of new pt 5A)

Page 75, lines 29 to 32—

omit, insert—

- (a) a firearm prohibition order is made in relation to an individual—
 - (i) by the commissioner; or
 - (ii) by the court and the individual is not present in court when the order is made; and

23 Clause 73 (Insertion of new pt 5A)

Page 76, after line 25—

insert—

- (2A) A direction under subsection (2) may be given only if the police officer considers it is reasonably necessary to enable service of the firearm prohibition order.

24 Clause 106 (Amendment of s 19 (Meaning of family relationship and relative))

Page 135, lines 15 to 20—

*omit.***25 Clause 107 (Amendment of s 100 (Police officer must investigate domestic violence))**

Page 135, after line 22—

insert—

- (1A) Section 100—

insert—

- (5A) A police officer's obligation to investigate a complaint, report or circumstance of domestic violence under subsection (1), or to make a written record under subsection (4), ends if the officer reasonably believes that—

- (a) the only type of relevant relationship that exists between the 2 persons the subject of the complaint, report or circumstance is a family relationship; and
- (b) one of the persons is under 18 years.

26 Clause 107 (Amendment of s 100 (Police officer must investigate domestic violence))

Page 135, line 28, after '(4),'

insert—

or stops investigating a matter, or taking action, under subsection (5A),

27 After clause 112

Page 141, after line 3—

*insert—***Division 1A Amendment of Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008****112A Act amended**

This division amends the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*.

112B Amendment of s 43 (Court advice notices)

- (1) Section 43(1)(b)—

omit, insert—

- (b) for a person convicted of an offence who is a child—the person is not a first-time offender; and

- (2) Section 43(1)(c)(iii), after 'learns that'—

insert—

the child or

- (3) Section 43(3)(b), after 'is a child,'—

insert—

the child or

- (4) Section 43(3)—

insert—

- (c) for a convicted person who is a child—the court officer learns that the person is not a first-time offender.

- (5) Section 43—

insert—

- (3A) A person who has gained, gains or has access to, confidential information relating to a child through involvement in the administration of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* may disclose the information to the chief executive (justice) for the purpose of facilitating the giving of court advice notices.

- (3B) To remove any doubt, it is declared that, for the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, section 301, neither of the following is publication of identifying information about a child—

- (a) giving a court advice notice under this section;
- (b) disclosing confidential information under subsection (4).

(6) Section 43(4), definitions *court officer* and *identifying information*—
omit.

(7) Section 43(4)—
insert—

chief executive (justice) means the chief executive of the department in which the *Attorney-General Act 1999* is administered.

court officer means—

- (a) for a court that convicts a person who is an adult—
 - (i) for the District Court—the registrar of the court; or
 - (ii) for a Magistrates Court—the clerk of the court; or
 - (iii) for the Supreme Court—the registrar of the court; or
- (b) for a court that convicts a person who is a child—the chief executive (justice); or
- (c) for a court that makes a protection order against a person—the clerk of the court within the meaning of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*.

first-time offender, in relation to a child convicted of an offence, means a child who has not previously been convicted of an offence.

(8) Section 43(3A) to (4)—
renumber as section 43(4) to (6).

28 Clause 125 (Amendment of s 263A (Recordings in detention centres and use of body-worn cameras))

Page 151, lines 27 and 28—

omit, insert—

- (i) the human rights commissioner.

29 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 154, line 21, '(3)'—

omit, insert—

- (2)

30 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 154, lines 27 and 28, from 'a decision' to 'transfer the detainee,'—

omit, insert—

the decision

31 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 154, lines 32 and 33, from 'a decision' to 'transfer the detainee,'—

omit, insert—

the decision

32 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 155, lines 9 to 12—

omit, insert—

decision mentioned in—

- (a) section 276C(2)(b) to temporarily delay giving the detainee a prison transfer notice; or
- (b) section 276C(2)(c) to not give the detainee a prison transfer notice.

33 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 155, after line 26—

insert—

- (ba) the detainee poses a risk to the security or good order of the detention centre at which the detainee is, or is to be, detained; or

34 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 156, line 27, 'and'—

omit, insert—

or

35 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))

Page 156, line 29, '276C(3)'—

omit, insert—

section 276C(2)(b) or (c)

- 36 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))**
Page 156, line 32, 'or (b)'—
omit, insert—
, (b) or (ba)
- 37 Clause 126 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A (Age related transfers to corrective services facilities))**
Page 157, line 35, 'or (b)'—
omit, insert—
, (b) or (ba)
- 38 Clause 127 (Insertion of new s 279B)**
Page 171, lines 24 and 25—
omit, insert—
(f) the human rights commissioner; or
- 39 After clause 130**
Page 173, after line 26—
insert—
130A Amendment of s 301S (Particular entities to be notified about declaration)
Section 301S(2)(g)—
omit, insert—
(g) the human rights commissioner;
- 40 Clause 133 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))**
Page 177, after line 28—
insert—
human rights commissioner means the Human Rights Commissioner under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*.
- 41 After clause 133**
Page 178, after line 4—
insert—
Part 4A Miscellaneous
Division 1 Amendment of Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002
133A Act amended
This division amends the *Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002*.
133B Amendment of s 10 (Appointment of general manager)
Section 10(2), after 'employed'—
insert—
as a senior executive
133C Insertion of new s 11B
After section 11A—
insert—
11B Acting general manager
(1) The Minister may appoint an appropriately qualified person to act in the office of general manager if—
(a) there is a vacancy in the office of general manager; or
(b) the general manager is absent from duty or, for another reason, can not perform the duties of the office.
(2) The person may be appointed to act in the office for a term of not more than 6 months.
(3) The person may be reappointed to act in the office—
(a) if the appointment is continuous on 1 or more of the person's previous appointments as acting general manager and the total period of continuous appointments is not more than 6 months—by the Minister; or
(b) otherwise—by the Governor in Council.
(4) A person appointed or reappointed by the Minister under this section holds office on the terms and conditions, including remuneration and allowances, decided by the Minister.
(5) This section does not otherwise limit or affect the application of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 24B or 25 for the appointment.

42 After clause 133

Page 178, after line 4—

insert—

133D Amendment of pt 5, hdg (Transitional provisions)

Part 5, heading, after 'Transitional'—

insert—

and validation

133E Insertion of new pt 5, div 4

Part 5—

insert—

Division 4 Validation provision for Queensland Community Safety Act 2024

22 Particular appointments to office of general manager

- (1) This section applies in relation to a person who, at any time before 24 April 2024—
- (a) was purportedly employed as general manager without having been appointed to the office of general manager under this Act; or
 - (b) was purportedly employed to act in the office of general manager without having been appointed to act in the office of general manager under this Act.
- (2) It is declared that—
- (a) despite section 10, the person is taken to have been validly appointed to the office of general manager, or to act in the office, under this Act for the period the person was purportedly employed as mentioned in subsection (1); and
 - (b) a contract of employment entered into between the person and the chief executive before 24 April 2024 is as valid as it would have been had the person been validly appointed to the office of general manager, or to act in the office, under this Act when the contract was entered into; and
 - (c) each relevant exercise of power by the person or MSQ is, and always has been, as valid as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to the office of general manager, or to act in the office, under this Act; and
 - (d) anything done by an entity relying on the validity of a decision made, or other thing done, before 24 April 2024 by the person or MSQ is, and always has been, as valid as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to the office of general manager, or to act in the office, under this Act when the decision was made or other thing done.
- (3) In this section—

Examples of other Acts—

- the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
- the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995*
- the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*
- the domestic commercial vessel national law under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Act 2016*
- the *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994*

43 After clause 133

Page 178, after line 4—

insert—

Division 2 Amendment of Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000

133F Act amended

This division amends the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.

133G Amendment of s 609A (Use of body-worn cameras)

Section 609A, 'or protective services officer'—

omit, insert—

, protective services officer or watch-house officer

44 After clause 133

Page 178, after line 4—
insert—

133H Amendment of s 149A (Definitions for chapter)

- (1) Section 149A, definition *specified person*, item (1), after 'established,'—
insert—
or that is otherwise lawfully seized under this Act and removed from a place,
- (2) Section 149A, definition *specified person*, item (1), paragraph (a)—
omit, insert—
- (a) a person reasonably suspected of having committed an offence in relation to which—
- (i) the search warrant is or was issued; or
 - (ii) the crime scene is or was established; or
 - (iii) the device was otherwise lawfully seized under this Act and removed from the place.

45 After clause 133

Page 178, after line 4—
insert—

133I Amendment of s 549 (Meaning of state building)

- (1) Section 549(1)(a)(ii), 'this definition; and'—
omit, insert—
this subparagraph; or
- (2) Section 549(1)(a)—
insert—
- (iii) a building, or part of a building, prescribed by regulation that is located in a local government area prescribed by regulation for the purpose of this subparagraph; and
- (3) Section 549(3), from 'only if'—
omit, insert—
only if—
- (a) for a building, or part of a building mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(ii)—the building or part of the building is to be used for an activity with which the State is directly concerned; or
 - (b) for a building, or part of a building mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(iii)—the building or part of the building is to be used for an activity with which the local government that governs the local government area is directly concerned.

46 After clause 133

Page 178, after line 4—
insert—

133J Insertion of new ch 24, pt 27

Chapter 24—
insert—

Part 27 Validation provision for Queensland Community Safety Act 2024**900 Validation of orders made under s 154A**

- (1) This section applies in relation to an order made under section 154A before the commencement.
- (2) The order is, and is taken to have always been, as valid as it would have been if, at the time it was made, the definition of *specified person* under section 149A, as amended by the *Queensland Community Safety Act 2024*, was in force.

133K Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary)

Schedule 6, definition *specified person*, after 'established,'—
insert—

or that is otherwise lawfully seized under this Act and removed from a place,

47 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 179, after line 3—
insert—

1AA Section 552A(1)(b)(iii), '335(2)(a)'—

omit, insert—
335(3)(a)

1AB Section 552BA(4), definition *relevant offence*, paragraph (aa), '335(2)(a)'—

omit, insert—

335(3)(a)

48 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 180, after line 6—

insert—

Fire Services Act 1990

1 Section 137(3), 'subsection (3)'—

omit, insert—

subsection (2)

2 Section 141(2), 'section 138(2)'—

omit, insert—

section 139(2)

Question put—That clauses 5 to 134 and schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 105, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 106 omitted.

Clauses 107 to 134 and schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

AYES, 79:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Rourke, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crisafulli, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Zanow.

NOES, 6:

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: S. King, Mickelberg; Sullivan, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 49 and 50 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

49 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Explosives Act 1999*,'—

insert—

the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*,

50 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Judicial Review Act 1991*,'—

insert—


the *Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002*,

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.37 pm): Since first being elected as the state member for Moggill, each and every day I have been fighting on behalf of local residents. I have delivered significant local funding and have a strong track record of local achievements over many years. This includes over \$58 million for infrastructure and maintenance within our local schools in the electorate of Moggill, including an additional \$16 million allocated in this current financial year. It also includes: \$7.8 million for new classrooms at Kenmore South State School, within an overall budget allocation of over \$25.5 million; \$1.3 million for amenity upgrades at Upper Brookfield State School; over \$1 million for amenity upgrades and a new access ramp at Kenmore State School; as well as \$825,000 for the refurbishment of block 2 at Mount Crosby State School. I am also pleased to have secured over \$6.5 million for new specialist classrooms at Kenmore State High School, along with dedicated funding for the planning and delivery of a new school hall.

As a result of my strong and consistent advocacy, I am also pleased to have secured and delivered substantial funding to support our many terrific community, environmental, sporting and not-for-profit organisations, including: over \$100,000 for facility upgrades for our local Moggill Pony Club; over \$800,000 for infrastructure upgrades to support the important work of the Moggill koala hospital; as well as tens of thousands of dollars awarded to so many of our local clubs for vital equipment purchases and upgrades, including for our Moggill Mustangs Junior AFL Club, the UQ Football Club, Kenmore Little Athletics and the Kenmore Bears Rugby Union Club.


There is so much more to be done, and I am determined to fight for the additional local government services and improved local infrastructure that residents of the electorate of Moggill deserve. There is definitely hope for the future, and the potential opportunities that are ahead with the election of a Liberal National Party state government are significant for the western suburbs of Brisbane. The Liberal National Party has the right priorities and plan for the electorate of Moggill and for Queensland's future.

I am fighting for funding for the planning and delivery of a new high school in the electorate of Moggill, along with additional infrastructure at Kenmore State High School. I am fighting for solutions to address road congestion, and the delivery of additional and safer public and active transport for local residents. I am committed to seeing new community and neighbourhood infrastructure being delivered, along with sustainable and ongoing cost-of-living relief measures and improvements for disaster and emergency management resourcing.

I also want to see reliable and affordable energy and electricity for local residents, of which renewables play an important part. This is critically important, and I will also be continuing to ensure our local environmental organisations and creek catchment groups receive the dedicated funding that is required for local conservation work and the delivery of local environmental programs.

The Liberal National Party is also determined to fix Labor's crime crisis and introduce our comprehensive Making Our Community Safer Laws as a priority. The LNP will also fix Labor's health and hospital crisis. The LNP will also help Queenslanders by addressing housing affordability, boosting home ownership and delivering thousands of new social and community homes. On 26 October local residents can support the LNP and, along with Queenslanders, elect a Liberal National Party state government.

Member for Broadwater; Walter Taylor Bridge

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (6.40 pm): Today is the seventh parliamentary sitting day in a row that the Leader of the Opposition has been in hiding. Where is he? 'Come out, come out, wherever you are,' I say to the Leader of the Opposition. He has questions to answer. This must be a record in this parliament—seven straight days of parliamentary sitting, budget week and this week, and the Leader of the Opposition is in witness protection. I have never seen anything like it—an opposition leader so lacking in courage to come and answer the questions of the media on the issue of SET Solutions, but I digress.


Let me speak about the topic that I want to cover tonight, and that is the Walter Taylor Bridge—an 88-year-old council bridge, with one lane of traffic each way between the city and Centenary. It is the most notorious bottleneck in Brisbane and it is the worst in Brisbane. There is no doubt about it. Less than two weeks ago the council announced with only a month's notice that they were going to shut the whole bridge to all traffic for 17 days between 13 and 30 September. My constituents are very

concerned about what such a major closure at such short notice means in terms of the future and viability of this aging bridge. It was compounded by Councillor Wines saying on ABC Radio, 'if the work goes well', they think they can get 15 more years out of the bridge.

Let's have a look at that. Fifteen years seems to be the best-case scenario for the Walter Taylor Bridge on the admission of the LNP council, but it could be a lot less if things do not go very well. That is a real concern, because it takes five years to build a replacement bridge to ensure access across the river between Chelmer and Indooroopilly. My constituents are very concerned that the LNP council and city hall are going to mess this up and not have a replacement bridge in place for when the inevitable day comes when the old cable suspension bridge, that is the Walter Taylor Bridge, is downgraded and cannot handle the traffic anymore. The cabling is nearly 100 years old. It was used as part of the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which was opened in 1932. The Walter Taylor Bridge itself was opened in 1936 here in Brisbane.

We clearly need a replacement bridge. That is why I had a public meeting recently with 75 constituents who are very concerned that the LNP are again forsaking the south-west of Brisbane. They are the largest and wealthiest council in Australia by a country mile. They are spending billions on the Metro, as well as a massive bridge across to Kangaroo Point right now. They are in the bridge-building business. They built another one at Breakfast Creek as well, yet they neglect this part of the city. They need to get on and build a replacement bridge between Chelmer and Indooroopilly in the allocated space and the land that they own right now, because my constituents do not want to be cut off for 2½ weeks, let alone 2½ years.

Whitsunday Electorate, Bruce Highway

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.43 pm): Whether you are a teacher in Proserpine commuting to Calen for work, whether you are attending a medical appointment or chemotherapy treatment in Mackay, whether you are an aged person wanting personal care in Proserpine, whether you are attending a Rugby League match in Bowen, whether you are going to the cinema and watching a movie in Bowen, whether you are hauling cane between Mount Ossa and Kuttabul, whether you are a tourist travelling from Seaforth to Airlie Beach or whether you are a student going to school from Hampden to Marian, you travel the Bruce Highway—what some are calling a goat track, a road, a national highway.

It is my local road. When I travel it each and every week I, along with many other Queenslanders between Rockhampton and Townsville, am five times more likely to die. Motorists using Queensland's major highway are five times more likely to be injured or killed in a crash than those driving on any other major carriageway that links Sydney and Melbourne. Fatal crashes this year to date are 165, which surpasses 2023 figures.


In the TMR program and operating region of Central Queensland, which is my region—the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region—we have had an increase in fatalities of 64.7 per cent since 2023. Twenty-eight people have lost their lives. In North Queensland, my colleague the member for Burdekin's region between Mackay and Townsville and further north, we have seen an increase of 55 per cent.

The Bruce Highway has a two-star rating in the electorate in which I reside, as well as in my neighbouring electorates of Mirani and Burdekin. The peak bodies of QTIC, the Queensland Trucking Association, LGAQ, RACQ and QFF, along with many others, are calling for greater funding for the Bruce Highway. Those regional members opposite—Far North Queensland, North Queensland and Central Queensland members of the Labor Party—have failed in their obligation to advocate for their community to the federal Labor government, which has cut its share of funding to Bruce Highway upgrades. It is shameful, disgraceful and costing lives.

When it comes to road closures, across our region the average is now 71.8 road closures for 140 days annually. Every day I drive that road I see two to three near misses. I have a young teenager on his L-plates. We drove to Airlie Beach last weekend. There were three near misses in a two-hour drive. This Labor government should be ashamed of itself.

(Time expired)

Bundaberg Hospital, Ambulance Service Personnel

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.46 pm): Our ambulance officers dedicate their lives and profession to serving their community. They dedicate themselves to the highest standard of care for their patients. It has been brought to my attention that a number of disturbing events occurred yesterday at the Bundaberg Hospital. Whistleblowers have made the government, their union and me aware of these events.


On Wednesday, 21 August 2024 the Queensland Ambulance Service received a request from the QPS to attend a road traffic crash between a truck and car at Mount Perry. A paramedic crew, critical care paramedic, doctor, supervisor and a Retrieval Services Queensland helicopter attended the scene. Three patients were transported to the Bundaberg Hospital. A male is currently stable in intensive care, a female has been admitted to emergency short stay for observations and another male admitted for observations has since been discharged. We send our thoughts to them, their families and their loved ones.

Ambulance officers have reported their dismay and their distress at what occurred upon arrival at the Bundaberg Hospital. Ambulance officers have reported that they and their patients were then filmed by the LNP candidate for Bundaberg. I am informed that paramedics were highly offended at the actions of not only the LNP candidate but also the LNP candidate's camera crew they had brought along.

I am advised that paramedics have reported to their union that the LNP candidate and their team attempted to film the injured patients, compelling ambulance officers to intervene by forming a protective guard to block and protect the privacy of their patients. As the LNP candidate continued to film, our ambulance officers had to take their focus away from their patients to form a physical wall to protect their patients.

I am further told that a senior ambulance officer was forced to leave their duty at the Bundaberg station to come and form part of this human block and that another ambulance officer was highly offended when a member of the LNP candidate's team attempted to call that ambulance officer over and away from the care being provided in an attempt to interview that ambulance officer. Those patients are now victims of the LNP candidate's desperation to put politics before people. The LNP candidate must apologise to those patients and those ambulance officers, and the LNP leader needs to seriously consider whether that is someone who should be a candidate in this parliament's election on 26 October.

Southport Chamber of Commerce


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.49 pm): At the last Southport Chamber of Commerce AGM outgoing president Ariana Margetts delivered her final report. The Southport chamber has been a beacon of strength and vision for over 110 years, and under her leadership it has continued to thrive. Reflecting on the rich history of the chamber, it is remarkable how their objectives have not changed since the 1935 constitution. Some of these founding principles are: discuss and deal with any subjects affecting the best interests of the town and surrounding districts; watch over and protect the general interests of trade, commerce and civil rights; and assist in the development of industries. These objectives are just as relevant today as they were almost a century ago. The commitment to these goals is part of why the chamber maintains its importance to our community.

Ariana's leadership as president has been instrumental in navigating the chamber through a period of significant growth and change. She was the first female and youngest president in the chamber's history. Her tenure has been marked by a number of significant achievements, including the digital transformation of the chamber's operations to a substantial growth in membership from 53 members at the start of the 2020 financial year to 390 members at the last AGM. Ariana's impact has been significant.

The Southport Chamber of Commerce is one of the longest standing chambers of commerce in Queensland and the Gold Coast. It has played a crucial role in the development of Southport, which is now home to 20 per cent of all employment on the Gold Coast. The Health and Knowledge Precinct has become a hub of innovation and growth, and the chamber's advocacy has been key to this development. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of some key members who have been instrumental in the chamber's success: Trevor Bruger, who has taken over as president, and Ariana, who is continuing on as vice-president. They have also appointed Sidnee Jennings and Doug Garvie as vice presidents, secretary Sam Rees and treasurer Allan Godbee, as well as board members Katie Bond, Lavinia Rampino and Graeme Isaacson. Thank you to everyone who keeps that chamber running.

I am proud of the Southport Chamber of Commerce and the vital role it plays in our community. It is essential that the chamber maintain its independence and continues being the engine room of the Gold Coast. The chamber's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its members, and I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive in the years to come.

Toohey Electorate

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.52 pm): Mr Speaker, as you well know, both of our electorates have many community events, so tonight I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on a number of community events I recently attended, each showcasing the diverse cultural tapestry of my electorate.


On 16 August—I know that you were also present—I attended the Queensland Cantonese Unity Association's grand opening event, which was held here in parliament. The opening marks the beginning of a new chapter in this vibrant community. The establishment of this association is not just a celebration of heritage and tradition; it is a testament to the strength and resilience of my multicultural electorate.

On 3 August I had the privilege of attending the English-Chinese bilingual communication course opening ceremony and the Multicultural English Society of Queensland's anniversary celebration. The launch of the English-Chinese bilingual communication course is a testament to our commitment to bridging cultures and enhancing mutual understanding. Language is such a powerful tool not just for communication but for forging connections and building relationships. As we embrace the diversity within our community it is essential that we equip ourselves with the skills to communicate effectively and respectfully across cultures.

On 21 July I had the privilege of attending the Queensland Writers Association's 30 anniversary which included *Songs Under the Southern Cross*, a book release event at the Garden City library. Since its inception in 1993 the Queensland Chinese Writers Association has been a cornerstone of cultural expression within our Australian-Chinese community comprising writers, artists and cultural enthusiasts. They have enriched our literal landscape with their creativity and dedication.

Songs Under the Southern Cross is not just a collection of literary works, it is a testament to over three decades of effort and collaboration. Featuring contributions from 40 writers, including novels, poetry and essays, this book reflects their diverse experiences in Brisbane as their second home. The book, a collection of novels, poetry and essays, reflects the experience of Australian-Chinese life, bridging cultures through both English and Chinese narratives. It is a testament to a rich literary tradition and cultural exchange.

Hill Electorate, Local Ambulance Committees

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.55 pm): There are 150 local ambulance committees—often referred to as LACs—in the state, with over 1,300 volunteers who help ambulance staff connect with their local communities. They undertake local fundraisers that provide a wide range of services to ambulance staff to help make their difficult job a little easier. LACs do an amazing job throughout regional Queensland and have done so for decades; however, government bureaucracy and interference has placed these valuable community groups in danger of folding.


At a forum recently in Cairns, attendees from the LACs were informed that all funding raised would only be allowed to provide training and information programs. I will repeat that: at a forum recently in Cairns, attendees from the LACs were informed that all funding raised would only be allowed to provide training and information programs. Spending on any items or equipment for the staff at stations was no longer permitted. Whilst several excellent training programs were outlined, there was an expectation that all of these programs would be fully funded by the LACs instead of the state government.

This was a shock to the attendees, as there had been zero consultation with the LACs prior to this directive being outlined. It has created anger amongst the volunteers. The government and commissioner fail to grasp that LACs are often the only avenue ambulance staff have in small communities to provide support. Many people join LACs as volunteers to assist their stations and staff—not to become community trainers. They believe that providing additional facilities for the comfort and wellbeing of ambulance staff will encourage them to stay longer in regional communities. These communities are generous in terms of their financial contribution and expect their donations to go towards equipment and facilities for the local station and staff, not training programs that should be funded by the state government.

Volunteers understand the desire for improved community information, but why does there have to be a radical change? The way this was communicated has left many LAC members feeling that their input is not valued and they are wasting their time volunteering. I call on the state government to

immediately order the withdrawal of this ridiculous directive and consult with LACs to ensure they can continue to provide their support. Otherwise, as a result of this poor directive LACs will fold and valuable volunteers will be lost forever.

Ambulance Stations

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.58 pm): What a great segue into my contribution because I am going to talk about ambulance. Here is to the Kirwan Local Ambulance Committee and the work they do. I worked with many LACs in my former career and that is what I want to talk about tonight.

Mrs McMahon: Were you a paramedic?


Mr HARPER: Yes, I was a paramedic for 30 years, but no-one knows some of the roles I did there. To put this in context, it was not just about treating people. Over my career, I was the acting officer in charge of stations such as Maggie Island, Hughenden, Giru, Ayr, Charters Towers, Townsville, Ingham and Northern Beaches. The very last one was at Kirwan station, which was an old station which could only fit four of the old cars in it. We knew that we needed to deliver a new station there. Working with the community and working with the LAC, we delivered and opened a brand new station in 2018 with capacity for 10 vehicles. It is not just about the vehicles; we got additional staffing as well to respond to the community.

When doing that role, you get to understand demand profiles and response times to make sure you have staff able to respond to an aging and increasing population. That is what we have seen in Townsville. We are weeks away from opening the Burdell ambulance station, just down the road from Northern Beaches where I worked some years ago. That was mapped out some time ago. In my role in Kirwan I knew that the Upper Ross area, where I live in Kelso, was growing. Condon, Rasmussen, Kelso and Gumlow have an area with around 25,000 people living there, with 10 kilometres of Riverway Drive. All I hear from people who live on it is ambulances going up and down, up and down.

I recently had a meeting with the assistant commissioner of the northern region for the Queensland Ambulance Service to ask about response times to the Upper Ross. It has been raised many times with the Upper Ross community group about whether the ambulance would expand into that area. I said that I would be fighting—and I have well and truly started that fight—for a new ambulance station to be delivered in the Upper Ross suburbs. That will get ambulances to people quicker—whether it is a baby having a febrile convulsion or your aging parent having a cardiac event or a respiratory issue like asthma. We want to make sure we can meet demands for a growing area.

I have started an MP petition. I want to thank the hundreds of people who have already signed that. It is online. I will be out doorknocking a lot more. I know that people get right behind our emergency services. I have delivered a new police station and a new rural fire station in the Upper Ross. This commitment for that area is visionary to make sure we have demand for service well into the future.


Weather Events, Insurance Claims; Gold, Mr B

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.01 pm): It has been almost eight months since the devastating Christmas Day storm ripped a track through the Logan City, Scenic Rim and northern Gold Coast. The damage across the region has been truly catastrophic. The Insurance Council of Australia estimates that 100,000 claims have been made, adding up to a total of around \$1.39 billion. To this day, there are countless houses across the region that still have tarps on their roofs, structural damage, fences down and other damage. There is currently \$523 million worth of outstanding claims. Whilst I understand that 100,000 claims is an enormous task, especially when we have a shortage of tradies for the bigger jobs, with the next storm season just around the corner it is cold comfort for all these residents waiting for necessary repairs.

Of equal concern is the shocking increase in insurance premiums. My good friend Aaron Hope and his partner live in a duplex that was damaged during the Christmas Day storms. Their insurance cost has gone from \$2,000 annually to \$6,000 annually. As a further insult, they still have not had their house repaired; they are still fighting with their insurance company. We have residents who are forced to live with their family and friends because their houses are not fit for habitation. Some are also forced to seek other forms of accommodation like caravans. These insurance companies need to finalise their claims faster to prepare these houses for the next storm season and also ensure it is done in a reasonable manner in the best interests of their customers.

Finally, I would like to make special mention of a local champion, a local hero. His name is Brendan Gold, the first officer of Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. He has recently been awarded the Rural Fire Service Volunteer of the Year for 2024. He is an outstanding rural fire brigade member and an outstanding leader of his brigade. He embodies everything that is good about our community. He led people through the recent storms, working day in and day out, taking time off work and not getting paid. That is a testament to his true character. To Brendan and his team at Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade, to Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade and to all the other volunteers who helped during the storms, we thank you for everything you did.

Capalaba Electorate, Sporting Clubs

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (7.04 pm): It is always a pleasure to finish the week by informing the House about what Don is delivering for his local community. It is not only Don who is delivering; Murray Watt and Albo are also delivering in a city deal for our sporting clubs and recreational clubs. The first is \$5.5 million going to Redland City Council to help with the transformation and upgrade of William Taylor park on Mooroondu Road. William Taylor park is a special park to me because I grew up on Mooroondu Road and I remember the council installing the skate park and BMX, which we will be upgrading. We are also upgrading the car park, drainage and lighting around there. This is a community hub with a tennis court, netball, soccer and cricket. It is a hub for the Thorneside community and it was in desperate need of these upgrades. I am glad that the three levels of government, with mayor Jos Williams—oops, I mean Jos Mitchell; Karen Williams would never deliver it—are delivering this fantastic project.

We are also delivering \$4.5 million between the state and federal governments to upgrade the lighting at Redland softball, Redlands Tigers cricket and Redlands Rays Baseball Club. The Redlands Rays Baseball Club needs this lighting upgrade. For Tigers, it means they can use the facilities at night with day/night cricket. It will also expand the women's game so they can utilise the facilities into the night. For the softball club, the increased lighting means they can get bigger carnivals and national carnivals.

When we announced this last week, there was a big article in the *Redland City News* covering sports and tourism. They asked the LNP what they were doing, because we had listed what we were doing taking up two full pages. The candidate for the LNP down at Redlands, Rebecca Young, was contacted by the paper, but the paper said that she chose not to participate. She had no plan about tourism and no plan for sports in Redlands. She chose not to participate. This is in stark contrast with what we are doing.

We are giving over 220,000 Get in the Game vouchers. We want more kids playing sport on better sporting grounds down in the Redlands. We have a plan for sport. We are encouraging our young people to get in the game. It was a pleasure to have the Premier watching his daughter Bridie go around at the Capalaba Bulldogs last Sunday. It was fantastic to talk to parents down there about what Get in the Game vouchers mean. It means more kids are playing sport for the first time, and this is a good thing leading up to the 2032 Olympic Games. It means we can find the next generation of sporting heroes ready to go for Brisbane 2032.

The House adjourned at 7.07 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, 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