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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 12 September 2024

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THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

The Sergeant-at-Arms laid the mace in place, whereupon honourable members gave a round of applause.



Mr SPEAKER: In a break with tradition because of that spontaneous applause for Michael Watkin, the Sergeant-at-Arms, members would be aware that he is retiring. I want to thank him for his great service and dedication over so many years—

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER:—and I know that his wife, Tina, his mother, son and other family members are in the gallery today.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!



Mr SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Michael.

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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 21 August 2024 the Minister for Police and Community Safety wrote to me alleging that the member for Currumbin deliberately misled the House on 20 August 2024. I have circulated a statement on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the statement.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 21 August 2024, the Minister for Police and Community Safety (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the Member for Currumbin (Member) deliberately misled the House on 20 August 2024.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member during Matters of Public Interest.

Specifically, the Member stated:

'Then there is the fact that under Labor we have fewer police on the beat.'

The Minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading and provided figures showing that the number of police officers in Queensland have increased since both 2020 and 2023.

I sought further information from the Member about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member submitted that her statement was related to the number of police officers at the Goondiwindi police station, and not the number of Queensland police officers in total.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note that the contents of the Member's speech immediately before and immediately after the allegedly misleading statement was made, concerned crime in Goondiwindi and the staffing of the Goondiwindi police station.


Accordingly, I consider the Member has made an adequate explanation.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Currumbin [[1821](#)].

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 21 August 2024 the Minister for Police and Community Safety wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 20 August 2024. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a statement and I seek leave to incorporate it in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 21 August 2024, the Minister for Police and Community Safety wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 20 August 2024.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition during Matters of Public Interest.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

'... We have... fewer police officers.'

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading and provided figures showing that the number of police officers in Queensland have increased since both 2020 and 2023.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against him, in accordance with standing order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition provided figures from two government reports from 2020 and 2024 which shows a decline in police officers during that time.

Standing order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This appears to be a matter of the kind described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 when she stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, both the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have provided statistics to support their position, exactly replicating the scenario described by Speaker Simpson. As such, I consider this matter is within the realm of being both technical and trivial.


Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.


Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Broadwater [[1822](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Photographs in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have approved for staff of the Parliamentary Service to take photography in the chamber this morning during preliminary business for use in parliamentary social media. Photographs will be taken from the gallery and from the rear of the chamber which I am particularly pleased about because side angles are not the most flattering for me.

Musch, Ms S; Pease, Ms J; 57th Parliament, Conclusion

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, a reliable source has informed me that today there is a birthday within the Clerk's office. If memory serves me right, the Clerk's birthday was in May, so that suggests that it must be Sandy's special day. I am also further informed that the member for Lytton will celebrate a milestone birthday this weekend. I am sure that members will join me in extending our birthday wishes to Sandy and to the member for Lytton.

With today being the last day of term, it will be my last opportunity to preside over question time—many members may be happy about that—but I trust all members will conduct themselves with the utmost decorum and I look forward to celebrating the end of the 57th Parliament with members and staff on the Speaker's Green after the House rises tonight.

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I also wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by representatives from Exercise & Sports Science Australia and that we will be visited in the gallery by students and teachers from Nambour State College in the electorate of Nicklin.

PETITIONS

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

Rockhampton, Crocodile Management

Mr Head, from 1,443 petitioners, requesting the House to make Rockhampton an Active Removal Zone for crocodiles in the same way that Cairns and Townsville are classified [[1817](#)].

Guardianship and Administration Orders

Ms Simpson, from 2,700 petitioners, requesting the House to repeal the gag laws at section 114a of the Guardianship Act that prohibit people living under guardianship and administration orders from speaking publicly; and to change the default ban on speaking publicly to a default approval unless QCAT otherwise decides in alignment with the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission [[1818](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. D'Ath)—

[1819](#) Electoral Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2023-2024

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner)—

[1820](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (4021-24) sponsored by the member for Maryborough, Mr Saunders, from 1,137 petitioners, requesting the House to support amendments to regulation that declare the Mary River as a Net Free Zone via a resource allocation

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Police Service, Death



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.35 am): Overnight the Queensland Police Service tragically lost one of its own. An off-duty police officer has died while on the Wall to Wall memorial ride. I extend my heartfelt condolences to their family, friends and the entire Queensland Police Service family.

Miles Labor Government, Achievements



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.35 am): There are now 44 days until the election, but who is counting? I have said that the stakes are high, because they are. Queenslanders will have an important choice: a choice between a future filled with opportunity and an alternative without any detail. I have a plan to address the challenges Queenslanders are facing on housing, cost of living, community safety and health, and there is evidence that those plans are working and we are turning a corner.

Now I want to tell Queenslanders about my plans for the future. I know that high interest rates, rents and grocery prices are putting pressure on families. It is why I have delivered the biggest cost-of-living package in our state's history—\$11.2 billion helping to deliver a helping hand now like \$1,000 energy bill rebates to every Queensland household, 50-cent fares and 20 per cent off rego, \$200 kids sports vouchers and so much more. That is helping save Queensland families valuable money that can be put towards the essentials when they need it and, if elected, I have outlined my plan to drive down the cost of fuel, because that is what Queenslanders tell me—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! The Premier has the call. Interjections will cease.


Mr MILES: If elected, I have outlined my plan to drive down the cost of fuel, because that is what Queenslanders tell me is important.

Queensland's healthcare system is world class. As a former health minister, I know that is only made possible by the health heroes who make up our system. It is why we will hire even more doctors, nurses and health professionals and build more hospitals and satellite hospitals—delivering thousands of new hospital beds, including more than 200 this year. Our hospitals are busier than ever, but we are doing what matters to help alleviate pressure. This approach is delivering results.

In the same way, this government is delivering the most comprehensive housing plan in the nation, because every Queenslander deserves a safe place to call home. It will deliver one million homes by 2046, including 53,500 social homes, and give a helping hand to first home buyers, renters and the homeless. Since becoming Premier, we have added 752 more homes to our social housing stock. That is a 33 per cent increase on what was added in the six months prior. The number of households in Housing Investment Fund supported homes has increased by more than 420 per cent to 615 households and over 1,000 people. As a result of all that work and more, there were 141 fewer families waiting on the Social Housing Register than at the same time last year.


In the last sitting week we passed our Community Safety Plan for Queensland. It is our evidence-based response to crime, channelling investment and resources where police tell us they are needed and investing in prevention, intervention and detention. There is no quick fix and it is still early days, but we are seeing some positive results around the state. In the first six months of the year some districts have reported remarkable improvements in the number of reported offences by young people. On the Sunshine Coast offences are down by 10 per cent; in the Far North, 12 per cent; Logan down 21 per cent; and Townsville down 24 per cent. In the Wide Bay offences are down by 34 per cent and in the south-west they are down by 39 per cent. We want to see this continue. It is clear our plan is working so it is time to stay the course.

Economy


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.40 am): As the national economy slows to the weakest growth outside COVID in two decades, Queensland's economy continues to be strong. Our economy is growing twice as fast as the rest of the country, backed by our government's investment in our future. We are supporting 72,000 jobs through our Big Build, including 50,000 jobs across our regions. Many of those jobs are at risk if we change course at the next election. Now is not the time for cuts. Now is the time to do what matters and build a better future for Queensland.

Queenslanders know me. They know that I will do what matters. I will always listen and deliver. The alternative is void of any plans at all. In 45 days the choice is between my clear and detailed vision and the unknown. Let us get locked in. Now it is time to hit the road. Our plan is hot to go.

Watkin, Mr M

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.41 am): While I am on my feet I want to take this opportunity to thank our sergeant-at-arms, Michael Watkin, for his service. After 33 years, Michael is taking some well-earned leave ahead of his retirement. I am sure all members wish him all the best with what comes next.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.42 am): As the 57th Queensland parliament draws to a close, the Miles Labor government remains as committed as ever to doing what matters for Queenslanders. Our government has protected the jobs of Queenslanders, as we have protected the health of Queenslanders. We have emerged from one of the most tumultuous global civil events in a century with a plan for Queensland's economic recovery. We have delivered that plan and that plan has worked. In my first budget in 2020 I told the House that Treasury modelling assumes it may take as long as four years before the impact of COVID-19 on employment is fully offset. Four years later I am proud to report to the House that Queensland is charging ahead, leaving our competitors behind.


Today there are 390,000 more Queenslanders with a job than there were before COVID. When I delivered my first budget four years ago we projected debt would reach nearly \$51 billion by the end of June 2024. Instead, it is just \$12 billion. We have achieved that balance sheet strength while at the

same time making our economy stronger. As the world learned of the fragility of global supply chains and the importance of self-sufficiency, our government brought train manufacturing back to Queensland.

This year we have delivered the biggest cost-of-living package of any state or territory and we have funded the centrepiece of that package, our \$1,000 electricity bill rebates, by making coalmining companies pay their fair share. We are delivering the largest four-year capital program in Queensland's history: our \$107 billion Big Build. Our government has cut payroll tax for small- and medium-sized businesses. We have abolished stamp duty for first home buyers up to \$700,000 and we have doubled the First Home Owners Grant for new homes. Through all of that we have maintained Queensland's competitiveness with other states.

As we meet here today, Queenslanders pay on average \$780 less tax each year than other Australians. With our largest competitors, the difference is even greater. Queenslanders pay on average \$1,052 less than residents of New South Wales and \$1,061 less than those in Victoria. But we know there is so much more to do. Our commitment to improve the lives of Queenslanders will never dim. The Miles Labor government will fight each and every day to win the right to work hard for Queenslanders once again.

Mount Isa Transition Fund


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.45 am): When Glencore announced a series of local mine closures from 2025, the new Miles government acted swiftly to support the Mount Isa community in its time of need because we do not leave anyone behind. Mount Isa is one of Queensland's strongest and most resilient communities, one that is built on the hard work of its residents and the region's immense mineral wealth. We put together a \$50 million support package, including up to \$30 million to accelerate resources projects in the North West Minerals Province.

Today I am very pleased to announce the recipients of our \$20 million Mount Isa Transition Fund, another crucial element of this support package. This \$20 million fund will be an investment in 10 Mount Isa organisations. We are also partnering with the Mount Isa City Council. Some \$14.6 million of this funding will help businesses and organisations with much-needed projects to support almost 500 local jobs. Businesses and organisations receiving a share of this funding include Agriflex, with \$2 million to expand the production of the Ardmore phosphate rock mine; NW Commercial Laundry, with \$2 million for the site purchase and construction of an all-electric commercial laundry to service mines, restaurants and other industries in the Mount Isa and surrounds, bringing great jobs; PCYC Mount Isa, with \$269,000 to upgrade its gym facilities; Mount Isa Day Nursery and Kindergarten, with \$1.42 million to expand its services and train more staff; North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services, with \$2 million to establish a community centre in the suburb of Pioneer; and the Mount Isa Rugby League Association, with \$2 million to upgrade their playing field.

The remaining \$5.3 million of this fund has been allocated to the Mount Isa City Council to support its own economic transition strategy. We are very proud on this side of the House of the investments we are delivering in the north-west. This includes the game changing CopperString 2032 project, a 1,100-kilometre high-voltage electricity transmission line connecting Mount Isa to Townsville, which is part of our \$1.7 billion Big Build. CopperString is the largest ever economic development project in North Queensland and will deliver jobs and investment for decades to come, particularly in the North West Minerals Province. This Coordinator-General project has approvals in place for a workers camp in Hughenden, which is now under construction.

As the Miles government continues to support Queensland's remote areas, I am pleased to announce today that five of Queensland's most remote areas will share in \$1 million worth of investment funding to assist with their energy transition. This funding will support economic development and employment in the north-west, central west, south-west, on the cape and in the gulf. The Miles government has a proud record of investing in our remote and regional communities to support jobs and economic growth throughout Queensland and this will continue. On the last day of the parliamentary sitting of the 57th Parliament I take this opportunity to say it has been an honour and a privilege to serve.

Health System

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.49 am): Queenslanders deserve world-class health care closer to

home and that is what we are delivering. Our record health budget this year of \$28.9 billion is delivering more hospital upgrades, new hospitals, satellite hospitals, more beds and more frontline health workers than ever before. Despite record demand, we know that these investments are directly helping to address the rising pressures on our health system and reduce wait times. The most recent health data showed that across every emergency department measure we are improving. That is despite a surge in serious presentations and the busiest quarter we have ever seen.


In Caboolture, we have seen a 16 per cent improvement for patient off-stretcher times compared to the same time last year. When it comes to elective surgery, we are delivering remarkable results. Queensland leads the nation when it comes to elective surgeries, treating almost 38,000 patients during the last quarter. More than eight in 10 patients were treated on time and the number of elective surgery long waits plummeted by almost 50 per cent in just 12 months.

I am also incredibly proud of everything that the Miles government has done for women's health. Earlier this year we announced our more than \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy, which is delivering dozens of initiatives such as women's health hubs, support for pelvic pain and endometriosis, and boosting social workers to support women's mental health. We are also delivering four nurse-led clinics in Queensland, which will bring health care even closer to home.

As the Minister for Mental Health, I am incredibly proud of our record \$1.9 billion investment in mental health through our Better Care Together Plan. While I am speaking about mental health today, of course, is R U OK Day, an important reminder to check in with friends, family and colleagues and ask, 'Are you OK?' Through early intervention initiatives and improving access to mental health services and community-based support programs, the Miles Labor government is taking significant steps to address mental health and prevent suicide. Today, check in with someone you have not heard from in a while. It might lead to a conversation that could help save someone's life.

Speaking of saving lives, today I can share some really positive results about the significant improvements we are seeing for acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease cases in Queensland. RHD is entirely preventable and should not exist in this state. This year the Miles Labor government is investing \$324.7 million to achieve health equity for First Nations people and we are already starting to see results. In the Torres and Cape hospital and health region there has been an incredible 63 per cent decrease in new rheumatic heart disease cases since 2022-23 and there has been a 24 per cent reduction statewide. Only a Miles Labor government can deliver the healthcare that Queenslanders need and deserve. I am so pleased to see us delivering this every single day.

Police Service, Death; Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (9.51 am): Life can be cruel. Life can be cruel in the most shockingly unexpected ways. This morning, like so many Queenslanders, I am struggling to come to terms with the loss of a much-loved member of the Queensland Police Service. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to all those who have been impacted by this cruelly tragic event. It is almost beyond comprehension that the off-duty officer should lose his life just as he was engaged in a memorial event in honour of other fallen police officers.

For the officer's family this must be the most extraordinarily difficult time. I know that the police family will offer them every support. I know too that there will be every support for the officer's colleagues and friends who were riding with him. This is a tragedy on so many levels. A family has lost a loved one, police have lost a colleague and Queensland has lost a dedicated police officer. With honour he served.

Our government is unrelenting in supporting the Queensland Police Service. We have worked hard to undo the damage done by a previous government that set the Queensland Police Service back decades. We have supported the rebuilding of the Police Service so that it now leads the nation and even the world in so many areas.


The government made Task Force Argos a permanent force within the Queensland Police Service. That world-renowned crack team hunts down paedophiles and rescues innocent children. The government has made record investments so that the Queensland Police Service will soon have the largest police helicopter fleet in the nation. Similarly, the Queensland Police Service will have the largest fleet of marine vessels in the nation. The government has invested in world-leading technology so that the Queensland Police Service is the only police service in the world, outside the United States, to have access to world-leading TASER 10 technology. The government has invested in world-leading integrated load-bearing ballistic vests, providing ballistic and edged weapon protection for police. We have rolled out state-of-the-art body worn cameras and QLITEs to all officers. The government made

investments so that the Queensland Police Service has pioneered the youth co-responder program that is proving so effective. The government is now making investments to support the groundbreaking domestic and family violence co-responder framework.

Under this government, the Queensland Police Service has been transformed to become internationally recognised as a truly world-class police service. That is not bad for a relatively small jurisdiction in a relatively small country in the bottom corner of the world. It is not bad at all.

Next week we will welcome a new cohort of police officers as they graduate from the Oxley police academy. They will join a world-class organisation. They will join a police service that is the envy of the nation. They will join a police service that has the unwavering support of the Miles Labor government—a government that does what matters for Queenslanders and the Queensland Police Service. Unlike the record of those opposite, we will not take the Queensland Police Service back. On the contrary, under a Miles Labor government the Queensland Police Service will continue to grow in strength and reputation.

Buy Queensland


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (9.55 am): The Miles government has demonstrated our commitment to supporting local jobs, local business and local opportunities for Queenslanders. That is why today I am pleased to table the fourth annual Buy Queensland procurement statement. The 2024 statement shows that our procurement approach Buy Queensland continues to be nation leading and it continues to deliver for Queensland workers and Queensland businesses. Our procurement policy means an additional \$3.7 billion has been invested in Queensland small and medium enterprises since the introduction of a small and medium enterprise target in 2019. It means that now 82 per cent of government suppliers are Queensland businesses. It means a 20.4 per cent increase in economy-wide jobs since 2017.

Tabled paper: Department of Energy and Climate: Queensland Government Procurement Statement 2024—Buy Queensland [1823].

This government's mission is clear: to drive greater value for Queenslanders from every procurement dollar invested on their behalf. As I have said before, managing Queenslanders' money is an important responsibility. We now invest over \$25 billion annually—\$25 billion that belongs to the people of Queensland. How we invest their money and with whom matters. This government knows there is a difference between a job in Cairns and in Christchurch or a business in Barcaldine or Ballarat, and there is certainly a difference between trains manufactured in Maryborough and in India. We know the difference between paying your suppliers and not.

Proactive government policies like these have positioned Queenslanders as the ideal place to invest: a place where homegrown small businesses are supported to thrive; a place where workers are paid fair wages and have safe conditions; a place where businesses that deliver services and goods for us get paid. We are a government dedicated to action. We are a government investing in the quality of life for workers, for families, for industry and for our environment. We are a Labor government that is proud to invest in Queensland and all Queenslanders.

Affordable Housing

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works) (9.57 am): Today planning expert Paul Burton, a member of the Cities Research Institute at Griffith University, backed my move to step in and turn a privately owned golf course into affordable homes for Queenslanders. He said—

If we want to condemn the next generation of children and young people to the prospect of never buying a home, that's what will happen unless we start to accept some more change.

Meeting the housing challenges we face requires leaders not to be NIMBYs and pander to the few but to be bold and ambitious because, as the *Gold Coast Bulletin* wrote last week—

Given the challenges we face ... in accommodating our population, there will be no room for nimbyism in this debate.

What Queenslanders have seen is that our new Premier and our government are not afraid to be just that. We have the Homes for Queenslanders plan to build one million more homes, including 53,500 social homes. We are helping the one-third of Queenslanders who rent with financial support and the reform they need. We have set targets for councils to fast-track planning and to help pay for the infrastructure we need to unlock homes. In the past few months, we have locked in a record investment

for social housing. In fact, we have added thousands of homes to our social housing stock and we have around 1,000 homes under construction right now.

We have also opened QBuild manufacturing facilities to build modular homes, and there are 600 more on the way. Our fund to help pay for more infrastructure has attracted hundreds of expressions of interests with the potential to unlock 30,000 homes. We have also locked in \$160 million to support renters in this state.

Our fast-tracked approval pathway has earmarked the first projects to get more affordable homes up off the ground quickly. We have also increased critical funding for homelessness services and created a dedicated fund so that anyone experiencing homelessness in this state is offered accommodation. Our plan is one that housing expert Hal Pawson says our state can—

... reasonably claim to be leading the way on long-term, evidence-informed planning of social housing investment.

But what we have achieved and what we have laid out is all at risk. The LNP have made it clear they will cut billions in critical funding for social homes and home ownership.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjections of those opposite.

Mr Lister interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member for Southern Downs. That is exactly what we are doing in contrast to the LNP, who have slated cuts. Hal Pawson says fragmented and inadequate policy-making capacity bears much of the blame and actions like the LNP's decision to block housing and to walk away from rental affordability, Indigenous housing and social housing construction does not help. What we have seen—


Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister. Members, the level of conversation in the chamber is too loud. I ask you to cease those or take them outside.

Ms SCANLON: The LNP insists on sending our state backwards. We are looking forward and we are serious about delivering our Homes for Queenslanders plan but all of that is at risk under the Leader of the Opposition in October.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Miles Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.01 am): Under the new Miles government, achievements have been many and have made a real difference in the lives of so many Queenslanders. The transformative work implementing the government's response to the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce remained a core priority in 2024. A standalone offence of coercive control will soon take effect in Queensland's Criminal Code after landmark legislation was passed by parliament on 6 March. New sexual consent laws were passed, with Queensland adopting an affirmative consent model that requires clear and voluntary agreement and broadens the definition of 'non-consent'. Our education campaign on these important reforms have now commenced in the community.

In April, the Miles government increased funding to the domestic, family and sexual violence sector by 20 per cent, equating to an extra \$36 million for 2024-25. The recent state budget made this funding permanent. We rolled out the state's first domestic and family violence co-responder model in Cairns as part of a broader \$22.9 million pilot program which will run through until 2026. Since 2015, we have committed more than \$1.9 billion towards our goal of ending all forms of domestic and family violence and improving women's safety in Queensland. We gave our community legal centres the largest funding increase they have ever received, recognising that they are so crucial in supporting the most vulnerable in our community.

For the first time in Queensland, victims of non-violent property crime now have access to a range of services following the appointment of UnitingCare to coordinate assistance across Queensland. We recently appointed the state's first Victims' Commissioner, who will play a critical role in championing the rights of victims of crime and provide a platform for their voices to be heard within the criminal justice system.


A seven-year strategy to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland's criminal justice system was launched in 2024. Victims, their families and the media will be given greater access to the Childrens Court after new laws took effect this month. Journalists now have greater protection from being forced to disclose their sources after the Miles government passed legislation to extend shield laws to the Crime and Corruption Commission proceedings. We have improved the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community. We have improved the protections of workers with the passing of the respect at work bill. This is all at risk should the LNP get elected in October.

We cannot forget what those opposite have done and what they will do. Queensland's rights are at risk. The new Miles government's track record speaks for itself, as does the track record of those opposite. Queenslanders do not have to look as far back as 2012 to see what that record is; the community just need to look at the laws that the LNP have voted against while in opposition and what they have committed to doing if they form government, which will likely include breaches of human rights.

Queenslanders have a decision to make in October. They can re-elect a government which has a proven track record of protecting the rights of Queenslanders. We have invested not only in our schools, our hospitals and infrastructure in this state to strengthen our economy but also in social justice reforms, which those opposite always reject. We ask Queenslanders to support a Miles government and ensure we do not take Queensland backwards.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before calling the next minister, the member for Clayfield and the member for Kawana are both warned under the standing orders. I do not believe that that is appropriate in this place.

Resources Industries, Worker Safety and Health

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (10.06 am): The Miles government will always back worker safety, and we have a proud record of doing exactly that. The health and safety of workers has always been, and always will be, my No. 1 priority. I am proud to say that we have implemented the most substantial suite of reforms to mine safety and health in 20 years. These include: better detection and prevention of black lung and other mine dust lung diseases; an improved safety net for affected workers; and the introduction of the HEART 5 mobile health unit which, for two years now, has been travelling around the state offering free lung checks to former mine and quarry workers. HEART 5 has travelled 100,000 kilometres, which is equivalent to 2½ times around the Earth, and tested more than 1,000 retired workers in those two years.

We have also introduced a dedicated service to support workers suffering from occupational lung disease with their compensation claims. We have established an independent resources safety health regulator called Resources Safety & Health Queensland. Other reforms include reducing the allowable mine dust levels at both coal and mineral mines as well as quarries, and Queensland has also led the nation when it comes to keeping workers safe from the dangers of engineered stone. I am proud that our government banned engineered stone—with the ban coming into effect in full from 1 July—getting it out of our workplaces at the first possible opportunity. Our government will do whatever it takes to protect Queensland workers from dust lung disease.

We have seen in the past what happens when governments do not act quickly enough. We want to make our mines, quarries, construction and manufacturing sites safe from dust lung diseases. We will never rest on our laurels when it comes to protecting Queensland workers, but we know that more can always be done, particularly as technology changes. Right now, the process is being finalised to appoint a new Resources Safety & Health Commissioner. The first order of business that I will be asking the commissioner to look at is what improvements can be made for dust monitoring in our mineral mines and quarry sector. The priority will be to ensure the management of respirable dust is consistent across all of industry. No matter where you work—above ground, below ground or in quarries—our government wants to ensure best practice is being undertaken.

I will also be asking the new commission to work with the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee to ensure our guidelines in relation to dust monitoring are world's best practice. We know there are advantages with new technology potentially able to detect dust quicker through real-time monitoring. The resource industry embraces technology and the benefits it can bring. It is important we look to how we can use it in the health and safety context as well. Consultation is key to improving worker safety, and that is why I want the commission to work with worker representative groups and, of course, the industry. We make no apologies for ensuring worker health and safety is our No. 1 priority

and I look forward to this work being done. It is only the Miles government that will always back our workers' health and safety.


Mr Speaker, I take this time to thank you for your support and guidance, particularly in my former role as deputy speaker. Being Speaker of this parliament is quite unique, but doing it for two consecutive terms is more 'uniquer'.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEWART: I was not an English teacher! I wish you all the very best for the future and 'may the force be with you'.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Now I am going to add 'uniquer' to the parliamentary vocabulary as well as 'Hanscript' and 'hectacres'. We have a few and it is fantastic.

Kindergarten

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (10.10 am): At the beginning of this year, the Miles Labor government's historic investment in free kindy started rolling out—our \$2 billion investment over four years which means that every four-year-old can access 15 hours of kindy a week, 40 weeks a year, for free. This is a game changer for Queensland kids and their life trajectory.

If members talk to any early childhood teacher at a primary school, they will hear them say that they can tell the difference between a child who has attended kindy before school and one who has not. They are like two different cohorts in terms of emotional maturity and learning development. This means that a child who has not been to kindy has a lot of catching up to do and may never catch up. That is why we made the investment we did—to make sure cost was not a barrier to parents sending their kids to kindy. With costs at \$4,600 per child per year, this was necessary, particularly at a time when cost of living is a huge challenge for so many.

While it is not possible to get exact figures on enrolments until the census figures are available in November this year, the reports from our kindy providers have been overwhelming. I doubt there would be a member in this House who has not heard from local families about the difference this initiative has made. At this point in the year we can say that more than 2,200 approved kindergarten services are now offering free kindy, benefiting up to 64,000 Queensland children this year. Ros Baxter, the CEO of Goodstart, stated—

We have seen enrolment rise in our kindy programs by a very significant 16%.

Louise Jackson, CEO of Lady Gowrie, stated—

Areas that saw significant growth were regional areas such as Gladstone, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, Mackay and North Brisbane. Numbers in these areas compared to last year are up by 10%.

Dr Sandra Cheeseman, CEO of C&K, stated—

Free Kindy has reduced a significant barrier to participation.

Majella Fitzsimmons, President of the Australian Childcare Association, stated—

It is so amazing to see the effect that Free Kindy has on rural and remote regions, I visited a service in Julia Creek which last year had 2 enrolments which has now jumped to 13.

Jeanette Sturiale, CEO of Mareeba Kids, stated—


In 2024, the service is now running 2 full programs. In 2025, looking at tripling the numbers since 2023.

Free kindy is now part of a raft of significant Miles Labor government initiatives aimed at giving Queensland kids the best start in life. The very first major announcement the Premier made coming out of his first cabinet was the Putting Queensland Kids First strategy. This acknowledges that we must invest in our kids right from the beginning if we are to meet our incredible responsibility to support them to have a positive life trajectory.

It is beyond comprehension and, frankly, terrifying to know that the party which may be in government in just over six weeks time literally does not have early childhood on their radar. There was nothing in their 2020 election commitments. There is not a mention in their little 2024 booklet—not even a slogan. We know how they love to throw around slogans. They do not even have a slogan for early childhood. On this side of the House, we are doing what matters for Queensland kids. We will always have their backs. We will always invest in our kids.


BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House the 2023-24 annual report of the Business Committee. I thank the members of the Business Committee for their attendance and attention to the business of the meetings throughout this term. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Business Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2023-2024 [[1824](#)].


ORDER OF BUSINESS

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): Pursuant to sessional order 2A, I advise the House that valedictory speeches of retiring members of parliament will commence no later than 4.45 pm today, with the following order to apply: the members for Oodgeroo, Gregory, Ipswich West, Burleigh, Rockhampton, Mackay, Sandgate, Redcliffe and Mulgrave. I know that all members present in the chamber during the speeches will provide retiring members due respect, as they would during a member's first speech in this chamber.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's report No. 111, 57th Parliament, *Annual report 2023-24*.


Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 111, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2023-24 [[1825](#)].

This report details the activities of the committee from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period—especially the committee secretariat, parliamentary staff and all committee members for their professional work throughout the year and indeed since the beginning of the 57th Parliament.

The role of the PCCC is unique among parliamentary committees and requires members and the secretariat to undertake a considerable amount of complex work involving the review of documents, correspondence, complaints and policy issues. In publishing the committee's five-year review and also the Logan City Council investigation, I am of the view that the committee has contributed to an overall improvement in the position of the CCC. When I tabled last year's annual report I noted that the CCC's corruption function was essentially muted, and 10 months on that remains the case.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (10.17 am): I lay upon the table of the House the following reports of the Ethics Committee: report No. 229, titled *Report on a right of reply No. 45*; and report No. 230, titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 23 May 2024 relating to a member's refusal to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 229, 57th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 45 [[1826](#)].

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 230, 57th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 23 May 2024 relating to a member's refusal to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw [[1827](#)].

The committee has recommended that the House make a finding of contempt against the member for Mudgeeraba for reflecting on the chair by refusing to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw and that the member for Mudgeeraba apologise unequivocally to the House, on the floor of the House, at the earliest opportunity.

I also lay upon the table of the House report No. 231, titled *Report on a right of reply No. 46*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 231, 57th Parliament—Report on a Right of Reply No. 46 [[1828](#)].

I commend the reports to the House.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude at 11.17 am.

Youth Crime

Mr CRISAFULLI (10.18 am): My question is to the Premier. Almost a decade since the government weakened the youth justice laws, creating thousands of victims, will the Premier apologise to all of them or does the Premier prefer to end this 57th Parliament written into the pages of history always denying any responsibility for the youth crime crisis?

Mr MILES: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. What we have done on this side of the House is deliver a comprehensive community safety plan—one that we know is working. The data from police is compelling and does show that our community safety plan is driving offending down and is driving youth offending down, in particular. It is a \$1.3 billion investment in the safety of Queenslanders. It has seen a 10.7 per cent drop in overall offences committed by young people compared to the same time last year. It has seen a 14 per cent drop in the number of serious repeat offenders. It is a comprehensive plan based on what the police have told us works. In some districts the reductions have been even greater: in the south-west, down by 39 per cent—

Mr Lister: No-one believes that!

Mr MILES: I take that interjection. In Wide Bay, it is down 34 per cent; in Capricornia, down 24 per cent; in Townsville, down 24 per cent.

The Leader of the Opposition talks about apologies. He hates being held responsible for what Campbell Newman and he did, but he has never once apologised. He has never apologised to the 14,000 Queenslanders he sacked. He has never apologised to—

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about youth crime and the 57th Parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier is being responsive to the question asked. The question contained a preamble which contained multiple parts. The Premier is being relevant to the question that I heard delivered by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MILES: He has never apologised to the 4,400 health workers he sacked—all of those nurses and midwives. He comes in here and talks about community safety, but he has never apologised to the police who were cut. He has never apologised to the police who were told that they had to pay for their own body worn cameras, for their own safety equipment.

He has never apologised to the young Queenslanders who lost their lives when they closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. Until you apologise for all of those things, you will be held responsible for them. He still refuses to apologise to the creditors of SET Solutions including every single Australian taxpayer ripped off by him when he traded insolvent as a sole director.

Youth Crime

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. In 2016 the Premier voted to weaken youth justice laws. Since then, car theft has jumped over 100 per cent, break-ins have climbed 45 per cent, while the number of victims has reached 289,657—the highest in the nation. Does the Premier accept that his vote to weaken youth justice laws created the youth crime crisis and that time is up for Labor to fix it?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Broadwater for his question. As I have indicated, since I became Premier the community safety plan that we have implemented is working. It is driving down offending, it is driving down youth offending, it is investing in police and giving the police the resources and the laws that they need to do their job. That is what we will continue to do on this side of the House, because for us it is about keeping Queenslanders safe. The member for Broadwater is following through on the LNP's strategy that the police spokesperson put in the *Queensland Police Union Journal*—using crime to win votes.

Mr Purdie interjected.

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

Mr MILES: That is what they said all along was their plan. It is little wonder that he is using these questions—

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Ninderry, you are warned under the standing orders. I tried to give you guidance. Members, I know it is the last day of school but I do not want this to turn into muck-up day.

Mr MILES: It was indeed the member for Ninderry who outlined that strategy on behalf of the LNP in the *Queensland Police Union Journal* where he said his job as the LNP's police spokesperson is to use crime to win votes. It is little wonder that the Leader of the Opposition with no plans, with no vision, with nothing positive to offer the state, is just following through on the member for Ninderry's political strategy.

On this side of the House, we will act to keep Queenslanders safe. On this side of the House, we will invest in our police and we will do what is working. That is precisely what our community safety plan is doing—as I say, a 14 per cent reduction in serious youth offending, a 10.7 per cent drop in overall offences by young people.

The plan, based on the advice of the police, is working. Those opposite might not like it because it might not suit the strategy put together by the brains trust in the member for Ninderry, but it does represent a comprehensive plan to keep Queenslanders safe, to invest in more police, to give police helicopters—helicopters equipped with the safety gear that those opposite refused to fund, that those opposite said our police were not worth. We are funding their equipment. We are funding their training. We are funding their helicopters because the plan that they helped us deliver is working. It is acting to keep Queenslanders safe. The evidence suggests that, even if the member for Ninderry's political strategy does not.

Miles Labor Government

Ms KING: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any alternative risky approaches?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. It is an important question. We have all seen firsthand how the member for Pumicestone is listening to her community and delivering for them—whether that is a new bridge to Bribie Island or a brand new satellite hospital that is taking care of Queenslanders right now.

Of course it is not just in Pumicestone where we are delivering for Queenslanders; it is right across this state. We are delivering the infrastructure, the health care, the schools, the houses, the firmed renewables that Queensland needs for the future because that is what good governments do, and we are using coal royalties to deliver cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders—\$1,000 on off energy bill, 50-cent public transport fares, 20 per cent off rego, \$200 FairPlay vouchers.

As I have already been able to outline to the House, our comprehensive plans are working. On the side of the House, we are doing what matters for Queensland because on this side of the House we aspire to make our great state even better. That is very different to those opposite. Those opposite just talk our state down and hope to sneak into office. The Leader of the Opposition is the great invisible man of Queensland politics. He hopes Queenslanders never really get to know him. He hopes Queenslanders never learn what he plans to cut. He does not want them to know about his secret plans or his plans to legislate control of women's bodies.

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

Mr MILES: He does not want Queenslanders to know about his plans to give taxes back to multinational companies.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, please resume your seat. What is your point of order?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take personal offence at that horrible comment and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the Leader of the Opposition has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr MILES: I withdraw. The Leader of the Opposition hopes to stay invisible—hopes Queenslanders never work out who he is. The fact of the matter is that Queenslanders are smarter than that. Queenslanders might not have heard of you yet, but they have seen your type before. They will work you out.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, Premier.

Mr MILES: You are just the warmed up leftovers of a government that was rejected 10 years ago. Queenslanders rejected your negative agenda. They rejected your job cuts.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I have given guidance. There is a continual addressing of comments directed at a particular member. The comments will come through the chair or there will be warnings issued and that goes for anyone providing responses to questions today.

Mr MILES: Queenslanders have seen his type before and they have rejected them before, just like they will in October.

Youth Crime

Mrs GERBER: My question is to the Premier. In the past three months, eight cars have been stolen from Peter's Gold Coast neighbourhood. His neighbours have been broken into twice and there have been cars stolen, tyres slashed, and properties and cars vandalised. People are now deadlocking their bedroom doors. Can the Premier tell Queenslanders why he does not support the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Currumbin for her question. What we have on this side of the House is much more than a four-word slogan. What we have is a comprehensive community safety plan—a detailed, comprehensive, expert informed plan based on the evidence—and there is now growing evidence that that plan is working. There is growing evidence that our efforts and the efforts of our police are working. It might not suit the election strategy of the LNP—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am sorry to interrupt. The member for Currumbin is warned under the standing orders.

Mr MILES:—but it is borne out by the data.

Mr SPEAKER: We will not get into hysterics in this place.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members to my right.

Mr MILES: We have a comprehensive community safety plan that is based on the advice of police.

An opposition member: It's not working.

Mr MILES: It is working. The data demonstrates that it is working. Indeed, we have seen a 10.7 per cent drop in overall offences committed by young people and a 14 per cent drop in serious repeat offenders, and that is thanks to the efforts of our police who work hard every single day to keep our community safe. On this side of the House, we back them.

Those opposite, though, have a very different record. They cut police from monitoring 1,700 sex offenders. They sacked 110 senior police. They cut 300 police personnel. They forced police to pay for their own body worn cameras. They cut the equipment budget from \$77 million to \$53 million. They cut police training, including weapons training. They axed funding to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. The member for Currumbin's question went to stolen motor vehicles. Well, they cut the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. They refused to fund automatic numberplate recognition. They cut police housing. For police living in remote communities, they cut police housing. They did not fund additional police helicopters, like we are. They also cut funding from the department of justice, from the courts and court services, and from a range of other support services. On this side of the House we have a comprehensive community safety plan that is working. On that side of the House they have four-word slogans designed to win votes.

Debt

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how Queensland pays its debt and how important it is to have a plan to repay debt, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. It is a very important question but, frankly, it is the sort of question I would expect from the member for Toowoomba South, given his unnatural obsession with bond spreads and the like. However, it appears that the member for Toowoomba South is not playing finals this year. Imagine that: the week before an election and there is not one question on the budget, on fiscal matters or on economic matters from the shadow Treasurer.

Even last night with that LNP motion on a non-existent tax, he could not even get up and move it. It was moved by the member for Nanango. How embarrassing from the man who would purport to be the Treasurer of Queensland.

Queensland always repays its debts, whether those debts are on one-, three-, five- or 10-year bonds. I am pleased to report to the House that, as of Tuesday night, the yield on a Queensland Treasury Corporation 10-year bond was 4.28 per cent. That is less than what the people of New South Wales are paying, despite New South Wales having a AAA credit rating. The Blues are paying two basis points more than the Maroons. That is what is happening down south. It is very important to have a plan to repay debt. This House has been told before—

If you take over a business or property and it is in massive debt, you have to make some hard decisions for the long term. It takes a lot longer to come out of debt than to go into debt.

I could not agree more with those words quoted in this place almost 12 years ago to the day by the then member for Mundingburra, the now opposition leader. That is what he said. If you have a plan to take over a business and it is in massive debt, you have to make some hard decisions. I wonder how the member for 'Bulimba Waters'—sorry, Broadwater—wandered off that enlightened path when it came to debt. Court documents show that the LNP leader, as the then director of SET Solutions, told his shareholders that he had a plan to deal with debt, but they never saw it. It is a little bit like the debt plan that the LNP leader said two years ago he would release. Now, 44 days before an election, no-one has seen the LNP leader's debt or tax plan. It would be funny if it were not so serious.

This man wants to be the Premier of Queensland. The member for Broadwater wants to be the Premier of Queensland, but he is hiding his plans from Queenslanders. For four years the member for Broadwater has refused to be honest with the people of Queensland about his plans. The LNP leader needs to come clean with Queenslanders with his plan to cut because that is all he has got.

Youth Crime

Mr PURDIE: My question is to the Premier. The residents of South Street, Thornlands, are living in fear. Their homes are being broken into and cars are being stolen. Last week alone two neighbours had all their cars stolen, preventing one from running their new small business and a nurse from getting to work helping Queenslanders in need. With a record number of crime victims and Queenslanders living in fear, is time up for Labor?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Ninderry for his question. On this side of the House we believe that every Queenslander deserves to feel safe in their home, at the shops and on the streets. I have consistently said that we will listen to the police, victims of crime and experts on what needs to be done to tackle crime. There is more to be done, but what we are starting to see is that the initiatives in our community safety plan are working. The average number of young people who are serious repeat offenders has fallen 14 per cent since we brought that plan in, and the first quarter of 2024 saw a 10.7 per cent drop in overall offences committed by young people compared to the same period last year. We will continue to do the things in that plan because we know that it is working.

The plan has delivered additional investment in police and more police resources, with a 20 per cent uplift in funding for domestic and family violence NGOs, two new police helicopters in addition to the one that we funded in Townsville and 3,000 new police personnel, with over 12,000 police officers already protecting Queenslanders each and every day. We have expanded Jack's Law to crack down on knife crime. Already nearly 700 weapons have been seized. We have increased the maximum penalty for unlawful possession of a knife in a public place or a school. We are building a new youth remand centre and two new youth detention centres. We are deploying a specialist youth crime rapid response squad to hot spots as part of Taskforce Guardian. We are expanding electronic monitoring using GPS ankle bracelets. We are supporting victims through our new Victims' Commissioner and higher payments to support victims. We are expanding the youth co-responders that are made up of police and youth justice staff. They have had 101,000 interactions. We are also expanding our successful intensive case management program. All up, we are tackling the complex causes of crime through early intervention and crime prevention. That is what is in our plan and that is what is proving to be successful and effective.

I welcome the member for Ninderry asking this question because he is the one person over there who has been honest about their plans. He is the one person over there who has told the public what crime is all about. He was honest with Queenslanders when the Leader of the Opposition was not. He was clear with Queenslanders about what he thought his job was.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Bonney, you are skating on thin ice. Can I ask that you at least try?

Worker Protection

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister update the House on the importance of protecting Queensland workers and what the Miles Labor government is doing to support workers, and is the minister aware of any risky alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Kurwongbah. He knows firsthand the importance of protecting Queensland workers and the vital role that employer and union organisations play—those that are registered, that have rules under chapter 12 of the Queensland Industrial Relations Act and the Fair Work Commission Act—to make sure workers receive their benefits and entitlements, and employers know what their responsibilities are when it comes to the workplace as well. One of the ways—and the member for Kurwongbah is aware of this—that we can help workers is to give them a job. Queenslanders are employed in safe and secure jobs, thanks to the government and thanks to the Industrial Relations Act in this state. We have nation-leading economic growth in Queensland as outlined by the Treasurer previously. We have not only protected those workers but also restored those workers' jobs in the Public Service. We lead the nation with paid domestic and family violence leave, labour hire laws, wage theft laws and industrial manslaughter laws. We lead the nation on occupational dust lung disease measures. How happy we are that finally the Albanese government stepped in, after six years of campaigning by this government, to ban engineered stone in the workplace. We have the best workers compensation laws in this state, in the country.

Those opposite come in here wanting apologies to be given to victims, yet we have not seen apologies to the workers sacked by those opposite. We have not seen apologies to the injured workers and their families who were denied common law rights. These are workers who were injured through negligence. Those opposite took away their rights; we restored their rights. Since 2015, we have seen 800 workers receive \$16 million in benefits, previously denied by those opposite. Do you know why they do not mention victims or they do not apologise to those victims? Because there is no political gain in doing so. When it comes to apologising to victims, where is the apology for the victims of SET Solutions, the \$3 million owed to creditors by a failed business involving the Leader of the Opposition?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Ms GRACE: When it comes to unions, we make no apologies for ensuring the primacy of registered industrial organisations. There is no room for fake unions. Even though they claim to be apolitical, guess who was at a fundraising function that was held recently by the member for Kawana? One of the executive officers of the red unions.

Mr Saunders interjected.

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

Ms GRACE: So much for being apolitical. On this side of the House, we back workers with strong and safe industrial laws.

Miles Labor Government, Hospitals

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. After a decade of Labor, ambulance ramping has jumped from 15 per cent to 45 per cent, leading to over 20 Queenslanders dying, waiting for an ambulance. Elective surgery waiting lists doubled to over 61,000 and the number of patients not getting their surgery on time jumped from two per cent to 17 per cent. Because Queenslanders are dying waiting for ambulances to arrive or to have their surgery, is time up for Labor?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her question. Nobody in this place has more experience than the member for Mudgeeraba at talking down our health workers. A lot of people have done it, but the member for Mudgeeraba has done it more—she has done it for longer and she has done it more often. She believes our health workers are duds. No wonder she was the first of the 4,400 healthcare workers Campbell Newman sacked. We on this side have rebuilt our health services after they were decimated by those opposite, and we have continued to build upon that. Right now, we are building three new hospitals for Queensland, while those opposite have never committed to a new hospital for Queenslanders.

The member cherrypicks data to try to make political points, but what we know is that our healthcare staff are not duds. Our healthcare staff are doing a very good job in the face of increasing demand, driven by population growth and an ageing population, under the collapse in primary health care.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr MILES: The Leader of the Opposition interjects, criticising our health system, but he knows very well that Queensland leads the nation when it comes to elective surgeries. We are delivering more surgeries than ever before. In the last year alone, 150,000 surgeries were conducted in our public hospitals. We have seen the number of patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time come down by almost 50 per cent in the last year, while those opposite tried to create a waiting list for the waiting list. They would not even let people get onto the waiting list. We are delivering more specialist outpatients appointments than ever before—735,000 in the last year. We have seen patient-off-stretcher time improve in terms of the proportion of number of patients. We have seen median ED wait times improve two minutes faster than this time last year, and four minutes faster than when those opposite were last in government. On this side of the House, we back our healthcare system and we back our health workers. We do not call them duds. We certainly will not be cutting them.

Miles Labor Government, Hospitals

Ms RICHARDS: My question is of the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters for women and is the minister aware of risky alternative approaches, including risks to accessible health services for Queensland women?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Redlands for her question. She is a huge advocate for the health care of women and girls in her community. She is always down at our new satellite hospital meeting so many of the wonderful patients who are absolutely loving that service. Of course, on this side of the House, she joined with us in celebrating our long overdue \$1 billion Women and Girls' Health Strategy which is really focused on the health needs of women and girls. We know that those opposite are refusing to come clean about their plans for women's health and, in fact, women and girls in general. They do not have a plan; they do not even have a concept of a plan.

The Leader of the Opposition, though, certainly has a secret plan to put Amanda Stoker in as his Attorney-General. We talked about that yesterday. Even good old Henry Pike in the Redlands is making sure Amanda Stoker is front and centre on the frontbench if they win government. This is someone who attends anti-choice rallies, who stands up with far-right extremists, who does not even support abortion in the consequence of rape. That is who may be leading law reform for women and girls in this state if those opposite are elected.

What else are they keeping secret from Queensland women and girls? Certainly we know that almost everyone on their front bench voted against taking abortion out of the Criminal Code. They all voted against giving nurses and midwives the ability to prescribe early termination of pregnancy drugs, which supports women in rural and regional Queensland. This week—not 10 years ago but just this week—

Mr Head interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN:—they voted down laws to prevent the sexual harassment of women in the workplace. This was after a federal review that looked at the treatment of women in the federal parliament that their former government adopted. That was not good enough for the Liberal and National Party here in Queensland! So many women experience sexual harassment at work, and those opposite have completely left them behind. Is it any wonder? Look at all the women over there, who must be fighting hard in their party to make sure they have good policies to protect women and girls in Queensland. I am frightened about what will happen if they win the election in October. Women and girls across Queensland should also be incredibly frightened. Their record speaks for itself. Their record 10 years ago was atrocious, but their record this week is just as frightening.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Housing

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. After a decade of Labor, housing lot approvals are down 26 per cent and building approvals are down 32 per cent. Social housing stocks have increased by only 2.7 per cent, while the waiting list has doubled to over 45,000 people. With Queenslanders struggling to find or afford a home, after a decade of housing planning failures, is time up for Labor?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Everton for his question. Again, it goes to an area that has been a real focus of mine since I became the Premier. The Homes for Queenslanders plan is a more than \$3 billion investment in homes for Queenslanders and it is delivering results. Between January and June this year we added 752 more homes to our social housing stock. The member for Everton knows a bit about the social housing stock because he cut it. When he was the housing minister, it went backwards. Under my leadership, we are growing it. There are 1,000 homes under construction right now thanks to that plan.

In the nine months to March this year we assisted 39,942 people through specialist homelessness services. That is 2,528 more people than were helped in the same period last year. The plan includes better support for first home buyers, effectively abolishing stamp duty for purchases up to \$700,000. We are funding that by making international property investors pay their fair share. The Homes for Queenslanders plan is a plan to deliver one million new homes. This year we are delivering more homes, on average, per quarter. That means more homes built, more homes approved and more homes commenced under our government and under our plan than the LNP could ever deliver.

The member for Everton quotes a statistic. It is one we are familiar with because they quote it often. It takes the year 2015 and compares it to last year. What this fails to recognise is that 2015 was a particularly active year for approvals. There had been a big backlog of approvals for the previous three years. We cleared that backlog in 2015. That is why 2015 was a peak. The fact is: every year we have delivered more than those opposite ever could.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr MILES: I take the interjection from the member for Bonney—the man who is personally campaigning against additional houses on the Gold Coast, the man responsible for pushing down supply and the man responsible for making sure that young people on the Gold Coast cannot afford a house. What a hypocrite!

Mr SPEAKER: I realise there was some provocation but I have tried to give you guidance, member for Bonney. I asked that you try; I do not think you have. You are warned under the standing orders. For the remainder of the House: 'do or do not; there is no try'.

Financial Accountability

Mr POWER: My question is for the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I refer to the Queensland Treasurer's Financial Accountability Handbook. Will the Deputy Premier explain how government agencies are instructed to avoid conflicts of interest, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other risky approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Logan for his question. It is a timely question. A conflict of interest occurs when private interests interfere or appear to interfere with the performance of official duties, and Queensland Treasury's Financial Accountability Handbook deals with that very topic. Page 2-27 makes it clear that, to maintain a level of independence, audit committee members must declare conflicts of interest at the appropriate time.

The member for Logan asks about risky alternatives. A few years back, the Local Government Act was strengthened when it comes to conflicts of interest in Queensland. At the time the House was told those changes were about coming down hard on councillors who had been 'deliberately failing to keep an accurate register of interests'. Councillors caught out could be fined more than \$11,000 and disqualified for up to four years from being in office. As the House was told on that occasion about deliberately failing to update registers of interests, 'If you commit the crime, you do the time'—strong words indeed. These were strong words spoken by the then minister for local government and now the leader of the LNP. That is what he said about deliberately failing to update your register of interests—precisely his actions in failing to update his register of interests about the \$200,000 liability that he incurred and that he paid off when he was a member of this House and when he was the opposition leader. Slick slogans do not explain—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence because what the Deputy Premier is saying is factually incorrect. I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the House again that if matters are factually incorrect then there is a process to write to me about those allegations. In terms of grouping that with a personal offence, I would like to see that practice cease. Deputy Premier, the Leader of the Opposition has taken personal offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr DICK: I withdraw. What the member for Broadwater said in this House about deliberately failing to keep the register of interests up to date was 'if you do the crime, you do the time'. What this whole integrity inferno about the Leader of the Opposition demonstrates to Queenslanders—Queenslanders who are here in the gallery and Queenslanders across the length and breadth of Queensland—is that he will say or do anything. He will say anything they want to hear, but, when it comes to his own personal standards and his own personal conduct, it is completely different.

Slick slogans do not explain why he did not update his register of interests. Five-word phrases do not explain why the LNP leader decided deliberately not to update his register of interests. The LNP leader has form when it comes to the parliamentary Register of Members' Interests. We remember that the LNP leader was dragged before the Ethics Committee because of his role with 'Reveal-a-lot'—sorry, Revalot Pty Ltd. That says it all about the Leader of the Opposition. You cannot trust him when it comes to his personal conduct, and you cannot trust him as a leader in this state.

(Time expired)

Premier

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Media reports of the Premier giggling when asked about youth crime and blaming the media for how it reports on it; having no regrets for the Wellcamp debacle; taking two jets to the same location then saying it is cheaper to rent a luxury jet than a car—all the while overseeing rising pressures from youth crime, health, housing and the cost of living. Does the Premier accept—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am going to pull you up, member for Kawana. That is clearly a significantly long preamble to the question. You have experience in this House. I will rule the question out of order. This is the second time this week I have had to caution you on that.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I think I know what the point of order is going to be. I will say that I have actually been quite tolerant today of some of the other lengthy preambles which I have not called to the attention of the House.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The word count for that introduction was far lower than many of the ones government members have put forward this morning.

Mr SPEAKER: I think that would remain to be proven, member. Member for Kawana, here is what we will do. I will allow the question, but I caution you on the length of the preamble. I will allow you to repeat a question.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Does the Premier accept he is just not up to the job of leading Queensland?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. I have spent the last nine months as Queensland's Premier listening to Queenslanders and delivering for them and that is precisely what I intend to continue to do. We have outlined comprehensive plans for our state's future and that is the opposite of what those opposite have done. They have a few slogans but they do not have any plans. The 'invisible man' hopes to sneak into office while on this side we have an unashamedly positive vision for our state's future.

We have heard from Queenslanders that right now they are struggling with the cost of living and that is why we delivered that record-breaking cost-of-living package, \$11 billion of support for Queensland families: \$1,000 on their energy bills, 50 cents to catch the train or the bus or the ferry, 20 per cent off car rego, \$200 FairPlay vouchers, free kindy for every Queensland kid, \$1,000 for tools for first year apprentices, free flu shots and free TAFE. It is a program to deliver on the concerns that Queenslanders raise with us and one that we could only deliver because we own our electricity assets, we stopped those opposite from selling them and we increased those coal royalties on multinational coal companies, something those opposite have opposed. Then across every other front we have comprehensive plans that are proven to be working. We have already talked today about our comprehensive plans for community safety, housing and health care. We have comprehensive plans for education. We continue to deliver the Big Build, creating tens of thousands of jobs mostly in regional Queensland.

On this side of the House we have a vision for our state's future while on the opposite side all they ever have is a plan to cut jobs, a plan to cut services, a plan that will hurt Queenslanders and drive up unemployment, just like it did last time, and leave Queenslanders worse off in the long run.

Mount Isa, Copper

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Premier. Glencore have proven that they do not share the government's vision of increasing copper production in Queensland. Will the Premier act to ensure a willing miner is able to mine Queensland's copper at Mount Isa?

Mr MILES: I thank the member for Traeger for his question; it is a really important one. It is important not just to Mount Isa but to the entire state. I acknowledge the member for Traeger's passion on this. He has really been a fierce advocate for keeping mining jobs in Mount Isa and for ensuring that mining can continue to drive the Mount Isa economy. While we do not agree on everything, it is something on which we on this side of the House really strongly agree with the member for Traeger.

The fact is there are really only two parties in this place that can stand up to multinational mining companies and that is the Australian Labor Party and Katter's Australian Party. That is because those multinational coal companies are motivated to drive down wages, to drive down labour costs, to pay less taxes because that is how they increase their profits. Those opposite might be in bed with those multinational mining companies, but we are not. We want to see more jobs in mining. We want to see those jobs be safe jobs, be well-paid jobs, and we want to see those mining companies pay their fair share of taxes.

We want to see Mount Isa remain the great resources town that it has always been, and so I want to be really clear about this. On this I back the member for Traeger. Any government that I lead will do everything it can to assist in identifying an alternative owner. If there is a viable owner willing to step up and run the mine, we will do all that we can do to facilitate the transfer of ownership including the introduction and passage of legislation. That is how strongly we on this side of the House agree with the member for Traeger on this issue. This is too important to fold over, like those opposite have done with the Queensland Resources Council. This is too important for our state's future. We want to see Mount Isa thrive. That is why we are investing in new infrastructure for Mount Isa.

The CopperString project is a flagship project of our government because we see Mount Isa and the north-west as being the economic powerhouse of our state for the future just as it has been through so much of Queensland's history.

Noosa, Development

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Regarding notifications for SFD projects in Noosa without sufficient details, will the minister act immediately and halt this process until the required information is provided to Noosa Council and our community and commit to not overriding what has been foreshadowed for Noosa Junction and Tewanin in Noosa Council's planning scheme amendments?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Noosa for the question. The answer is no. I will not be delaying approving affordable housing in this state. I appreciate that the member for Noosa may not agree with me on that decision. We had a conversation this week and I know she has been a really strong advocate and has been talking to her community about their views and she is representing those views to me. However, I also have a responsibility as the housing minister in this House to unlock more affordable housing.

In terms of those two projects, I think it is worth noting what those two proposals are and there will be further detail provided. There has been detail provided to the Noosa Council. What I can say about these two projects is that the proposal in Noosa Heads aims to deliver 195 homes and 50 per cent of them would be affordable housing managed by a community housing provider. The other proposal in Tewanin is for 40 homes and 26 per cent of those, again, would be affordable housing that would be managed by a community housing provider. These are exactly the types of projects that we need in our community.

This is a system, a fast-track approval process, that has been backed in by National Shelter. There is an *ABC* article today from the chief executive of National Shelter who has singled out Queensland's changes and said they were a critical tool in speeding up construction of affordable housing. She goes on to say—

Having worked in local governments myself, where you can have planning delays for affordable housing, this is such a critical tool to be able to get those homes on the ground.

There was also, I note with interest, an article in the *Noosa Today* a little while ago. That said—

But there has been little progress. Several applications aimed at providing affordable housing in Tewantin, Cooroy and Noosa Heads were knocked back by Council, justified either by selected Noosa Plan rules or in response to a minority group of objectors. No effort was made to find win-win solutions to facilitate good affordable housing outcomes.

I have stepped in and said that we are considering these proposals because that is the right thing to do for frontline workers in this state, for hospitality workers who need to be employed in the businesses in Noosa. Noosa businesses are crying out for workers, but they need affordable housing.

I note with interest, though, that the LNP's candidate for Noosa has already come out opposing these projects, which is just another example of another LNP member opposing housing in their own backyard. There are a list of them. Everyone is calling out for more affordable housing, yet we continuously have LNP members who side with the NIMBYs and object to any housing proposal that will deliver critical housing for frontline workers and young people in this state. I will always stand on the side of those young people who deserve to have affordable housing.

Affordable Housing

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works. Can the minister please update the House on how the Miles Labor government is doing what matters to deliver more housing for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any risky alternatives?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the member for Lytton for the question. I know that she is a big advocate for delivering more affordable housing. To do that we know that we need to increase supply, and that is exactly what our government is doing. I was listening to a podcast the other day and I found an unlikely ally. I do not agree with a lot of what LNP member Andrew Bragg says on a lot of things, like the LNP's plan to slash billions of dollars from community housing and its plan to cut the Help to Buy shared equity scheme, but I do find that I agree with him on one particular issue, and that is what he said on that podcast. He said that 'nimbysm is poison for young people'. I could not agree more with him on that. He actually went further than that, though, and called out his LNP colleagues for 'playing footsies with NIMBYs'. I think he is referring to some of you on that side. Members like the member for Mermaid Beach and the members for Burleigh, Currumbin and Bonney have barely seen a housing project they did not want to stop. Of course, we had the shadow housing minister also oppose housing in his own backyard.

I read with interest a letter that I received just two weeks ago. We know that the LNP does not like talking about its track record on housing, but this was just two weeks ago, and I table a copy of that letter for the purposes of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 August 2024, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works, Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, regarding Ministerial Infrastructure Designation 0624-0855—Bright Place, Birtinya [1829].

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow planning minister, wrote to me opposing 90 affordable homes in his electorate—90 affordable homes in his electorate! They are houses that would be delivered by a community housing provider that he allegedly wants to unleash, except he does not seem to want to unleash them because he seems to want to block them.

Honourable members interjected.

A government member: How long ago was this?

Ms SCANLON: This was two weeks ago.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. The Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition will cease their quarrelling.

Ms SCANLON: This is a project that is close to schools, to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON:—and to shops, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition says, 'No thanks'—no thanks to affordable housing in his electorate.

A government member: Outstanding!

Ms SCANLON: We have to presume that, if those opposite are elected—I take the interjection—they are going to stop projects like this. This should send a shiver down the spine of anyone who wants to build affordable housing in this state.

I do not know what it is with the Leader of the Opposition particularly about the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, where he seemingly opposes housing. We know that Broadwater ain't in his backyard, so I am not really sure why he is so opposed, but maybe he is doing his job to free up some housing supply by moving to Bulimba. It is a novel approach to increasing housing supply on the Gold Coast; I will give him that. We cannot trust a word those opposite say. They say they support community housing and then they oppose it. They say they support housing but then they block it.

Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer to media reports last night regarding very serious allegations made by department of justice staff about bullying in that department. Can the current Attorney confirm that the previous attorney took all appropriate action to ensure department staff were protected and very serious complaints were dealt with rather than being swept under the carpet to protect the then attorney-general?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. This matter was referred to the Ethical Standards Unit, the workplace health and safety regulator and is also currently before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. I am also advised that an external consultant was engaged to investigate workplace culture within Blue Card Services, with recommendations of this currently being implemented. I have also received an assurance from the director-general that once the matter has reached its conclusion an independent and external review of the department's handling of this matter, including the initial complaint, will be immediately initiated by the director-general. The director-general has also advised me that she has initiated a review of departmental policies and procedures to ensure they are suitable and fit for purpose, as should be done.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is delivering the transport and road projects like Riverway Drive that matter to Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member. There is always meant to be silence during questions being asked, but I could not hear part of your question. I ask you to start your question again.

Mr HARPER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Can the minister update the House on how the Miles Labor government is delivering transport and road projects like Riverway Drive that matter to Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

Mr MELLISH: Thank you, Mr Speaker; that is all I need. Our \$37 billion transport big build is setting up Queensland for the future. Right across Queensland we are investing in game-changing road, rail and active transport projects: our billion dollar inland freight route underway right now; the Rocky ring-road; our hugely successful 50-cent fares; the first government to secure Sunshine Coast direct rail; and Gold Coast Light Rail. In this term of government alone we have delivered 98 projects, worth over \$4.6 billion.

In contrast, the LNP has made one transport commitment this term—just one. Its only commitment is to build the Sunshine Coast direct rail to Maroochydore at an additional cost of \$6 billion, which experts say simply cannot be done. I am particularly concerned that the member for Kawana is campaigning so strongly to have this project open sooner all the way to Maroochydore given that this project directly benefits his property interests. I think the member should disclose whether he has excused himself from shadow cabinet during the discussion of this project. He has certainly been the main spokesperson on it.


I will say it again: this is the only transport project the LNP has committed to. It has not committed to building a new bridge across the Barron River. Instead, it talks about a review or a repair. It has consistently derided our commitment to build a new bridge for Bribie Island. We can guarantee that those opposite will cut it. At every step the LNP has opposed major transport upgrades to the public transport network—the Northern Transitway, light rail on the Gold Coast and, of course, Cross River Rail, which the member for Chatsworth particularly hates. Speaking of the member for Chatsworth, I

want to take this opportunity to thank him for being the best shadow transport minister a Labor government could hope for—no policies, no announcements, no ideas, no projects, no commitments, and he does not support public transport—but he does not have much competition over there. The member for Burleigh said in 2021 that public transport would be obsolete within a decade. Well, the clock is surely ticking. This opposition offers nothing for transport and main roads and it has been found out.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.17 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. With regard to the issue that the minister has just raised, I have disclosed this on my pecuniary interests register, I have disclosed it pursuant to standing order 262 on a number of occasions in this parliament, I have Integrity Commissioner advice, I have advice from the Clerk and I have done everything according to the standing orders, Mr Speaker.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. Member for Kawana, you rose on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Is there action that is required?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana.

Mr Dick interjected.

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


Second Reading

Resumed from 11 September (see p. 3068), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you have just continued to go across the chamber after I gave you guidance earlier. You are warned under the standing orders.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.18 am): I rise to give my contribution on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. When I rose in this House to give my maiden speech, I spoke about a turn of phrase that my nonno—my grandfather—used to use all the time, saying that Australia is the lucky country and how fantastic it was for him as a migrant from northern Italy to say that he lived in Australia, the lucky country. Part of being the lucky country is the fact that we sit on an abundant amount of resources and opportunity in this country.

This country sits on productive land. This state alone sits on coal that can keep Queensland running for hundreds of years to come. Unfortunately over the years there are those who have vilified the coal industry. Last term the narrative was ‘we have to shut down the coal industry’, ‘we have to retrain those coalmine workers and find something else for them to do’. Then COVID came along and we realised we needed something to rely on to keep our economy running. Coal, cattle, agriculture and trucking kept this state going. In 2022-23 Queensland pocketed \$15.5 billion in coal royalties. The forecast for 2023-24 is slightly lower at \$9 billion. The federal government, through taxes and export duties alone, will make \$10 billion from coal in 2024-25 and the forecast is for \$10 billion to \$15 billion in the years after that. In 2022-23 coal exports were valued at \$110 billion to the economy. That needs to be acknowledged.

What are we doing with our coal royalties here in Queensland? Let us go back in time to the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era when the coal industry was being established in Queensland. When Joh Bjelke-Petersen walked into this House in 1968 the Queensland government was so broke that it could not pay its bills. Once a month it had to take a loan from the federal government to pay the public sector.

A couple of years ago I had an opportunity to sit down and have dinner with Sir Leo Hielscher, the under Treasurer at the time. It was one of the most enlightening times of my life. It opened me up to understand how this state was built. The nation-building infrastructure of that time happened off the back of pulling coal out of the ground, finding a good price for it and exporting it. During the Joh era the coal industry was set up. The Goonyella mine and the Hay Point coal terminal were built. Back in those days they got those who were buying our coal to pay for the rail. Our rail infrastructure was owned by Queenslanders which continued to contribute to this state. It actually put money back into the coffers of this state. That has gone. There was an expansion of the Blackwater rail system, the Hay Point coal terminal and the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal. There was electrical generation off the back of coal: Swanbank Power Station, Tarong Power Station built in 1984 and Gladstone Power Station. Aluminium industries were set up in this state off the back of coal royalties and coal sales. Dams were built. The Wivenhoe Dam was built between 1977 and 1985. The Burdekin Dam, which sits in the member for Burdekin's electorate, was built off the back of coal. When it comes to roads infrastructure, the Bruce Highway was expanded. The Gateway Bridge was built off the back of coal. Education and hospitals benefited. Tourism on the Gold Coast was developed during that time. All these infrastructure projects were off the back of coal royalties—selling Queensland coal and using it to build infrastructure.


In Queensland, coal royalties have risen over the last couple of years due to progressive coal royalties, but what has the Labor government spent it on? I have not seen any significant dams built or new rail lines. The Galilee Basin has not been opened. There have been no tunnels built in North Queensland to open up the mid-west of Cairns. CopperString has been announced, but we have not seen any major infrastructure started and we hear that there could be issues with a change of government. Queenslanders are enjoying \$1,000 off their electricity bill. That is nice. It would be nice if we did not drive electricity prices up by abandoning coal in this state. We are now committing \$19 billion of those coal royalties over four years for new wind farms and solar farms to generate electricity that could be produced from the best coal in this country coming out of Queensland. It is the most sought after coal around the world. Our coking coal and thermal coal is necessary for melting iron ore to create steel, but the coal that is exported out of Australia produces electricity around the world. The other day it was said that there are about 600 million Indians going without electricity. While they are trying to expand their middle class, are we going to tell them they will not have coal into the future? Many people who call themselves experts are saying so.

We oppose a lot of these coal royalties being dumped straight into the South-East corner. We oppose the Brisbane Olympics. North Queenslanders were never asked—Queenslanders were not asked—before a bid was put in for the Brisbane Olympics in 2032. No-one else bid for it. We are going to dump the money we are generating right now from progressive coal royalties into projects like that while the Bruce Highway ails and there is no way to get past the Kuranda Range in a timely and orderly fashion. We have bridges that need money spent on them and we need agriculture expanded west of the Great Divide. You cannot do that without dams. Without water you cannot grow anything.

We should be looking at the past and not only learning from the mistakes made but also recognise that nation-building infrastructure was built off the back of coal royalties. We have been told that funds are now flooding back to the regions because of progressive coal royalties. We are seeing money being spent in the electorates of Hinchinbrook, Traeger, Hill and even Mirani, but nothing out of the norm. The United Arab Emirates did not build their cities by giving their oil away. They pull their oil out of the ground, they process it and send it overseas. They built great cities from it. I flew into Dubai last year and I thought to myself, 'Wow, this is what happens when you have foresight and when you do not have four-year-term projections on how you build a state.' We should not be building from term to term, we should be building infrastructure that lasts for generations—generational infrastructure like dams and rail—ensuring that the Queenslanders who come after us do not sit back and point the finger at the people in this House for squandering their wealth and resources.

This is the reason I stand in this House with the Katter's Australian Party and will continue to fight to make sure that the money generated in the coal industry in regional Queensland is delivered back to the regions, not just because we want to see things built out there, not because we want jobs, but because we want to help generate the income. Every time I look around Brisbane there is another footbridge or tunnel. How does that help the rest of Queensland? This is a congested city that people cannot wait to get out of. All the government is trying to do is make an unlivable situation better. Get people into the regions by building the infrastructure we need. Give us the opportunity to build this state off the back of the wealth this state is generating through coal royalties.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I remind the House of those members on a warning: members for Everton, Clayfield, Kawana, Ninderry, Currumbin, Buderim, Nanango, Maryborough, Callide, Mudgeeraba, Bonney, Glass House and Woodridge.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (11.29 am): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. I would like to thank the committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the organisations and individuals who made submissions in relation to the bill. We were left in no doubt as to what multinational miners want from the opposition leader. Multinational miners want a cheque from him this Christmas and a promise in their stocking they can take to the bank.


However, this bill is about keeping progressive coal royalties in the hands of Queenslanders. Analysis from Queensland Treasury makes it clear that our mining industry had an extraordinary windfall of \$88 billion in unexpected revenue. A small portion of almost \$10 billion has been captured for Queenslanders by our setting of progressive coal royalties. We are putting that windfall into relief for every Queenslander this year with \$1,000 off power bills, 50-cent fares and 20 per cent off rego. We are also providing direct support to communities through the \$15 million School and Community Food Relief Program. This will help to provide Queensland kids with free school breakfasts and lunches and increased access to healthy food options. We are delivering free kindy. Royalties also give us the capacity to deliver our record \$107 billion Big Build, including major investments in housing, new hospitals, schools and renewable energy that allows us to keep putting downward pressure on power prices after they hit record highs under those opposite.

The member for Nanango has protested that she did not personally close units at Tarong Power Station. I accept that and withdraw those statements. She did argue it was necessary, though, because prices had got too low. To quote the member for Nanango from her own press release—

But I understand the oversupplied energy market has forced down wholesale prices, leaving the major local employer with little choice.

On this side of the House, we do not accept that increasing power prices is necessary. In fact, we believe that addressing the cost of living is necessary. All of that relief, all future relief and the 72,000 jobs supported by the Big Build this year are at risk in October.

The Leader of the Opposition called progressive coal royalties a betrayal of Queensland families—the same royalties that give cost-of-living relief to Queensland families. Without progressive coal royalties, he will need to cut. He told Sky News that he wants the mining industry to be free of the new ways we tax and regulate them. The choice for Queenslanders is clear: keep relief for Queensland families this year and every year it is needed; keep investing in new hospitals, schools and roads; keep the nation-leading economic plan for new industries in manufacturing and critical minerals, renewables and renewable fuels, all built on the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan; and keep the coal royalties in the bank. As Premier, I made a commitment to Queenslanders from day one that I would work hard doing what matters to them now and for future generations to come, and we are doing what matters most to Queenslanders.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals) (11.32 am): This government backs the resources industry for the jobs it creates, the communities it supports and the royalties it generates. Right now there are more than 78½ thousand people employed in the resources industry, the majority of whom are in regional Queensland. The latest ABS data shows that in the 2023-24 financial year employment has increased 21.4 per cent, or 13,849 people, from an average of 64,798 persons in the 2014-15 period. That is a staggering number that demonstrates that this government is backing and supporting our resources industry to grow right now, right here and for the future.

Since 2015 there has been at least \$83.5 billion in private sector investment in Queensland's mining industry. During that time, 18 new major projects have been announced and constructed and a further 17 projects announced during that time now have investment committed. Our resources industry is a key pillar of Queensland's economy and the resources below the ground belong to all Queenslanders. That is why we made the decision to ensure all Queenslanders get their fair share from the resources they own by introducing our progressive coal royalty tiers. Both the Mining & Energy Union Queensland District and the Australian Workers' Union made submissions in support of this bill—about the importance of our progressive coal royalties and the benefits of them for regional Queensland. I could not agree more.

This bill is before the House because, in my view, we cannot trust the LNP with progressive coal royalties. They try to talk around the edges when it comes to progressive coal royalties. On 26 May this

year, Sky News asked the Leader of the Opposition what he could promise the people of Queensland if he became the state's next premier. The Leader of the Opposition said—

I want the mining industry to be free from the government that's constantly looking to find new ways to tax and regulate them.


In my eyes, that shows that we simply cannot trust the LNP to keep our progressive coal royalties in place.

Those opposite have also claimed that there is a major impact on investment, but the facts do not show that. Statistics released last week by the ABS show there is a massive investment in exploration in the coal sector. In fact, coal expenditure was up 25.7 per cent year on year to \$252 million. It has not been at that level since December 2014. While in my opinion those opposite talk down the industry under the pretence of the impact of progressive coal royalties, we continue to back the resources industry. Queensland progressive coal royalties have delivered an additional \$9.4 billion over 2022-23 and 2023-24. Over the next six years of implementation, progressive coal royalties are set to generate an additional \$12.2 billion in revenue.

Our progressive coal royalties mean that we can invest in infrastructure and our Big Build. This includes projects such as CopperString, which will benefit Townsville, Mount Isa and the resources industry. That \$6.2 billion project will unlock potentially \$500 billion worth of critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province. It will help facilitate projects such as Vecco's vanadium mine, which will help to produce vanadium batteries that we need as part of our drive towards a renewable energy future. I believe that is all at risk because of the LNP.

My opinion is simple: we cannot trust the LNP to keep progressive coal royalties in place, and that means CopperString is on their cuts list and so is the boom in critical minerals. The LNP's track record is one of cuts. They do not back progressive coal royalties and will simply cut them. They will not be able to build hospitals. They will not be able to build roads or schools. They will not be able to fund vital cost-of-living relief. That is why this bill is before the House.

This bill is about protecting progressive coal royalties, which matter to all Queenslanders. It is about ensuring Queenslanders receive their fair share of the returns on our valuable and limited natural resources. We know that there are cost-of-living pressures on Queenslanders and we are doing what we can to address that. It is thanks to our progressive coal royalties that we have been able to give people \$1,000 off their power bills. We can do that because of the royalty changes that the Miles government supports 100 per cent and because we own our public assets. Backing Queenslanders is what the Labor Miles government is doing. We will always put the interests of people first over the multinational mining companies. This bill before the House makes that crystal clear. It is about time that the opposition makes their position clear. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.37 am): On the last day of the 57th Parliament, it is a great pleasure to speak on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024—and what a good piece of legislation this is. In my opinion and also the opinion of a lot of people in my electorate—

Mr Last: Here we go: the world according to Bruce.

Mr SAUNDERS: I hear the member for Burdekin talking. This will be his last time in the chamber because Anne is coming after him. He will not have to worry about coming back. I will tell the Clerk not to book an airfare for him because he will not be back.

This bill is important. The coal belongs to us, to Queenslanders. That is why it is so important. As I have said in the House before, we can imagine the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Burdekin with their cigars, talking to the Zurich bankers. We can picture them leaning up against a wall with a \$400 bottle of champagne, saying, 'In Queensland, we looked after you'—the mining giants with their Bentleys and their private jets. However, they are not looking after Queenslanders and we know what is at risk. People are getting \$1,000 off their electricity bills, which is amazing. People are coming into my electorate on Transit buses because of the 50-cent bus fares. The member for Hervey Bay and I have never seen so many people on buses around Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

The people of Maryborough are saying that we need these progressive coal royalties. I am not saying that; the voters right around the Maryborough electorate are saying that to me in droves. They are coming to me and saying, 'Why shouldn't these overseas companies pay? It is our coal.'

We heard from the Treasurer earlier—and what a great budget we had from the Treasurer. It was a fantastic budget. No wonder the polling numbers are going down for the LNP—they know that everyone in Queensland is happy with the budget from the Miles Labor government. We are miles

ahead—that is what we are—and we will be miles ahead if this mob opposite try to stop this coal royalties bill or if they get back in. That is my opinion.

Let's look at what could be cut. The Fraser Coast is the fastest growing area in Queensland, from Augustus Estate to Burrum Heads, Howard and Torbanlea. It is a great area and it is growing at a rate of 1.9 per cent per year, but the satellite hospital is at risk. The \$1,000 electricity rebate is at risk. We heard the Treasurer talking today about upgrades to schools. All these things are at risk because, in my opinion—and it is also the opinion of a lot of people in the Maryborough electorate who come and talk to me—the LNP will be propping up these multibillion dollar mining companies.

The coal mining industry employs 40,000-odd people in this state. We are not attacking them. We are just saying that the Queensland people should get their fair share of royalties from the resources that belong to them. That is what we are saying. The benefits of those resources should be spread right around Queensland, and this Miles government is doing just that from the Cape right down to Coolangatta. Everyone is getting a share of the royalties, which is very good.

The member for Burdekin is sitting there today and talking about looking after the mining giants. We know what he said. I will table an article from the *Courier-Mail*, but I will read from it first—

Burdekin MP Dale Last attends the 2022 QME exhibition in Mackay. ... Mr Last said the opposition would 'consult' with industry on coal royalties if elected.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, featuring photo of the member for Burdekin, Mr Dale Last MP in 2022 at QME Exhibition; and document, undated, titled 'Queensland's Coal Royalty Structure (From July 1, 2022)' [\[1830\]](#).

We know what that 'consulting' means. In my opinion, they will cut it. This is my personal opinion. They will cut it. That is what will happen. They will cut it and, once they cut the coal royalties, they will come back and cut the other services because they will say, 'We've got this black hole in our budget.' The 2012 budget from the Newman era was a horrible budget. I was in Maryborough and I saw people lose their jobs and I saw services cut. We ran SOS rallies—for those on the LNP side, the SOS stood for 'save our services'—because we were losing services.


The member for Bancroft yesterday said that the Maryborough Hospital was the only hospital on the east coast of Australia without a pathology department. It was the only hospital on the east coast of Australia, in an area with a population of over 25,000 people, without a pathology department. Guess what the staff did—they took the blood and put it in a taxi to be delivered to a pathology lab. When we came to government, we reinstated the pathology unit which meant Maryborough's A and E got built. Those opposite talk about health but do not get me started. You cannot have a good A and E if you do not have a pathology unit. They go hand in hand. Those opposite took the pathology unit away, and that is what they will do again.

We know that they will say, 'We will look after the Zurichs and miners. We will give them their big cigars, Bentleys and overseas flights,' but the people of Maryborough, Thuringowa and Bancroft will lose services, health services and jobs in their communities. That is exactly what they did.

Who can remember the pooper scooper? Remember the pooper scooper? That is what the former premier Newman called them. He got the pooper scooper out. He did not have to sit there when public servants were talking about suicide. It is R U OK? Day today. I wonder how many of those public servants are worried about the future under the LNP. They have lived through the man or woman coming in saying, 'You're next.'

This is what they will do with the progressive coal royalties. They will say, 'There is a black hole in the budget so we have to cut.' This bill is crucial to the development of Queensland. We need this bill. We need these coal royalties because they are educating our children, giving us healthcare and giving us better roads. They are helping working people in this great state to put a roof over their head also.

That is what we do on this side of the House but it is at risk. We do not want to be a slave under Dave. That is something workers do not want to be. We want to make sure that everyone is looked after in this state, and this is what this bill does. I would like to thank the Treasurer, the Premier and the cabinet because this is what a good Labor government does. This Labor government is looking after Queenslanders.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.45 am): 'I discovered there is a big difference between what the Labor Party preach and what they do when they get into power.' Those are the words of the former Labor candidate for Everton and former ministerial staffer David Greene, as reported in the *Courier Mail* yesterday. You could be forgiven for thinking that Mr Greene was referring to this bill, the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024.

The purpose of the bill is to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a coal royalty rate floor, ensuring that regulations cannot prescribe coal royalty rates lower than those periodically prescribed. In effect, the Treasurer's bill is about removing that ability, it is about removing an option that his own government has used.

Why would a government do that? The answer is simple—to facilitate a political stunt and a fake scare campaign by a desperate Treasurer. Already we are hearing that scare campaign being rolled out by those opposite during this debate. As we saw yesterday, this government treats this parliament as its plaything, as nothing more than a rubber stamp. This bill is nothing more than another illustration of the arrogance of this government. During this year's budget, we heard the Treasurer ask Queenslanders to forget about the past, and it is crystal clear that this government has either conveniently forgotten its own past or is trying to pick and choose what is recorded.

The explanatory notes state that this Treasurer's actions to introduce progressive royalties in 2022 were the first change in 10 years. Tell that to the resource companies who, in 2019, were told to cough up \$70 million or face royalty increases. The then Treasurer—how could we forget—Jackie Trad, denied to the *Courier Mail* that she was forcing companies to comply but said—

... if there is an agreement from the mining companies ... we will make an agreement to freeze royalties for three years.

Who could forget the Treasurer saying that industry was consulted only for the Premier to tell the *Courier Mail's* Future Resources event that Treasury did not consult with the industry to ensure they could control the timing—so much for a government that promised transparency! The Treasurer may have been unsure of the industry's stance on progressive royalties but there simply can be no question about our stance. As the Record of Proceedings shows, we supported the royalties in 2022, in 2023 and, again, in 2024, not to mention our support of the progressive royalties in a separate motion last year.

The Treasurer's fake scare campaign is undermined most, however, by his own words. He himself thanked the LNP for ensuring progressive royalties passed through the House without opposition and acknowledged that the LNP state conference voted in support of retaining progressive royalties. Failing to consult and using selective memory to fuel a fake scare campaign is one thing but making a direct and deliberate misrepresentation to the people of regional and rural Queensland is another thing altogether. It is this Treasurer who, on 15 March 2023, told 7News Mackay, 'Every cent of these new royalties is being reinvested into regional Queensland right now.'

Do members know how galling that statement is to those workers, business operators and families who live in rural and regional Queensland? Do members know how galling that statement is for those people who live in my mining communities and take their lives in their own hands every single day they drive on roads that can only be described as goat tracks? Many times I have stood in this place and talked about the disgraceful roads, the unsealed roads and the roads that are impassable at many times of the year. Our school buses cannot do school runs to take kids to school because the roads are so bad.

Those opposite are very happy to put their hands out and get their grubby little hands on the coal royalties but they are not so keen to see that money go back into the areas where the wealth is generated. I will stand up in this place every single day and call for a fair slice of the royalties pie to be reinvested in the areas where they are generated.

Some 65 per cent of coalmines in Queensland are in my electorate and less than one per cent of royalties came back in this year's budget. Members should think about that. How about some of those royalties come back to fund critical infrastructure? How about some of those royalties come back to fix our roads and seal our roads, to give us more teachers, doctors and police officers and to give us better water infrastructure? I do not think it is unreasonable to ask that of this Treasurer.

Despite the Treasurer's commitment to regional Queensland, we are still fighting tooth and nail for a CT scanner at a hospital while the same Treasurer signs a cheque to pay for the Premier to deliver a birthday cake by private jet. Let us look at the overruns in terms of Wellcamp, Cross River Rail and the Coomera Connector—the money that has been wasted, billions of dollars. What we could do with that money in rural and regional Queensland to make the lives of people there a bit easier. It would send a message to people who live in rural and regional communities that these royalties are helping to make their lives a bit easier and that we are giving them the services they deserve and which the people in the south-east corner of this state take for granted.

The Treasurer has justified this bill based on what he alleges has been said or done by the opposition. As we already know, the reality is the opposite. On this side of the House, we speak to


industry representatives in meetings and at events we attend. Those opposite would have Queenslanders believe that us speaking with mining companies and industry organisations is somehow nefarious and that we are up to no good. The fact that those opposite are treating the resource sector with such contempt is an absolute disgrace.

We will consult with industry and we will consult with industry bodies because that is what good government should do. We will send a very clear message to industry that we support industry. We want to see the continued investment and growth in industry. I will stand up in this place every single day and back the resources sector. I am not afraid to stand up and say that I support our coalminers. Every day I go out there and see what they do. I talk to our miners. It is a tough job. They put their lives on the line. I am backing our mining industry and I will continue to consult with industry because that is what good governments do.

The economic and other benefits of resources will only be realised by people who are prepared to consult because it is that consultation that has directly led to the LNP's commitment to a resources cabinet subcommittee to improve coordination between departments and ensure the right decisions are made in a timely manner. There is a commitment from the LNP to build a pipeline of resource workers to reduce the reliance on hiring from overseas or interstate and to develop our own homegrown talent. That consultation means an LNP government will expand the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, create regional academy hubs with local on-the-ground trainers and create a pathway for women to move into operating and technical roles in the resources industry. While this Treasurer is focused on a political stunt, we on this side of the House are focused on a better future for Queensland and Queenslanders.

I take this time to say that on 20 August I made a statement related to the training of SES volunteers. My statement was incorrect and I take this opportunity to offer my unreserved apology to the House for my error.


Getting back to this bill, while this government has failed to ensure the rivers of gold from the resources sector have delivered better services and living standards for regional Queenslanders, we are focused on generating jobs and delivering regional Queenslanders their fair share.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (11.55 am): Following on from the member for Burdekin, who, in his own words, described this as grubby funding for services across Queensland, I want to thank the workers at Prince Charles Hospital and RBWH for the grubby work they do. I want to thank the teachers and teachers aids at all the schools across my electorate for the grubby work they do that the state funds. I want to thank all those in our transport department for everything they do for my electorate—for the grubby work they do, according to the opposition.

It is disgraceful considering what those opposite are pretending to do. They come in here and pretend that they support progressive coal royalties and then they criticise everything that they fund. They fund our basic services. They fund extensions to our schools. In my electorate, I am very worried about the funding for the 93 new beds that we are delivering for the Prince Charles Hospital. I am very worried about the funding that will mean 1,500 cars will be taken off local roads around the Prince Charles Hospital. I am very worried about the funding for the specialist cancer centre at the RBWH Herston precinct. We can fund these projects because we have progressive coal royalties.

I thank the Treasurer for his bravery and his vision in delivering this. It is appalling to me that those opposite, particularly the speaker before me and the opposition leader, said to industry, 'Our promises you can take to the bank.' With those on this side of the House, what you can take to the bank are royalties to service Queenslanders right across the state. I am not being selfish: it is not just about Stafford, although that is very precious to me; it is also about the services we need right across the state.

Those opposite come in here and pretend that everything is warm and fuzzy but refuse to commit to ongoing royalties beyond the forward estimates. Any of them—the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Treasurer—should come in here and tell us that they will not touch the progressive coal royalties in the next four years and beyond. They should come and tell us that. Just one of them should come and tell us that that is not their plan. There is silence. They will not. My priority is delivering the important things we need in Stafford: education, health, transport and housing, all of which rely upon the royalties that we have put in place. I know that every person I speak to in my electorate thinks the same when it comes to providing those essential services. Those opposite have their heads down. Maybe they are not listening. I dare them—any of them, just one of them—to promise to make sure this is going forward beyond the forward estimates. We will see.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice) (11.59 am): Many people would see my electorate as a pretty affluent place where not many people would be suffering cost-of-living pressures. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can tell you that nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, every day when I am doorknocking I meet someone who cries because their household budget has got really hard for them. We have parents who are going without meals so their kids can eat. They are pulling their kids out of sporting clubs because they simply cannot afford to pay the fees. Any parent will know how that is like a stab in your heart if your kids are having to go without. We have kids who cannot concentrate at school because they did not start the day with food in their bellies. We might have people who are just managing to balance their household budgets but they know that if one single thing happens, such as if the fridge blows up or the car does not work—things that you have to pay for straightaway—they have nothing left in their back pocket to deal with those challenges. I know that there are far worse stories happening right across the state.

Cost of living is a huge issue and we know it. It is why our cost-of-living measures are so critical. I know members opposite like to talk about it as some kind of election-buying exercise, but every single day we meet people who need those supports. We meet people who need those energy subsidies. They need the 50-cent fares so their kids can get to and from school and they can get to work. They need the 20 per cent off the car rego. They need free kindy so they can afford to send their kids to prepare them for school. They need free TAFE to get ahead. They need the FairPlay vouchers. They need our school and community food program—and so much more. These supports are changing people's lives. We must make sure that we keep them going. That is why I am supporting this bill.

I often find it very challenging having to listen to some of the speeches from those opposite. For the member for Burdekin to be using words like 'getting our grubby little hands on progressive coal royalties' about the work we are doing to make sure that people can get by every single day—that they can feed their kids, that they can afford to get to work, that they can get their kids to school—for him to refer to that as some kind of grubby little money-grabbing exercise is so insulting and so disrespectful to the needs of those people. If he has ever met somebody who cannot afford to feed their children and he thinks that is a grubby little exercise, that says everything about why we need a bill to legislate for progressive coal royalties. They simply cannot be trusted.

There is not a Queenslanders I speak to who does not believe that these royalties deliver Queenslanders' their fair share of a resource that belongs to them—no money going to multinationals. This belongs to them. They deserve it. Not only do they deserve it; they need it. We cannot trust the Leader of the Opposition. I do not believe we can trust the Leader of the Opposition to keep going with them if he becomes premier. The member for Stafford spoke so eloquently about them giving us a commitment that the royalties are there beyond the forward estimates.

We cannot trust the LNP with any of their promises. This week we had the anniversary of the biggest promise breaker of all time. They went to the 2012 election saying public servants had nothing to fear and, quick as a flash, they sacked 14,000 public servants. Every single day we do not have to raise it with people; they raise it with us—nurses, doctors, teachers, police officers—public servants who were serving the public. They were sacked. We cannot trust the LNP.

It is not just an issue of trust; it is an issue of competence. This week we finally understood why we do not get any detail on their policies. We all know their plan for the election is just to throw slogans everywhere—three or four words here and four or five words there. With their catchy slogans they are going to solve every issue in the whole world and it is going to happen as soon as they get into government. Once they get their feet under the desk every single issue will be solved.

The reason they are not releasing any policies became clear this week. It is because they are absolutely incompetent. Their child safety policy—oh my goodness! Anyone who heard the Minister for Child Safety's speech yesterday taking us through the costings that they have got wrong—they had a \$42 million discrepancy on the one hand.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Ms FARMER: They talked about a \$171 million residential care model that is actually going to cost half a billion dollars. It was scary, and that is only one policy. That is not even health, education, community safety or housing. Goodness knows how they would stuff up the economy in a flash! I am supporting this bill because I am supporting Queenslanders. This is not just politics. Queenslanders rely on us to look after them. They need it. Queenslanders need us to keep them safe. That is why we must support this bill. It must get through the House because we are protecting Queenslanders from them.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Before I call the next speaker, I remind the members on a warning: the members for Everton, Clayfield, Kawana, Ninderry, Currumbin, Buderim, Nanango, Maryborough, Callide, Mudgeeraba, Bonney, Glass House and Woodridge.

Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.06 pm): In the last decade across state and federal levels, mining, energy and resource companies have donated \$26 million to Labor and the LNP. That is \$26 million that went to the two political parties from the same companies. No matter who forms government after this election, it will still be the mining and fossil fuel industries writing the rules. These corporations are not stupid. They are not charities. They are getting their money's worth. As long as they play along, Labor and LNP politicians know that, win or lose, they will end up with a guaranteed job as a lobbyist, a director, an executive or a consultant in the resources sector.

Labor and the LNP are not just paid by the mining lobby; they are essentially the political wing of the mining lobby. Until last year former federal Liberal minister Ian Macfarlane literally ran the Queensland Resources Council, the chief mining lobby group in our state. He followed a similar path to Labor's former federal resources minister Martin Ferguson, who just six months after leaving office became the chairman of the national oil and gas lobby. Ferguson's former chief of staff and senior policy adviser to the Labor Party, Tracey Winters, is now a senior executive at Santos. Since 2015, Labor has given Santos approval for 1,064 gas wells on new fossil fuel projects.

Former Queensland Labor deputy premier Jim Elder went straight from politics to the board of the Australian Petroleum International Exploration and Development. The current President of the Australian Labor Party, Wayne Swan, now sits on the board of a mining company. Joel Fitzgibbon, another former Labor federal minister, is now a board member of Brickworks, part owner of the controversial New Acland coalmine. You might remember New Acland coalmine was fined just \$3,000 by the state government for digging 27 illegal groundwater wells.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As interesting as I find this contribution, it bears no relevance to the long title of the bill. My point of order is on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member, I encourage you to stick to the long title of the bill.

Dr MacMAHON: My point is that these ex-MPs from Labor and the LNP are so deep in the resources industry, so deep in coalmining, that their tax accountants must be dusting the coal dust off their hands at the end of the day. These companies know what they are getting in return for their lobbying and corporate donations. Over the last 10 years, big mining corporations have exported \$634 billion worth of resources—\$634 billion—and only paid nine per cent in royalties. Ten of the biggest mining companies in Queensland pay zero dollars in corporate tax. Ordinary Queenslanders pay more for a bottle of milk than billion dollar companies pay for digging up Queensland resources and shipping them off overseas. The federal government collect more money in HECS from students than they do from the petroleum resources rent tax. Rather than going after the mining and fossil fuel companies, the federal government would rather squeeze as much as they can out of students.

The Greens have for years been calling for increased royalties for resources. Let us not forget that just a few years ago Labor actually froze royalty levels. A freeze is good enough for the multinational mining companies but it is not good enough for renters. When Labor finally took the Greens' advice and implemented the Greens' coal royalties policy, it worked. Queensland got a better share of our enormous mineral wealth. However, these so-called progressive coal royalties announced in 2022 only apply to coal sold at superprofit levels. From next year, Labor's new coal royalty rate will cease to earn any extra revenue for Queensland—no additional money for schools, for hospitals, for housing. In fact, the amount the coal companies pay in royalties will have fallen by 70 per cent, even while coal exports continue to climb. Queenslanders will be getting \$10 billion less each year compared to just a few years ago.

Labor is standing here talking about how much more the coal companies will be paying in royalties while the amount will actually start to go down, and Queenslanders are seeing the result of this. They see our underfunded state schools—the same schools that Labor and the LNP voted just this week to continue to underfund. Queenslanders see how much more expensive their health care is becoming and they see the dire shortage of public housing, and then they look around and see the huge profits these big companies are making and they know that they are being ripped off.

Labor's new royalty rate only applies to coal sold at superprofit levels, so from 2025 coal companies will pay \$10 billion less in royalties than they did in 2023. These superprofit royalties do not apply to gas or other resources. It is not because these companies could not afford higher royalties across the board. In the decade to 2023, private companies exported \$634 billion in gas, metals and

minerals from Queensland and paid just nine per cent of that in royalties. Over 10 years, gas companies have sold \$120 billion worth of our gas but only paid four per cent of that in royalties. Compare that to somewhere like Norway. In Norway, the gas industry is majority state owned and private companies pay a royalty rate of 76 per cent. Overall, the people of Norway keep 55 per cent of the value of their gas and oil—or almost \$40,000 per year per person. Queenslanders on the other hand over the last decade have seen just four per cent of the value of our gas—less than \$100 per year per Queenslanders.


Labor and the LNP say that what is before us today is the best that we can hope for, but let us be clear: Labor and the LNP are the political wing of the gas industry and the resources industry. The gas industry in Australia, by the way, is 96 per cent foreign owned. No other country allows this much foreign and corporate interference in its politics, but then no other country's major parties are so totally owned by the gas industry. Since 2015 Labor has approved 43 new coalmines in Queensland and 3,700 gas wells across 17 new gas projects. Despite fossil fuel exports continuing to go up, royalties from these gas companies will crash by almost 60 per cent and royalties from coal companies will crash by more than 70 per cent.

Labor and the LNP have got it backwards. Instead of digging up more coal and gas while getting less for Queenslanders, we should be phasing out coal and gas while making sure we are taking a greater share of the revenue in the dying days of the fossil fuel industry to give it back to Queenslanders. That is what the Greens plan to do. The Greens are the only party that is not owned by mining companies, the only party that is taking climate change seriously, the only party that wants to see less for corporations and more for Queenslanders. Our plan will see increased royalties on fossil fuel companies as we phase out coal and gas and, yes, the Greens are proud to stand beside workers—unlike Labor and the LNP. If we do not phase out coal and gas, it will be ordinary people—not mining corporations—who will have to foot the bill for a warming planet, longer droughts, worse bushfires and more severe cyclones and flooding.

According to Labor's budget, Queensland will lose \$12 billion in annual coal and gas royalties by 2027, even while exporting 12 per cent more fossil fuels. The Greens plan to phase out fossil fuels by 2024 while raising the royalty rate to a flat 35 per cent which would generate an additional \$61 billion in state revenue and cut our exported emissions by 28 per cent. That is \$61 billion for us to invest in fully funded state schools, in enough public housing after decades of underinvestment, in new hospital beds, in 200 new free GP clinics, in 20 free psychology sessions for any Queenslanders who needs it. Instead, multinational mining companies will be walking away with billions of dollars that should go back to Queenslanders—into education, healthcare investment, good jobs in manufacturing, renewable technologies and mining the resources needed for a global transition to clean energy.

The clock is ticking on coal and gas and this is our last chance to get as much as we can out of this industry—as much of that wealth to go back to Queenslanders so we can set Queensland up for the future. By introducing a flat 35 per cent royalty on mining revenue, we could raise an extra \$61 billion even while cutting fossil fuel exports. That is \$61 billion that we can invest in a public mining company to mine the resources that we need for a renewable economy; \$61 billion that we could put into education, health care and housing—the backbone of a good life for everyone; \$61 billion for sports, for arts, for free meals for every schoolkid.

The Greens want more for Queenslanders and less for mining corporations, but Labor and the LNP say that this is pretty much the best we can do. They say that it is not possible, that this is the best we can do, because this is exactly what the big corporations want Labor and the LNP to say. I am not surprised, given the fact that there is a revolving door between Labor and the LNP and these big corporations and there are huge corporate donations being given from all these companies to both major parties. When you spend enough time hanging around these lobbyists and these CEOs, I am sure eventually you start to think their ideas are your own as well, and that is what we are seeing here in Queensland.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.16 pm): After listening to that speech, I can only assume that the capitalists and the investors around the world will be weeping with sorrow that they are unable to invest in the mine that the Greens are going to be opening up soon—that wonderful mining company. We have seen demonstrated there what a deep understanding they have of all of these issues. We have that contest now between two doctors in South Brisbane, and my money is on Dr Barbara O'Shea, a 20-year veteran of the PA emergency department. She knows a thing or two about these things as well.

I support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. Last night the shadow Treasurer labelled this bill a stunt. Well, is it a stunt to lock in sound economic management

going forward? Is it a stunt to make it harder for future governments of any persuasion to give away the resources of our great state? Given the absolutely parlous manner in which those opposite conducted themselves last time they were in government—sacking public servants, gagging community organisations, picking fights with doctors, lawyers and pretty much everyone else and causing economic mayhem—I do not think so. This is no stunt.

If this is just a stunt, why did the shadow Treasurer commit to voting for this bill and commit his Leader of the Opposition to voting for this bill? 'It's just a stunt but we're going to support it.' If those opposite truly believe that this is a stunt, and if their shadow integrity minister had anything to do with it, wouldn't they stick to their guns and principles and vote accordingly? Of course not. That is not what they are going to do. Even if they do vote for it, the vote of their leader is pretty meaningless anyway on this bill and anything else. In his contribution to the debate on the Path to Treaty Bill the Leader of the Opposition said—

Path to Treaty is a genuine opportunity for our state to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians. It is an opportunity I believe Queensland should embrace wholeheartedly. I believe in truth-telling, and to me that means telling it like it is. We need to be up-front. We cannot shy away from the real experiences of Indigenous Australians throughout history. We must tell the truth about the real challenges they are facing today.

Mr Power: Where did he say that?

Mr KELLY: In his speech in the second reading debate. Here is what he said just a few months later to the SBS News. I read it in an article. He said—

That process will end. We won't be wasting any time talking about those issues in terms of treaty and truth-telling processes because we've said that we're not embarking on that.

So what is it? Is it an opportunity, the most opportunity we have to take First Nations people forward, or is it just wasting time talking about those things? What is it? Which one is it? He is certainly not good at truth. The Leader of the Opposition is capable of a backflip—

Mr JANETZKI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I see no way in which the contribution from the member for Greenslopes is relevant to the bill.

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

Mr KELLY: I am demonstrating the worthlessness of the vote of the Leader of the Opposition and how a commitment to a vote to this bill is worthless by providing opportunities of examples of—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill around relevance.

Mr WATTS: Deputy Speaker Kelly knows well that that is not part of the question and he is misleading the House in his reply.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This bill is a revenue bill. People have made really wideranging comments about its application and also about locking in future governments in terms of making changes. It is worthy of debate because others have made different assertions.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, order! Member for Toowoomba North and member for Logan, there is no point of order. Member for Greenslopes, I have allowed latitude on both sides, and I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill, please.


Mr KELLY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The opposition leader is capable of a backflip that would have won a medal in Paris on the Path to Treaty Bill, so how can he possibly be trusted if he votes in support of this bill, especially, as the shadow Treasurer said, this bill is merely a stunt. Of course, I would welcome the opportunity to hear from the Leader of the Opposition himself in this debate, but much like the responses to the time that he was running an insolvent company, I suspect we will hear the exact same thing, which is crickets.

I see every single day the benefits accruing to my community from Labor's decade of sound economic management: increased employment; every school has new infrastructure like classrooms, halls, sporting facilities, design and technology blocks, welfare hubs, tuckshops and playgrounds—the list could go on; every single sporting club has benefited with improved facilities; improved public

transport with the Veloway, Cross River Rail, fairer fares and now the 50-cent fares; increased funding for DV prevention groups like Zig Zag; increased funding for local mental health groups like Stepping Stone Clubhouse, done with the \$1.6 million levy which the Greens voted against, even though they said tax billionaires and put it into mental health care, but when we offered them that opportunity, they voted against it; more hospital beds at the PA and QEII; more perinatal mental health beds at the Mater Hospital; increased funding for Holland Park Meals on Wheels; small businesses in my community growing and employing more people, thanks to the grants we have provided them; supporting our veteran community through funding for the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and being the biggest government contributor at any level to the Legacy Brisbane veterans' health hub; solar panels and batteries at the Ukrainian Club and the Coorparoo Bowls Club as part of our Energy and Jobs Plan—real action on climate change; more social housing in Mount Gravatt, Holland Park and Stones Corner; and fixing the Coorparoo rail crossing.

The list could go on and on, but that is what you get when you manage the economy well. I believe we have an absolute obligation to protect our economy from those renowned economic vandals sitting opposite. If they ever get back on this side of the House, it will be like an episode of *Vikings: Valhalla*, and the first thing they will attack will be the progressive coal royalties.

My community wants action on climate change. They want mining companies to be paying their fair share for the resources they extract. They want our state to continue to prosper and grow. They know that in order to achieve that, we need to manage the economy well and continue to invest in infrastructure, back small businesses and community groups. The only way that the people in my community are going to get any of that is if in 2024 they do not let the LNP in the door and they give Labor four more!

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (12.24 pm): I rise to support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. Why would you not support progressive coal royalties for the people of Queensland? Those opposite talk like they have issues with coal royalties. They have more than just that issue, I can tell you. It appears to me, and others, that those opposite might give a coal royalty discount if they win government. They have not stopped whingeing and whining about progressive coal royalties. They will still vote for it, but they will still whinge and whine. I heard the member for Toowoomba South use the old LNP scare tactic last night. What mining sector will be next when it comes to royalties? 'Who is going to be taxed next?' he asked. The member for Toowoomba South might need to talk to Peter Dutton, his LNP boss. Ask him, 'Will there be a mining royalty on uranium being mined up at Ben Lomond near Townsville in the Hervey Range? Will there be any royalties across Australia for their uranium mining mates? If the LNP win government in this state, will they put a royalty on uranium? I am sure they have gone quiet. It sounds like the LNP is looking at taxing other mining operations across this state if they get into government. That was the question asked by the member for Toowoomba South.

When I talk to the people across the seat of Mundingburra, they love the idea that multinational, foreign-owned coalmining companies are paying their fair share of royalties to the people of North Queensland for their coal resources. That is right; the people of North Queensland want their fair share. Those opposite might not like the idea, but the people in Mundingburra love it. These multinational coal companies are making huge billion-dollar profits and taking it all overseas, back to their own countries. The people in North Queensland are sick and tired of not getting their fair share. They want that money spent back in North Queensland where these foreign companies are taking the coal resources.

Enough is enough. I will make sure we get every dollar we deserve in the north. I will fight for the people of Mundingburra every day to get their fair share of infrastructure investment in housing, health, roads, education, and even cost-of-living relief. That is why I back the Miles Labor government and the Treasurer with this bill.

Opposition Leader David Crisafulli might have cut and run and turned his back on the people of Mundingburra, but they still not have forgotten the trail of destruction he left in his wake. The member for Broadwater thinks the locals have forgotten the damage he did, the services he slashed, the nurses and doctors he sacked, and the schools he closed in his old seat of Mundingburra.

I have not cut and run. I will stand up for the electorate of Mundingburra so that they will get their fair share. If Queenslanders have to pay their way, these foreign coal companies can pay their way and make sure Queenslanders get a return on their coal resources. I am not here for the foreign coal companies; I am here to represent the people of my seat of Mundingburra, and I am delivering, thanks to the progressive coal royalties. That is why Townsville is getting a huge expansion to their hospital with 143 more beds, more operating theatres and a new rooftop helipad. We are delivering new social

housing, new school halls, the upgrade of Stuart Drive to four lanes, a new second Bowen Road Bridge making it four lanes, and even a new extended bikeway for the residents of Wulguru, and much more, like the multistorey car park for the Townsville University Hospital.


Those opposite keep going on about this side of the House doing nothing to deal with the cost of living. Wrong. Those opposite just hate that this side of the House, the Labor side of the House, sticks up for Queenslanders every day of the week. We will keep delivering the \$1,000 energy rebates, Free TAFE, 50-cent fares, 20 per cent discount on rego and Free Kindy, thanks to progressive coal royalties, the people of Queensland's resources. That is called cost-of-living relief. They love the cost-of-living support right across the seat of Mundingburra. It is the right thing to do.

Those opposite continually argue for the multinationals that make huge profits out of this state. I say to Queenslanders: there is a stark difference between us and the LNP opposition. Last night the LNP kept referring to the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Shingo Yamagami, complaining about progressive coal royalties. I need to remind those in the LNP that Queenslanders expect them to stick up for Queenslanders and make sure foreign countries and companies pay their taxes and royalties for the resources they take out of this state. Queenslanders are not giving the coal away for free. Queenslanders want to be paid royalties for Queensland coal.

The Mineral Resources Act 1989 imposed a requirement to pay royalties with respect to minerals mined in Queensland. Royalty rates are prescribed in the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013. As part of the 2023 state budget, the Mineral Resources Regulation was amended to introduce a new progressive six-tier coal royalty rate structure, which applied from 1 July 2022. The new progressive coal royalty rates are designed to ensure Queenslanders receive a fair return on the use of the state's valuable and limited natural resources when coal prices are high. By the way, those opposite voted for the entire budget. They loved it! They recently said in the media, 'We still support the budget. Nothing will change.' I do not know what they are debating about with this bill.

The additional revenue raised from coal royalties—including the new tiers—has allowed the government to invest more than \$16 billion in critical economic and social infrastructure and essential services for all Queenslanders across all regions of the state, including coal-producing regions. Moranbah is getting a new hospital. I heard the member Burdekin a few moments ago complaining and whingeing and whining about these royalties—'It is so tough on the mining sector.' Do you know what? There are coalmines in the heart of Burdekin and they are making royalties for the people of Queensland.

I will not go on any longer. I could argue until I go blue in the face, but members on the other side will not speak up for and support Queenslanders. We on this side of the House will back Queenslanders every day of the week. That is what we have been voted in to do, and that is what I will continue to do for the seat of Mundingburra.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. Our government introduced this bill because the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with our progressive coal royalties. They have made previous public statements criticising our progressive coal royalties. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have not released their tax policy. The Leader of the Opposition, the shadow cabinet and the LNP held 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year. The Queensland Resources Council continues to fund a huge \$40 million ad campaign against progressive coalmining royalties that give money back to Queensland and Queenslanders. Given this, it is my view that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with progressive coal royalties—the royalties that build hospitals, roads and schools and fund vital cost-of-living relief. All of that is at risk under the LNP.

I listened to the member for Burdekin rant during his contribution. He says that we are not investing money back into the regions. What a load of rubbish! We have invested \$500 million in the Haughton upgrade; nearly \$300 million on the road upgrade north of Townsville; a couple of hundred million dollars west on the Flinders; \$280 million on the ring-road stage 5; and \$95 million on Riverway Drive stage 2. Then there is investment in water security and hospital upgrades. Nearly \$2 billion worth of road infrastructure has gone in and around Townsville. The member for Burdekin is not a very effective member if he thinks we have not invested in road infrastructure. We certainly have. We have invested a lot more on the back of coal royalties.

For decades Queensland has been home to world-class, high-quality coal. Our coal sector has underpinned the prosperity of our state, particularly in regional areas, contributing significantly to local economies and providing countless jobs. Between mid-2021 and 2023, Queensland's coal producers

experienced unprecedented gains from surging global coal prices, leading to record export values. In 2022, the value of Queensland coal exports soared to an astounding \$83.5 billion—more than double the value in 2021. Even though these prices have normalised, the coal sector has contributed \$10 billion in royalties for the 2023-24 financial year. This revenue has been crucial in tackling cost-of-living pressures, funding essential public services in health and education, and supporting critical infrastructure projects such as CopperString. CopperString is a \$6.2 billion investment in North Queensland funded by those royalties from the north-west of our great state. It will unlock around \$50 billion worth of other minerals so that we can bring manufacturing back to our state.


Lansdown—40 kilometres outside of Townsville—is the battery manufacturing future of Townsville. It will support thousands of jobs. I do not know how many times I have asked the member for Burdekin whether they will back CopperString. All I have heard is crickets. Not one LNP member has had the intestinal fortitude to get up and say they will back North-West Queensland and CopperString. Those opposite are silent because they have no interest in north-west regional Queensland. Well, we do, and we are backing it with one of the biggest pieces of nation-building infrastructure that will support a thousand jobs and unlock thousands more. This is great for Queensland.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr HARPER: That is right, member for Mundingburra; it is all about being a Queenslander. The LNP are absolutely quiet. Why will they not answer the question? I say to the Leader of the Opposition: man up. Say that you will back North Queensland. Say you will back CopperString. I will ask the shadow Treasurer right now. None of the members of the LNP have said that they will back it.

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

Mr HARPER: I get a little passionate, because I love our community and I want to see the reinvestment of progressive coal royalties in regional Queensland, where it is deserved. I back this bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.37 pm): Coal is incredibly important to Queensland. I back the coal industry and I back Queenslanders every single day of the week. The LNP absolutely backs Queenslanders. This is a pathetic political stunt by the Treasurer, who has the worst record of any treasurer in history. Never have we had a treasurer who has taxed more, spent more or borrowed more. You would think a bill from the Treasurer would be something sensible that improves the financial state of the government's coffers or the Queensland economy. Instead, this bill does not change a single cent of taxation. A vote for or against this legislation does not change the coal royalties. It does not help Queenslanders deal with the crises facing them—crises of Labor's own creation.

Queensland had some of the best quality coal in the world. We are one of the world's largest exporters, contributing over a third of the world's coal exports. The coal industry is incredibly important in terms of the wealth it brings to our state. This bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a coal royalty rate floor and requirements for legislative change prior to any decrease to a coal royalty rate. What does this mean? It means the Treasurer Dick, or any future treasurer, can increase royalties with the stroke of a pen and that is the new legislated floor. With the stroke of a pen we can tax an industry out of existence, change the taxation without any consultation, create investment uncertainty and put generations of good trade relations at risk.

It was reported in this year's budget that Queensland's revenue saw significant growth which was driven in part by coal royalties from coal producers. I do note how inaccurate were the forecasts by the Treasury when it came to the new coal royalties regime. I believe that in the first 12 months they made what they were modelled to make over a four-year period, such was the Treasury's faulty modelling.

Coal royalties provide billions to the Queensland economy and should be used in nation-building measures, but instead we have a Labor government playing politics and offering cash splashes around the state as a ploy to buy votes from Queenslanders. Their cash splashes do not address the fundamentals in the cost-of-living crisis that is of Labor's own creation. Rather than trying to fix the many crises facing Queenslanders, here we are wasting precious parliament time debating something that does not change a single cent or improve the Queensland government coffers. That is right: this is a bill from the Treasurer. I note this is the Treasurer who said 27 times in the lead-up to the last election that there would be no new or increased taxes, yet he has brought many new taxes into this place—and I am sure he has plans for many more.

In a submission, the Australian Institute for Progress noted—

While the government obviously thinks this is smart politics, it is dumb economics and over time will lead to erosion of the benefits the Queensland state budget receives from coal royalties. It also undermines the government's proposed energy transition as coal is necessary for that transition ...

This is called the 'keep them in the bank' bill, so what is the plan here? Is it to tax companies out of existence and just deposit the money into the bank and not invest it back into Queenslanders? What a ludicrous name for a piece of legislation before this parliament.

If a mining company is looking to expand, it will look at each of its investments in different states and countries and make the best decision for them and their business interests. It has been widely reported that strong trading partners now shiver at the thought of investing in Queensland thanks to the disdain with which Labor have treated their industries. Much of Queensland has been built off foreign investment and it is necessary for an economy the size of Queensland's to work with trading partners to build world-class assets and to grow our economy. Now all that is being put at risk. What effect will this have on Queensland's economy, jobs and mining towns with the continued lack of uncertainty and disdain with which Labor treats these critical industries? They are packing up and walking out the door.

The electorate of Callide contributes roughly a whopping \$2 billion in royalties in a financial year. I certainly would have loved to get the precise figure on this, but when I asked the Treasurer the question on two different occasions he made up excuses as to why he could not provide that information. I am sure that he can easily get that information, but he does not want to be honest and transparent with Queenslanders. I would suggest that that means it is a lot more than \$2 billion in royalties it contributes every year.

In contrast, as I mentioned in my budget speech, what does Callide get in return for that couple of billion dollars in royalties it contributes a year? A fraction over one per cent of the government's royalty take was allocated to new projects in the Callide electorate. Meanwhile they are happy to pork-barrel and shore up their own electorates such as in Gladstone where they spent about \$34 million on new projects for only a small number of schools when Callide has 60 schools but got a pitiful amount. It is a disgrace that Labor treats Queenslanders with such disdain. Callide contributes a huge chunk to state revenue and in return gets crumbs for road upgrades, new hospitals and new health facilities, and our schools have been known to be in a state of disrepair. Our rural communities like the many in Callide deserve to see benefits from fortunes in their own backyard and deserve world-class facilities.

Let's not forget what happened when these new royalties were first introduced. The Minister for Resources hardly had any notice and, from memory, it was when he was asked in estimates. The budget was handed down in the third week of June and the Minister for Resources did not know about these new royalty rates until 7 June, only a couple of weeks prior. By that point, the budget would have been pretty much locked and printed. That shows not only that the Labor government do not consult with the industry, but they do not consult with their own cabinet about these major changes to royalty regimes in Queensland.

I do know it was an LNP government that brought in tiers in coal royalties in a previous government. What did we do? We worked with industry, we worked with Queenslanders, we worked with all stakeholders and we found a sensible position in the best interests of Queensland. The Mining and Energy Union stated in their submission that they wanted to draw attention to the extremely poor condition of public roads in Queensland mining regions. Further, they went on to say—

There have been no major repairs or upgrades for decades, with recent road repairs only patchwork in nature.

I fully agree with these statements by the MEU. In my travels throughout the Callide electorate I have seen that the roads are frequented by heavy haulage transport, increased by mining operations in the region, and these roads are often not wide enough for dual traffic, hence, my recent petition to upgrade the single lane sections of the Mundubbera Durong Road to improve road safety for all users and improve access and logistics in the North Burnett with road train access. Many drive-in drive-out workers use this road and they deserve to travel to work on better and safer roads.

The Leichhardt Highway, which is used to cart large amounts of heavy mining equipment, is an absolute disgrace. I note the Minister for Transport said he is coming to Central Queensland. He is certainly welcome to reach out and I can take him for a good trip around some of the great roads of Callide that his government has left in a state of disrepair.


Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This has nothing to do with the bill.

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

Mr HEAD: I certainly would enjoy seeing more of the coal royalties reinvested into the roads of Callide such as the Leichhardt Highway. If I was to name every road in Callide that is in a state of disrepair and is, frankly, unsafe and a disgrace, I would be here for a very long time. Again, I call on the government to reinvest these coal royalties in key areas where they are needed and support the communities that are actually key in digging up coal and making money for Queenslanders.

The LNP will treat people's money with the respect it deserves if elected on 26 October and we will be tackling the major crises facing Queenslanders. There is the health crisis, the crime crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis, and there are many other challenges that have been ignored by Labor for far too long. The LNP is completely focused on addressing these crises and getting Queensland back on track. Meanwhile, what do we get from a checked out, tired and third term Labor government? We get a Treasurer who is more focused on tussling for the top job of Labor leader and a health minister—and we saw that article on the weekend—who is wasting precious time when there are all these crises that need fixing. This money should be reinvested in fixing these crises. The only way to change Labor's chaos and crisis is to change the government on 26 October. Show Labor the door in 2024.


(Time expired)

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to support the Miles government's keep them in the bank bill. Only Labor governments will make big multinational coal companies pay Queenslanders a fair share for using our resources. Our coal royalties are progressive, meaning they kick in when prices are high. This means that Queenslanders do not get slugged with big power bills every time the coal industry wants to make a profit. Instead, these massive foreign owned corporations are made to pay dividends to Queenslanders.

In 2023-24 our progressive coal royalties added \$10.5 billion to the state budget which has been given back directly to Queenslanders, with more than \$2.3 billion going straight back into household cost-of-living relief like our nation-leading energy rebates and slashing rego costs by 20 per cent. An amount of \$6 billion in coal royalties will fund the Borumba pumped hydro scheme, bringing thousands of good local jobs to the sunny coast as well as providing our region with cheap, reliable energy.

We know that the income from these royalties is expected to decline over the coming years, reflecting our expectation that coal and oil prices will moderate. That is why if the LNP has its way it will be too little, too late for Queenslanders to benefit from these record coal prices. Those opposite saw the Howard government completely squander Australia's mining boom and decided that that was a model they would like to follow. The *Courier-Mail* reported comments from the Leader of the Opposition in September last year. He was quoted as saying that our progressive coal royalties were a bad plan, a dishonest plan and have broken the trust of the industry. The member for Broadwater even went on to say that he wants the mining industry to be free from a government that is constantly looking to find new ways to tax and regulate it. Indeed, we have introduced this bill precisely because the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP are a threat to our progressive coal royalties.

According to the diaries of the Leader of the Opposition and shadow cabinet, the LNP held 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year. The Queensland Resources Council continues to fund a huge \$40 million ad campaign against progressive coalmining royalties that give money back to Queensland and Queenslanders. If it was getting taxed into submission, where could it find \$40 million? Probably the same place you can find a lazy \$200,000. These royalties build hospitals, roads and schools and fund vital cost-of-living relief. If the member for Broadwater and the rest of the mob over there had their way, they would cut these coal royalties and hand billions back to big business. It is like Robin Hood in reverse. If the mob over there had their way, they would leave Queensland with a multibillion dollar budget black hole and force everyday Queenslanders to pick up the bill. If given the opportunity, they will cut Borumba pumped hydro, taking thousands of jobs and billions in investment away from our Sunshine Coast. I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. There are nearly 80,000 coal industry jobs. If we take a one-dimensional view of this, it all makes sense: we take money from the wealthy global mining companies that do not pay enough tax and give it to the people. That sounds good, but what frustrates the KAP so much—and we have the advantage of having a front-row seat to industry—is that it is okay to take the money, but it needs to be reinvested in wealth-creating activities. I will raise CopperString at the outset because it is a really good example of this.

Just to put some context around CopperString, that has been a 15-year process. What is now over \$6 billion was under \$1 billion in 2010, when it was initially rejected by the government. Here we

are 15 years down the track and it is really good that it is being supported, but that is something you do to stimulate the economy and keep the goose laying the golden egg. That is the image we need to keep in mind—that is, we need that goose to keep laying the golden egg because, at the end of the day, 50 per cent royalties of zero production is zero. We can put the royalties up as high as we want, but if we kill the goose that lays the golden egg there is no point having royalties.

While we are on this issue, I cannot walk away from the fact that the gas issue was the catalyst for CopperString in the first place because we were exposed to global parity prices on gas when the LNG plants were turned on and we were 10 per cent gas-fired powered. One would have thought that the government would have struck a pretty good deal to open up the gas industry, which does not really offer many jobs now, but the interesting fact is that we produce about the same amount of gas as Qatar but it gets six times the royalty that we do for oil and gas—six times.

Mr Dametto: We're giving it away here.

Mr KATTER: That is a phenomenal amount. We gave it away, so there is a bad record here of setting this precedent, but these coal royalties are way over the top. If we raise them a bit, fair enough, but this is going to smash them. We are probably not going to see the impact right away or in five years, but in 20 years countries overseas will look more competitive. Everyone else—not the KAP—wanted to see the global environment and said, 'Let's engage in global markets and free trade and remove Oz protections.' There were not a lot in mining, but the gas reserve policy is a good example that was denied because people said, 'We're a global environment.' We have to be careful now because we are competing on the global stage, so these companies are saying, 'Well, guess what? We'll run our 20-year plan out but not after that.' So it is good to give 50-cent fares now. That is nice. That is good for people now, but what are you going to do in 10 years because you just killed the goose that lays the golden egg for 10 or 20 years time? When that is not there, what else do you have? I just feel that there is such an ignorance of what drives the economy. It is not just coal, not just mining and not just agriculture, but they play a really big part. So many times the KAP has come into this House trying to push and advocate for these primary industries, but I have often heard arguments given from people in the cities who say, 'Mate, stamp duty kills it. The revenue we get from the banking industry, real estate and everything, there's big money in that, mate.' Sure, but none of that happens if we do not have the primary industries in the first place or the high incomes that produce that.

The member for Hinchinbrook made a really astute point. In the last parliament everyone was hating on coal. People were saying, 'We've got to get the new economy.' All we heard was how we had to get out of it. With all the kids at university now, no-one wants to admit that they are an engineer. There is no mining engineering at UQ anymore. Can you believe that in the state of Queensland it is not offering that? People are embarrassed to say that they are engaged in the industry and they will not say at a party, 'I'm in the coal industry.' That has come from somewhere. We can say that that has nothing to do with us. However, we are the leaders here in this state and we either back it or we do not. It is a big industry and it does help fund our hospitals, our universities and our schools and it is not always going to be there. It is the same as the North West Minerals Province. We have to make moves and we have to be assertive as a government, like Sir Leo Hielscher was when he said, 'That stuff just doesn't come.'

With regard to the member for Callide, I have seen the roads in Central Queensland and some of them are horrible. When the government says, 'Let's take the money and give it for 50-cent fares, the Olympics, Brisbane infrastructure—we see more and more footbridges out there—the \$1,000 power bill bribe and the Cairns and Mackay hospitals,' that is nice—

An honourable member: Moranbah.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection about Moranbah Hospital. However, that is not going to make more mining in terms of putting in road and rail infrastructure. This leads to another point—that is, the way the government addresses utilities. That is a really big issue in Queensland and it is not debated in this House enough. Are those utilities there to gouge as much money as we can from industry, and not just mining but any industry? Are we trying to gouge the money or are we using our utilities to stimulate more investment and development so there will be double the size of the cake to draw on to do these things in the future? I fear—I know—the attitude is the reverse.

There are mines that are literally not going to open in the north-west because, despite there being an abundant supply of water, the price and supply of water could not meet the demands of a new mine despite a massive big dam. What is going on? Why is the rail line from Townsville to Mount Isa down by 38 per cent volume despite no downgrade in production? Some 38 per cent of the activity has come off the rail line to go on the road because it is cheaper, because we have two to three times the next

highest rail track fees in Australia just on that Townsville to Mount Isa line. Are we gouging or are we trying to enable industry, because I thought we built that to enable industry. Sure they have to pay the price along the way, but this is just an overreach. If the government was saying that all of this money would be quarantined to address those deficits, like CopperString is doing—it is addressing a deficit in investment and infrastructure—maybe we could consider it, but this is not. The government is spending billions on 50-cent fares and the Olympics. That is the short-term stuff and that is just bad government. That is not mature. Albeit it is popular, and it is great to rip it out before an election, but it is just not the right thing to do.

While I am talking about CopperString, it is a serious issue that is being thrown around as a political football and we know that there are still gaps. Powerlink just keeps coming out with these costs, and we need to know that those costs are set in concrete. The government needs to table whatever it has so that we can see going into this election that it is locked away, because the government cannot just play with the future. There are mines out there hinging their investment decisions on whether this goes ahead, so we cannot say, 'It's conditional upon this,' or 'We'll just see how it goes.' We need that locked in and the government cannot play around with that. Rather than saying that it is on the whim of a spreadsheet, we want to see rock-solid grants, budgets and reports from Powerlink that say exactly what is needed to get that job finished—not to start it, not to commence it and drive it but to finish it, just as it would with a bridge or anything else it is going to start to build.

Earlier I was listening to the Greens and others. We all want to drive a car. They keep saying that we should gouge the mining industries because they are all bad. I am sorry, but we all enjoy having a concrete driveway and a car and everyone likes their house cool. If people want those things, we need industry and jobs and we have to talk to that industry all the time—not pander to it and not do its will all the time but talk to it to get a sense of what they are doing, what they are looking for in the future and whether they are for real or not. Sometimes they will try to have a lend of you, but I can assure the government that there are a lot of companies out there now, even internationally, saying, 'Let's look at other opportunities in the future in Australia. Let's run out this 20-year lease or 10-year lease, but let's see what else we've got.' In that case, it will be our kids and grandkids paying the price for what we are doing now. If we invest in roads and rail so that there is a great rail system and a great port and the energy is taken care of, industry has confidence that it is a great place to do business. If business can see that the government is putting back then there is an argument for this bill.


We strongly oppose this bill because it is predicated on frivolous spending. It is great to help people who are needy and who appreciate it, but we in this House have to be more mature than that in the way that we manage these issues. We urge the government to take a leaf out of Sir Leo Hielscher's book. He saw it as a picture to be painted: for industry to provide for building and development and to keep reinjecting funds into infrastructure to make sure it is there for us in the future. That is what we have to get back to. CopperString is the start of that but certainly not the end; it only just starts us on that pathway.

Debate, on motion of Mr Katter, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The question Queenslanders will ask themselves at this election is whether their lives are better or worse after nearly a decade of Labor government and who has the right plan for Queensland's future. This Labor government has been in power for 10 years. It has lurched from chaos to chaos, from crisis to crisis. Queenslanders are suffering at the hands of this 10-year-old government. Whether you are a young Queensland, a baby boomer or a senior citizen, every Queensland is suffering at the hands of the Labor government and its policy misdirection over the past 10 years.

Based on the performance this week of Premier Steven Miles he is simply not up to the job of leading the state. He does not treat this parliament seriously. He does not treat the issues seriously. In relation to the youth crime crisis, he has not apologised or accepted responsibility that in 2015-16 he voted to weaken the youth justice laws in the state. We saw him giggle when asked serious questions by reporters about the youth crime crisis. We saw him take two luxury jets to the same location with his police minister and say it was okay and refuse to explain how much those trips cost. Thank goodness for the Police Commissioner who was upfront at estimates and disclosed the thousands of dollars spent

for the Minister for Police and the Premier to take those two luxury jets. He took a luxury jet to deliver a birthday cake to the member for Bundaberg—an 11-minute trip in a luxury private jet that he now says was cheaper than hiring a car at a government rate of \$66 a day. As the honourable opposition spokesperson for cost of living said, if that is the case why are Queenslanders not taking luxury jets and still going to Avis or Budget car rentals and hiring cars.

Premier Steven Miles is not up to the job of leading the state of Queensland. Time is up for the Labor Party. Queenslanders desperately need change. There will not be a plan of change under the Labor government. The LNP has the right plan for Queensland's future, tackling the issues that matter. I say to the Labor Party what Cromwell said on 20 April 1653 addressing the Long Parliament—

It is not fit that you should sit here any longer. You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing...In the name of God, go!

And Sir Leopold said—

Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!

Time is up for Labor. Show Labor the door in '24.

Mr KELLY: The Speaker has approved the next member to deliver the speech in a language other than English. I will only accept interjections in the same language.

Auslan



Mrs McMAHON (Macalister—ALP) (2.03 pm): Deputy Speaker—

The member for Macalister signed using Auslan, Australian sign language.

Later this month, starting 23 September, is International Week of Deaf People. I would like to acknowledge the Speaker's advocacy in the deaf community with this House hosting Queensland's first deaf youth parliament. Anything that encourages the deaf community to connect with this House is a good thing. The theme for deaf week this year is 'sign up for sign language rights'. Auslan is our national sign language and I encourage members to promote Auslan at public events. I challenge members to use Auslan during International Week of Deaf People. Introduce yourself. Make it common for people to engage with those who use Auslan. I would like to thank the Auslan community for their patience with my speech and I would like to thank the House for its patience with my speech. Quiet is a wonderful thing.


Miles Labor Government, Performance



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (2.07 pm): On 26 October this year Queenslanders will have a choice. They will have a choice between a decade-old, tired Labor government and a side of government that has the right priorities for Queensland, which is exactly what the LNP has. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, Queenslanders have the right to ask: are their lives better or worse after a decade-long Labor government? It is obvious that it is worse. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. The Leader of the Opposition talked about this cost-of-living crisis over four years ago and yet this government has gone headlong into this election without any plan to help Queenslanders. The LNP does have a plan. We want to address issues such as the increasing cost of electricity. It has risen 20 per cent in the last 12 months—three times the national average. It is the highest in the nation. That is an absolute disgrace. The reason why those electricity prices are through the roof is because our coal-fired power stations are offline. The government knows it. It needs to get its act together and get them going.

Water security is a massive issue that this government does not have a plan for. Crime is through the roof, which increases the insurance costs for everyday Queenslanders. When people's cars are getting stolen, their homes are getting broken into and, God forbid, the fact that people are having to put deadlocks on their bedroom doors, no wonder insurance companies are putting up premiums. The Labor government in this state is a disgrace. People are struggling with the cost of living. They are living in tents under bridges. They cannot put a roof over their head. This supposedly new Premier basically says, 'I am the new Premier.', and then channels Marie Antoinette and says, 'Let them eat cake.' He uses a luxury private jet in an area of Wide Bay that has some of the highest crime rates in the nation and one of the worst national highways. People are losing their lives on that part of the Bruce Highway and this Premier gets in a luxury private jet to deliver a cake to a mate. Queenslanders have had enough. Queenslanders have seen through this incompetent, decade-long Labor government. Queenslanders are hurting. Their cost of living is through the roof, crime is through the roof, health is a debacle and the only way to change that is to get rid of this mob.

Lytton Electorate, Representation

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.09 pm): Baysiders will never forget nor will they forgive the LNP for the punishment that was dished out to them under the Newman-Crisafulli government. What is worse is that the LNP Lytton member at that time did nothing—zilch. He was not a lion for the Bayside. He was not even a sheep. He was a mere lamb. In fact, he did not speak up for the bayside against the LNP's brutal cuts to my community. Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, Wynnum Hospital, child safety, housing, tenancy advice, CMHRA and mental health services—all gone with the stroke of a pen wielded by those opposite.

The bayside will never again make the mistake of electing another LNP yes-man—or boy, should I say; another obedient little lad. Baysiders know that even if the LNP do manage to form government, which is still a very big 'if', they need and demand a strong local voice. They need someone who will stand up for them and fight like hell for the bayside. Baysiders know that I will be there in November, standing at the gates of Wynnum Road, defending the bayside against the LNP's history of brutal cuts not just to health services but also to our schools, police, roads and jobs. The LNP gutted the Public Service. Fourteen thousand people lost their jobs due to this crowd.


I compare that to Queensland Labor's record of building satellite hospitals and community health services and, of course, legislating nurse-to-patient ratios. That is just a small portion. I am so proud of Labor's record for Queensland and I am proud of my record for the bayside. Since 2015 I have worked tirelessly to rebuild local health services and undo the damage done by the LNP through their cuts to my community. I have delivered millions in funding for the new ambulance station and, of course, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa. I have delivered palliative care beds and rehabilitation beds. They were all gone under that mob. Gundu Pa restores many but not all of the local health services that we lost. The facility includes a 24-hour primary care clinic, breast screening and a range of other services. However, there is still more to do. I look forward to working with my community to discover what services we want for the bayside.

If the LNP form government, they will again gut local bayside health services and they will again gut schools because that is what they did last time. Our health workers and our teachers do a brilliant job in our community and we need more of those workers, not less. We cannot risk local job cuts under the LNP. I am proud to be a Queenslanders.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Lockyer, you are warned under the standing orders.

Health System; Ethics Committee Report, Apology

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.12 pm): At this election the question Queenslanders will ask themselves is whether our hospital system is better or worse after nearly a decade of Labor and who has the right plan for Queensland's future. The list of Labor's failures across the health portfolio is long. It is a tale of woe, but it does not have to be like this. It does not have to be this way.

Those opposite have had their go and their approach to managing the health system has not worked. It simply has not worked. The numbers prove it. Queensland patients waiting years for their surgery or spending time on ambulance ramps proves it. The frustration of staff who are leaving in droves—in record numbers, in fact—proves it. There is no question around the validity of the Queensland health crisis anymore. It is a fact. It is entrenched under Labor. Labor's approach has delivered ambulance ramping of nearly 45 per cent. It was at 15 per cent when they came to power. It has since tripled. We have seen the worst consecutive six months on record.


Those opposite have had their turn. They have had 10 years at the helm of this state and their approach has failed. Things are not getting any better. When first announced as health minister, the minister promised to reduce ambulance ramping to 28 per cent in 12 months. At that time, ramping was at 43 per cent and it is now at nearly 45 per cent. It is worse. They boasted about spending three-quarters of a billion dollars on ramping and ramping got worse. Only Labor could deliver such an abysmal outcome.

What is more, when first announced as health minister the minister promised to reduce the elective surgery waiting list to 56,176 in 12 months. At the time there were 58,446 patients on the list and now there are 61,421. It is worse. The minister promised to reduce the specialist outpatient waiting list to 248,905 in 12 months. At the time there were 281,697 patients on the list and now there are 287,716. It is worse.

By the minister's own measures she has failed. By Labor's own measures they have failed. They have continued to fail over and over again for the past 10 years. They have failed the people who are relying on our health system. They have failed the people who go to work every day in our health system. Those failures include some of the most significant occasions of maladministration in our state's long history. They are failures like the travesty at the Mackay maternity ward and the catastrophic failures at the state-run DNA lab that could see murderers and rapists walking free. Time is up for Labor. Show Labor the door in 2024.

Mr Deputy Speaker, while I am on my feet, regarding report No. 230 of the Ethics Committee, I would like to unequivocally apologise to Mr Speaker and the House for not taking the direction of Mr Speaker.

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.15 pm): Yesterday, on this side of the House we reflected on the 12th anniversary of the LNP government sacking of public servants. Fourteen thousand public servant numbers were cut with a fillet knife. Since Labor came into power in 2015 we have been rebuilding the Public Service. Since 2015 this government has delivered more than 50,230 frontline workers.

On Sunday, at a candidate forum organised by the Ferry Grove and Upper Kedron residents group, people heard firsthand from the LNP candidate for Ferry Grove, who responded to questions from the floor. One resident said, 'In the past we lost a lot of nurses in hospitals and I am very concerned about that again.' No doubt that was a reference to the LNP gaining power in the forthcoming election. The LNP candidate responded, 'David has said there will be no forced redundancies.' But get this: he then said, 'You can choose to believe that or not.' Even the LNP candidate for Ferry Grove doubts the Leader of the Opposition and he also doubts the LNP. Clearly, the good people of Ferry Grove doubt the LNP as well as their candidate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Members, the level of interjection is extremely high. I will start to warn people on both sides of the House.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gregory, that was extremely disorderly. Given that it is your last day, you are very close. You are warned.

Mr FURNER: I believe that your first speech in this House, given you act on the trust of those who elected you, forms the foundations of what you will do when you are elected. Bearing in mind that he was the then member for Mundingburra, when David Crisafulli delivered his first speech he stated—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please. There is no point of order.

Mr FURNER: The Leader of the Opposition stated—

I have moved seven times since first coming to Townsville in the mid-1990s for university, but I have never once resided outside of the electorate. It is where we shop, it is where our kids go to school and it is where we wish to stay.

How long did that take? Two years later he knifed the then member for Broadwater in the preselection to run—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr FURNER:—as the member for Broadwater. Now he wants to reside in Bulimba. We need to question some of the comments he has made in this House, which are recorded in *Hansard*.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mr FURNER: Only last year in Cairns he said—

I rise to support the Path to Treaty Bill ... I believe in truth-telling ... We need to be up-front ... We must tell the truth ...

Now is the time for the member for Broadwater—

Opposition members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I have been trying not to interrupt the speaker on his feet but, member for Moggill, you can join the warning list now. Member for Kawana and member for Nanango, you are already on the warning list. You were interjecting so much that you did not hear me warning you.

Mr FURNER: When debating the Path to Treaty Bill he said, 'We must tell the truth'. It is time the member for Broadwater—or Bulimba or wherever he wants to reside—tells the truth about SET Solutions. In the final days of the 57th Parliament, tell the truth, member for Broadwater, about your dealings with SET Solutions.

Mr Powell: Through the chair!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Manager of Opposition Business, I will be the judge of whether someone is speaking through the chair or not and I will manage the chamber. In that spirit, member for Callide, you are also warned under the standing orders.

Miles Labor Government, Housing

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.19 pm): The questions that Queenslanders will ask themselves this election with regard to housing are: are they better or worse off after a decade of this Labor government; and who has the right plan for Queensland's future? I will argue this afternoon that they are much worse.

Let's look at Labor's record in housing over the last 10 years. I mentioned some of these figures this morning in my question during question time. Housing lot approvals are down by 26 per cent. Building approvals are down by 36 per cent. Despite the public housing waiting list now blowing out nearly double to over 45,000 people, social housing stock has increased by only 2.7 per cent in that 10-year period.

The Productivity Commissioner said that, for the last two years, this state has had the lowest spend per capita on social housing in the nation. We are used to the government making announcement after announcement with no start date for construction, no locations and definitely no end date of construction. The Auditor-General's report said that, over the last 10 years, the department of housing has failed to plan and it is one of the reasons we do not have the supply of housing that we should have to meet the demand.


Let's go to the list of failures that they have had in housing. The Griffith University student debacle saw \$2 million spent and six or seven months wasted. It came about after a sweetheart phone call to one of their old Labor mates. They said, 'We need a solution to a problem,' but in the end they said, 'Let's keep this one in the bank for later on when we need this favour from you.'

The Help to Home program was supposed to have 1,000 homes—ironically, not new homes but homes taken out of the rental market—which is what we so desperately need. No wonder it was such a failure—there were only 64 out of 1,000 delivered. Then there was the granny flat announcement—what a joke that was. They refused to work with churches who were offering up land—10,000 lots—yet this mob, despite going out and asking people for land, refused to deal with them.

Then there was the HIF—the Housing Investment Fund. It was announced three years ago that there would be 3,600 new homes by 2025. Today, there is not one single person in a new home built by the Housing Investment Fund. Anyone who walks down to the riverbanks of Brisbane or goes to any park in this state will see the homelessness tragedy we have at the moment. Time is up for Labor. Show them the door in '24.

(Time expired)

Queensland Fire Department, Culture

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.22 pm): The new Queensland Fire Department sets up Queensland Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire Service as two separate entities within the same organisation with their own separate budgets. Importantly, this gives volunteers in the Rural Fire Service the same legal protections as professional firefighters when they are carrying out their duties.

I remind the House that the LNP voted against these legal protections. As RFBAQ President Ian Pike told me—


The new arrangements that increase support for RFS through more paid staff and better protection for volunteers have been well received by most brigades.

This is in stark contrast to the LNP's record in government which detailed cutting 56 of the 117 paid staff in the Rural Fire Service. We are increasing our front line by 114 positions in our record uplift. The new Queensland Fire Department is a unique chance to define a new culture that embraces diversity. To do this, a speak-up culture is vitally important. That is why the Commissioner and I have been clear—speaking up is the way to address inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour. If you are experiencing it, report it. Doing so means your complaints can be dealt with in a sensitive and appropriate manner. If you see it, never walk by it. Reporting it means perpetrators can be dealt with and support can be provided. We all have a voice and I am encouraging volunteers and paid employees to always use theirs.

I can further advise that a sexual harassment contact officer network contained within the Queensland Fire Department will be up and running by the end of this month. This is a group of people tasked with being an approachable contact point for people seeking assistance in addressing sexual harassment. While the initial deployment to this role has three people, I have asked the Queensland Fire Department to monitor its use and effectiveness and increase its resourcing, if deemed necessary.

Queensland Fire Department staff and volunteers are good people who are doing good things in our community. They are the people running towards danger and keeping us safe. It is our job to support those good people and empower them to speak up against those who do not hold the Queensland Fire Department's values.

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.25 pm): The question that Queenslanders will ask themselves this election is: whether children are safer, whether victims of domestic, family and sexual violence are supported and have had justice served, whether women's economic security is better or worse after nearly a decade of Labor and who has the right plan for Queensland's future. With nearly 2,000 children in residential care—the worst of any jurisdiction in this nation—the government should be ashamed.

The residential care review that tasked the department to review itself and did not deal with the issue of children under the age of 12, and recommendations were made that did not address those vulnerable children's needs. Foster carers are leaving in droves, unsupported by this Labor government. The department is under pressure, where a third of serious harm cases are not being investigated in the timeframe set by this government. Case loads are out of control, and CSOs are blowing the whistle on the failings of this Labor government. This is a frustrated sector which has been ignored.

Yesterday, the residential care sector was treated with contempt by the child safety minister. It was disgraceful. Three ministers have been appointed to this role in four years yet the system keeps getting worse.


We also have the failings of the DNA lab, which have left rapists and murderers still walking around. They talk about women's safety. They talk about access to rape kits. There are more than 420 victims of rape who have been waiting more than 12 months to have their rape kits tested, notwithstanding the backlog. Shandee Blackburn's death will not be in vain, thanks to the courage of Dr Kirsty Wright.

Domestic violence calls are going unanswered. DV breaches are skyrocketing by 280 per cent in Cairns. Strangulation prosecutions have not been occurring because of the failures of this government. We have a police service spending up to 70 per cent of their shifts on DV call-outs. This government's lazy record in delivering for the DV sector was shown in estimates. They have dragged their heels in delivering on the national partnership.

We have DV refuges with full waitlists. Women are spending over a year in a refuge. The housing crisis and cost-of-living crisis mean that women and children are sleeping in cars under this government's watch. Child safety numbers are at an all-time high. Domestic violence is at an all-time high. Women have never been more economically insecure than under this Labor government. That is the record of this tired, third-term Labor government. Women are not safer. Children are not safer. Victims of crime deserve justice. Time is up for Labor. Show Labor the door in '24.

(Time expired)

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.28 pm): I rise to talk about the fantastic things that are happening in the Maryborough electorate, which, of course, are because of the great Labor government

in Queensland. Those opposite talk about showing Labor the door but, as a lady said to me at the shopping centre in Maryborough, 'If we show you the door, we are going to be poor.' They know what will happen—a slave under Dave. They have lived through the LNP cuts.

I have public servants and health workers coming to me saying that they will not vote LNP and that they would rather cut their hands off than vote LNP. That is what they are telling me. I know how they feel. I was there when they brought my city to its knees.

An opposition member: I'll have a double scoop, please.

Mr SAUNDERS: Double scoop—I will take that interjection.

A government member: It will be an awful flavour.

Mr SAUNDERS: It will be an awful flavour if it is an LNP flavour. It will be bitter, it will be old, it will be a sad scoop. We can imagine their gelato. It would be an embarrassment.

We have some great things happening in the Maryborough electorate. The transport minister said today that the shadow minister for transport is the worst shadow minister for transport in the history of this parliament. He was in the Maryborough electorate and at Hervey Bay talking about the Burrum Heads-Pialba Road intersection upgrade, which has started.

There are other things happening. There is the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road upgrade. The rural fire training centre will be built at the old TAFE site. Manufacturing Skills Queensland will be located at the old TAFE site. There are also hospital upgrades and road upgrades happening. What do we have in Maryborough that those opposite exported? They exported the building of trains. They could not get a local candidate; they had to get trains built in India. We are building trains at Torbanlea, 25 kilometres up the road from Maryborough in the Maryborough electorate. We are building trains. We are bringing jobs back to the Fraser Coast and Wide Bay.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Listen to those opposite. They are a rabble. They are in the cheap seats. They are all sitting there cackling like old magpies and prattling on.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Moggill, you were interjecting then. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Moggill withdrew from the chamber at 2.31 pm.


Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are warned under the standing orders. Try to act with a bit of dignity in this House, please.

Mr SAUNDERS: I completely missed that with all the talk from the rabble over there. The Labor government has delivered in spades for the Fraser Coast—for Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Members should see the difference in Maryborough city. Those opposite can promise what they like, but they know that the LNP's vote in Maryborough will be below what it was in 2020. It has tanked. People know that if they show us the door, Maryborough is going to be poor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I clarify that I warned the member for Theodore. I felt that the behaviour was quiet disrespectful to the chair.

Youth Justice

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.32 pm): The highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens. The question Queenslanders will ask themselves at this election is: are you safer and more secure now than you were when this government came to office almost a decade ago, and who has the right plan for Queensland's future?

Labor's top priority when they won office almost a decade ago was to proudly water down the youth justice laws. Fast-forward to today and Queenslanders are living with the devastating impact of these weaker laws—the number of innocent victims has reached record highs and there are shocking rates of crime being committed across Queensland. Labor came to power in 2015 and Queensland now has the unenviable title of crime capital of Australia—the most victims of any state and youth offending rates three times higher than other states like New South Wales.

In Townsville—the epicentre of the crime crisis—robberies are up 287 per cent and stolen cars are up 103 per cent. In Bundaberg and Rockhampton, stolen cars are up 282 per cent and 226


respectively. In Caloundra and Nambour and across the Sunshine Coast they are up 100 per cent. We know that these statistics are not a media beat-up. Behind every crime is a victim—a victim who has been touched by crime and may never be the same. Too many families and communities have been torn apart by the crime crisis created by this government. Queenslanders have read too many tragic headlines of innocent victims of crime and innocent lives lost: Vyleen White, Emma Lovell, Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter.

The right of young repeat violent offenders to harass, victimise and terrorise innocent families and communities with immunity is no longer acceptable. Regardless of a person's age, if they can steal a car, drive it dangerously and ram police, or if they can invade a home and stab someone with a knife, they are committing adult crimes and they should serve adult time. Make no mistake: if Queenslanders vote for change next month, the highest priority of a David Crisafulli-led government will be the safety and security of all Queenslanders. We will put victims' rights ahead of offenders' rights. We will embed consequences for actions. We will not give violent criminals an inch.

Only the LNP has the right plan for Queensland's future. We trust our hardworking police and we will give them the laws and the resources they need to do their job and keep us safe. An LNP government will make essential changes to the Youth Justice Act. 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 and will send a clear message to wannabe young criminals that crime does not pay.

Time is up for Labor. The only way to fix the Labor crime crisis is to vote for change at the next election and show Labor the door in 2024.

Liberal National Party

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.35 pm): I have worked hard for the last five years to do what matters for my community, and that means making the case for a second Bribie Island bridge. My experience secured us the business case for our second bridge. To support that, I have made thousands of phone calls, attended public meetings, doorknocked and letterboxed. The result is our commitment that a re-elected Miles Labor government will build a second Bribie Island bridge.

The LNP have been very quiet about their plans for a second Bribie Island bridge. Just like all of their policies, the LNP leader is in hiding, refusing to come clean to Bribie locals. This is just like when he cut \$3 billion out of local road funding and sacked RoadTek workers. In his very first media conference as LNP leader, David Crisafulli walked back support for a new Bribie Island bridge and he has been silent ever since. Now the LNP are in hiding. They are hoping locals will not notice that they have not committed to build a second Bribie Island bridge. There are no details, no plans, no ideas—just like their student politician candidate. Only Labor will do what matters and build a second Bribie Island bridge.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I realise the member is being provocative, but I still expect the House to maintain decorum and order.

Ms KING: Make no mistake: women's rights are also on the ballot paper this election. The LNP leader—that invisible man—is hiding his plan for abortion rights from Queensland women. I can never forget that the LNP leader voted against our right to choose. The LNP leader wants to be Premier but he voted for women to face up to seven years in prison for seeking essential health care. He voted for doctors and nurses to risk prosecution. He voted for women to be harassed by far-right groups outside clinics. Their shadow health minister called abortion 'brutal' and 'not appropriate'. Compare that to Premier Steven Miles, who as health minister took abortion out of our Criminal Code after 120 years. In fact, almost every LNP member voted against a woman's right to choose.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

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

Ms KING: Those LNP blokes want to shame women. They want to strip our rights and control our bodies. They are so out of touch with what matters to Queensland women. At the 2020 election, the LNP promised to roll back Queensland women's abortion rights.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms KING: The LNP supported hateful far-right groups to cover our election booths in photographs of dead babies.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

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

Ms KING: Elderly women came to me in tears they were so distressed by the LNP's actions. Amanda Stoker, their next attorney-general, attends anti-abortion rallies and calls women murderers. Then this year they voted against women in their own communities having extended rights to safe abortion care. Queensland women are appalled by the LNP. They know that only Labor will support a woman's right to choose.

(Time expired)

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, Performance

Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.38 pm): The questions Queenslanders will ask themselves next month are: is the state of the economy better or worse after 10 years of Labor rule and who has the right plan for Queensland's future? The irrational and unhinged performance of the Treasurer over his time as Treasurer says everything, as does his record for the years he has served in this high office—record debt, record interest, record revenue and record spending, yet we have record numbers of victims of crime, record numbers of vulnerable people living under bridges and in cars, and record numbers of patients waiting on the ramp.

The Treasurer has collected \$70 billion more in revenue, yet we have all these problems facing us. He has collected \$70 billion more in revenue than what he forecast in his first budget and never has Queensland had less to show for it. The Treasurer did not have a clue about the difference between credit spreads and credit ratings. We heard it again this morning. It was on his mind again this morning. It is in his mind!

The Treasurer abandoned fighting for fifty-fifty health funding in Queensland. The Treasurer abandoned fighting for infrastructure when the federal Labor government cut infrastructure projects—whether it be the Mooloolah River interchange, the Kenmore roundabout or water infrastructure projects across regional Queensland. His office is right beside Jim Chalmers' office and he still abandoned fighting for Queensland's interest.

He oversaw the largest unforeseen expenditure since the Bligh-Fraser years. He has spent tens of millions of dollars on billionaires who, in reply, gave free newspaper advertisements across the country. He signed the cheques for Wellcamp, for art galleries, for luxury jets around Queensland. In his first year in cabinet he was responsible for plenty of asset sales. They do not want to talk about it. They are too busy telling untruths, but he sold our assets—Forestry Plantations Queensland, Queensland Motorways, the Port of Brisbane, Queensland Rail's above and below coal businesses, Queensland Rail's commercial assets, and the Ports Corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point Coal Terminal.

He cannot be trusted—26 times he promised no or new increased taxes, but he introduced a patients' tax in the middle of a health crisis to drive down bulk-billing rates and he introduced a renters' tax that drove out investment and drove up rents here in Queensland. It is not just me who says this. The *Dick Daily Echo*—I have to reference it one more time—got it right about passing the pub test, about how to look fair dinkum in the front bar with people who work for a living! There is only one conclusion to be reached: time is up! Show them the door in 2024.

Liberal National Party, Performance

Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (2.41 pm): To form a government in this state you need more than whingeing, whining and rhyming; you need policies. That is what we do not get from those over there. They have not renewed. They have had a whole decade to renew. Who do they have over there? They have the same old faces—the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana. Look at them all still there. There has been very little renewal.

They have not done the work to earn the trust of the people in Queensland. This election does come down to a matter of character: the integrity and the leadership of the Premier versus that of the opposition leader. Let us look at the opposition leader's history. He is fantastic at dishing it out but he has a glass jaw. He cannot take it when it comes back. When the tough gets tough, the opposition leader goes regional. That is what he does. He runs away from the gallery. He runs away from scrutiny.

He talks about transparency but he cannot actually be transparent himself. When the tough gets going, he goes regional.

Let's look at the laptop matter. He flung the mud around forever. When he was found out, did he accept responsibility? Of course he did not. This is the man who dissed our world-leading response to COVID on multiple occasions.

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: This is a man who was the sole director of a company that he will not answer legitimate questions about to this day.

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: This is a man who made treaty a personal matter of principle and then he melted as soon as Peter Dutton looked at him. He is more a powder puff melting in the sun. That is who the Leader of the Opposition is.

I have this for him: there is a furnace to come. It is called an election campaign. When you have not done the work, when all you have is trite lines to David Speers and you look like an idiot, that is not what it takes to lead a party to government in this state. You need policies. You need leadership. You need principles. Our Premier has that in spades. He was the health minister when we most needed someone to stand up for people's health against those opposite. People know what we stand for—services, infrastructure, transport and fair ways of funding it. We know we will get cuts, sacking and selling from those opposite.

The Redbridge poll has been very interesting, hasn't it? We can see that LNP vote starting to slide off the cliff. People know what the opposition leader is. He is weak. He is vacillating. He is whiny and whingey. He does not have the guts and the leadership and the integrity to lead this state. He has shown that over four years. He is showing that now by hiding in plain sight in this chamber. He is hiding from the gallery in plain sight in the Assembly because he will not stand up to them. He stood up once in 10 days. I know what the people are going to do. They are not going to be backing the Leader of the Opposition in this election.

(Time expired)

Mr Watts interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Before I call the member for Hill, member for Toowoomba North, I did ask you a couple of times to cease your interjections. If your interjections continue, you will be warned.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Miller used unparliamentary language in his contribution. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I am getting the nod that you did, indeed, use unparliamentary language. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Emission Targets, Agriculture


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.45 pm): Before the election in October, I want to highlight the risk both major parties pose to regional Queensland industries and economies, particularly agriculture. In April, both major parties held hands and voted together to pass the Clean Economy Jobs Bill, betraying every single regional Queensland and entire communities whose economies rely heavily on agriculture, mining and manufacturing. Because of the major parties, increased emission targets have now been enshrined in law to 75 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The government proudly announced that Queensland's destructive vegetation management laws, by reducing the amount of agriculture land clearing carried across the state, have resulted in significant emission reductions, and it seems the opposition agrees. Let us take a look at land clearing. Of Queensland's total land mass of 183 million hectares, 36 per cent is used for agriculture. Also, 349,000 hectares of land is cleared annually across the state, but only 95,000 hectares, or 0.0005 per cent, is cleared for agriculture.

Based on this, I would argue that more land is cleared in the south-east for new shopping centres, car parks, housing developments, tunnels, trains and roads. Instead, regional farmers are targeted and demonised. We often hear of protesters complaining about landowners clearing land, but most of the land we see cleared has been done so three times over, with landowners frustrated that they are unable to keep up with vegetation regrowth. You do not have to be Einstein to know that whoever is elected will continue their attack on farmers with more destructive vegetation laws to reach these new emission targets, because both parties passionately voted for it.

To further highlight the double standards of the government on land clearing, I refer to their own Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint, issued in September 2022, on renewables. This document outlines the large-scale renewable generation that is needed by 2035: 540,000 hectares of land has to be cleared for wind farms and 40,000 hectares has to be cleared for solar farms, excluding transmission lines. This is six times the amount of the so-called out-of-control clearing of agriculture land. It is clear that under this government foreign owned companies can clear whatever valuable vegetation and woodland they like. They can destroy whatever habitat and native wildlife they like, as long as it means getting to their fantasy renewable target.

Liberal National Party, Policies


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.48 pm): I rise to speak about the flawed LNP policies. Sorry, I did want to speak about the flawed LNP policies but it seems they only have priority areas—no details and no costings for any of their priority areas. Based on their past behaviour and actions, they will cut, sack and sell.

In Eight Mile Plains we have the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital providing chemotherapy, dialysis and X-ray services and the provision of GPs for minor injuries and illnesses. What is the LNP's intention for the satellite hospital? They have not, as far as I can see, uttered one word about what their intention is for these facilities. Do they intend to privatise these facilities, putting the jobs of hardworking staff in jeopardy and putting patients at risk of not receiving the treatment they deserve?

I will move on to the LNP policy on juvenile crime. Adult Crime, Adult Time is appealing to the lowest common denominator. Such narrow-minded policies will do more harm to the safety of Queenslanders in the long term and will do nothing to deal with the root causes of crime in the first instance. It will entrench in Queenslanders a population of people who will know no other way of life than to be incarcerated. Could someone please explain to me what 'rolled gold' is when speaking about youth crime and the mysterious program that we have listened to the LNP espouse for at least 12 months?

A headless chook running around a backyard has more direction than the LNP policy on youth. All the LNP is doing is striking fear into the community for political gain. The policy of 'lock them up and lock them up for longer' is a blunt instrument approach and shows the LNP is intellectually bereft. The policy is counterproductive when it comes to reducing recidivism. A more sophisticated approach needs to be taken from both the humanity perspective and an economic perspective. The more successful rehabilitative efforts are, the less money is spent on the justice and corrective services system and the greater the cost reduction to the community. Do not risk the LNP in 2024.

Noosa, Development


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.51 pm): When governments propose planning schemes, it is vital they gather informed feedback from Queenslanders. For this they need relevant information and appropriate processes. In my electorate currently we have two planning processes that have created anger from residents, organisations and businesses. First, Noosa council is finalising proposed changes to the Noosa 2020 planning scheme, resulting possibly in changes to building heights, zonings, parking space requirements and more to address our affordable housing needs. During consultation, residents voiced their concerns, including having premium sites designated for only units instead of the house they wish to build. This would lead to seriously expensive units, not genuinely affordable ones.

The Noosa chamber of commerce highlighted the importance of understanding the practical implications of any planning changes as this can drastically alter the costs and benefits of construction. If changes make it too expensive to build, including that elusive affordable housing, then it simply will not get built. They submitted that planning scheme amendments need viability assessments and an analysis of their economic implications. While these changes are at a local government level, the state is involved via its own scheme and 'state interest' of housing supply and diversity. This is where the outrage is.

Currently two projects—I brought this up this morning—have been submitted to the new state facilitated development assessment pathway that bypasses local governments. These notifications had no solid details in which to provide feedback. Even though the minister today provided in answer to my question without notice that the projects will have a higher percentage of affordable homes than in the notifications and will be managed by a community housing provider, many questions remain, including around the height. This is very relevant to the Noosa economy given we are reliant on our look, laid-back feel and brand. Across Queensland these notifications are occurring, and the government must immediately provide the extra information sought by local governments and their communities for informed feedback. How else can you make an informed decision?

The reality for Noosa right now is what we experienced when we were forcibly amalgamated. This government must stop and think. For six years I raised the need for affordability. Taking an extra three months to do it right with communities alongside, instead of them protesting in front of parliament—and they will—is the right thing to do. It is not nimbyism; it is about proper process. Normally, organisations representing businesses call for a reduction of processes and red tape; however, the Noosa chamber is calling for an increase. Are they justified? From what we have seen in these last few weeks, yes, even though with every extra process there is a cost. However, the cost to not do so could even be greater, including very few affordable homes in sight as a result.

Greenslopes Electorate

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.54 pm): We are doing what matters for Greenslopes. In Mount Gravatt we have new classrooms and facilities at all three state schools. I worked to drop the speed limit outside Nursery Road State Special School. People are loving the 20 per cent off their car rego. We will create more parkland in Mount Gravatt and the locals love it.

In Holland Park West, I work with Peter Bongiorno and the Ukrainian Community of Queensland to support refugees. Our veloways are keeping cyclists safe and we will be building a velobridge over Birdwood Road to keep them even safer. With a new design and tech block and lots more, Holland Park High is looking great and growing. We will be switching on the lights real soon at the Holland Park Sports Club, adding to our investments in the Holland Park Hawks Football Club and Easts Junior Rugby League. Pool upgrades will happen at Holland Park State School, adding to the new STEM centre we built there and the millions we have spent on improving accessibility. Seville Road State School will be getting new playgrounds and admin facilities. We should never forget what happened at Cavendish Road either. The LNP took a hall away but we have built two. Holland Park folk love the energy rebates, which we can provide because we own our assets. They love our Energy and Jobs Plan that is putting us on track for clean energy. I can tell you what they do not love: nuclear power.


In Greenslopes the Annerley soccer club had its fields upgraded. Greenslopes State School is growing so we are going to build what is needed for that growth. Stones Corner is getting 82 new social and affordable housing units. They love the Homes for Queenslanders plan. People tell me that they want the Greens and the LNP to get out of the way of the Help to Buy scheme. The Broncos NRLW team are using Totally Workwear Stadium for their home games with new facilities, which we contributed \$1 million towards. It is great to see those games so well attended.

In Camp Hill we have built new design and tech blocks, new classrooms for the French immersion programs, student quadrangles and playgrounds at Whites Hill State College. It has been an absolute privilege to support Camp Hill heroes Sue and Lloyd Clarke in their quest to stamp out coercive control. Camp Hill folk love free kindy, free TAFE and \$1,000 worth of tools for first-year tradies. With so many sporting options nearby, they love the expanded FairPlay vouchers.

Easts Rugby Union are at the heart of Coorparoo and they are receiving \$1.5 million for the next stage of their upgrade, which will see more girls and women playing Rugby and will create a sustainable future for the club. It is no wonder they are the biggest and the best Rugby club in Australia. We will be upgrading the classrooms at Coorparoo State School as well. Of course, everyone is super excited and pleased to hear that we are going to fix the Coorparoo rail crossing.

These are the things that matter in the electorate of Greenslopes and we are doing them. Of course, they are all under threat if the LNP get back in charge. I know that the people of Greenslopes will back me because I listen to them and then I work as part of the Miles Labor government to do what matters for Greenslopes. If the people of Greenslopes want these things, then in 2024 they have to keep the LNP out of the door and give Labor four more.

Liberal National Party


 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.57 pm): Queenslanders deserve better and there is a better way. When Queenslanders ask themselves about the big four crises—youth crime, health, housing and cost of living—they know that they are worse off under this government. Queenslanders know it, the LNP knows it and when I look at the eyes across the chamber I see that the Labor Party know it, too. They know that the decisions they have taken have led to a deterioration for Queenslanders across the big 4 crises. Today, with victims of crime in the gallery, with the names of the victims who have lost their lives in this state read out, a Premier could not say sorry.

If government changes by the end of the year, the Making Queensland Safer Laws will be laws, detention as a last resort will be removed and Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law. When it comes to health, within 100 days Queenslanders will see what is happening in their hospitals, and doctors and nurses will be put back in charge. In housing, every single cent of the Housing Investment Fund will be spent on new social housing product and we will axe a tax. Young Queenslanders buying their first home will not pay one cent of stamp duty. When it comes to cost of living, we have a maintenance guarantee to make sure we put downward pressure on electricity prices and a crime plan to make sure Queenslanders' insurance cost does not continue to spiral out of control as it does under this government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want you to see the contribution that has been made from our team today and know that if Queenslanders vote for change the LNP is ready to serve. I want to thank this team for the way they have conducted themselves—strong, united and disciplined. Shortly the House will hear from four members of our team who are leaving and who have done a magnificent job in putting forward four quality candidates that residents can choose to serve them in their communities. This is a team that is focused on Queenslanders, this is a team that knows what the challenges are for this state, and this is a team that will put forward an alternative to a decade of chaos and crisis.

Queenslanders know what awaits. Queenslanders know that this government has promised and failed to deliver, and they are living it—they are living it with their lives, they are living it when they wait for an ambulance, they are living it when the next rental payment comes through, and they are living it when they see every single bill that comes across their kitchen table. The question is clear at the next election: after 10 years of this government, are things better or worse when it comes to youth crime, health, housing and cost of living, and who has the right plan for Queensland's future?

Miles Labor Government

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.00 pm): We have had an hour of debate, the last chance for the opposition to put forward their plans and they did not do so. In stark contrast, two weeks ago this government took the whole cabinet down to Redlands for Community Cabinet. What did the LNP do with their shadow cabinet recently when visiting Redlands? They took three members down and came on a public holiday. They had a whinge, had no plans, conducted a photo shoot and then took off. How many people are you going to engage with on a public holiday? They did not even know it was a public holiday in Redlands. What did we do? We spent a whole week down there. The Premier got up in a town hall and answered all the tough questions and outlined a plan for the future.

We made some great announcements there that week. We are transferring \$300 million away from the Gabba project and the City Deal towards the Metro project. I have been advocating for this project since 2018. It makes sense that if the Brisbane City Council is bringing it out to Carindale, then we should bring it out to Capalaba. I am glad I can advocate for that because I have a vision for the future. I am not looking in the past. I am making sure our residents are—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I do not know why they are interjecting. I have a plan for future infrastructure. We also announced that we are building 43 new social homes—again, a plan to make sure we are housing the homeless in the Redlands.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, member for Algeester and member for Buderim. Stop quarrelling across the chamber. I did not want to interrupt you, member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We are building 43 new homes in Alexandra Hills and in Wellington Point, making sure we house those with a disability and those seeking protection away from domestic violence. We are delivering housing for the future.

We also announced the solar recycling project at Ideal Electrical Capalaba. The minister for the environment and the minister for energy came out to make that fantastic announcement. We will lead Southern Hemisphere recycling, making sure we have a circular economy with the recycling of solar panels.

At the end of the week, we had the opportunity to visit Minjerribah with Minister Enoch to open QUAMPI, the Quandamooka Arts and Culture Centre, a fantastic facility at Dunwich. It opens up a vast array of tourism opportunities over there. It will be a real credit to that community. I want to thank Minister Enoch for coming over to open that up, but also the work of QYAC and QBuild who built it. We are looking towards the future. We are delivering for the future. We have a plan.

(Time expired)

MOTIONS

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, notwithstanding sessional order 6, this House notes report No. 229 of the Ethics Committee tabled on 12 September 2024 and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*, and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

RESPONSE BY COUNCILLOR ROWANNE MCKENZIE, TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR REDLANDS ON 24 FEBRUARY 2021 AND THE MEMBER FOR CAPALABA ON 23 MARCH 2021 AND 15 NOVEMBER 2023

On 24 February 2021 in a statement during the Adjournment Debate, the member for Redlands, Ms Kim Richards MP, referred to me by name. The member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, subsequently referred to me by name on 23 March 2021 during an Adjournment Debate and on 15 November 2023 during the second reading of the Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.

The allegations made by the member for Redlands and member for Capalaba were the subject of a police investigation for alleged stalking. The matter was in relation to an incident in which allegations were allegedly made against the wife of a Redland City Councillor to her employer, as reported in the Courier Mail on 1 November 2020. I voluntarily attended a police interview and was not charged.

No evidence supporting the statements made by the member for Redlands has ever been presented to me or any other person that I am aware of. I repudiate the comments made by the member for Redlands and the member for Capalaba as they were unsupported by evidence.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, notwithstanding sessional order 6, this House notes report No. 231 of the Ethics Committee tabled on 12 September 2024 and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*, and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

RESPONSE BY MS BEV WALTERS TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR CAPALABA ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020 AND 16 JUNE 2021

On 10 September 2020, during a Private Member's Statement and on 16 June 2021 during the second reading debate on the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, referred to me in a way that I was readily identifiable, as 'the LNP candidate' and 'my LNP opponent'.


The member for Capalaba's statements discrediting me have been the subject of defamation proceedings in the Supreme Court of Queensland.

The defamation proceedings were resolved in November 2023, with the member for Capalaba ordered to pay me \$50,000 in damages and my legal costs and publish an apology.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Member for Mudgeeraba, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 230, tabled in the House on 12 September 2024
2. finds the member for Mudgeeraba in contempt for reflecting on the chair by refusing to follow the Speaker's direction to withdraw
3. accepts the apology from the member for Mudgeeraba on the floor of the House on 12 September 2024 as an appropriate penalty, and
4. resolves to take no further action.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3108, on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs) (3.05 pm): I rise to speak on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection Bill. The Miles government is committed to ensuring multinational companies pay their fair share of tax. We want to ensure they pay their fair share of tax when they dig up the resources that Queenslanders own and sell those resources overseas. Thanks to the sacrifices of the generations of Queenslanders and Australians who have come before us, Queenslanders own our land and own the resources under the ground. The Miles government recognises that mining royalties, therefore, belong to Queenslanders, not to multinationals, and this Miles Labor government will ensure it stays that way.

The citizens of Queensland deserve to share in the benefits of the resources of this incredible country that we call home. In the electorate of Springwood, many Queenslanders have signed a petition to ensure the big end of town keeps paying their fair share for Queensland's resources. I table that petition today.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding mining royalties [\[1831\]](#).

Our progressive mining royalties have delivered \$16 billion back to Queenslanders—\$16 billion, much of which would have gone offshore into the coffers of big business mining companies. It is, however, thanks to progressive coal royalties that our government is able to offer nation-leading, cost-of-living measures. These include: 20 per cent off the cost of registration for cars, trailers, utes, caravans and motorbike; \$200 so local kids can play community sport; nation-leading energy rebates that ensure Queenslanders have the lowest power bills anywhere in Australia by a country mile; free kindy to every Queensland kid, giving them the best start in life; and Free TAFE and subsidised training to ensure Queenslanders can get good jobs in burgeoning industries across the state. The royalties enable us to build schools and hospitals, and employ the nurses and teachers our community needs. The royalties have also enabled us to invest in the clean energy transition, to invest in schools themselves, to build more hospitals, including satellite hospitals, and to invest in infrastructure like better roads across our community.


The Miles Labor government can deliver all this and more because we will make sure the multinationals and billionaires who export our resources, the resources of Queenslanders, pay their fair share back to Queenslanders.

In the first two years since their introduction, our progressive coal royalty tiers have delivered an additional \$9.4 billion in revenue to Queenslanders. This bill will ensure the royalties we receive from the multinational mining companies cannot be lowered or removed simply by the stroke of a pen.

While the Leader of the Opposition, and the LNP in Queensland, flounders without a plan—or even a clue—about how to reach Queensland's emission reduction targets, which he voted for and is almost immediately backing out of and walking away from, Labor is committed to Queensland's clean energy future, with a record \$26 billion investment in renewable energy made possible by coal royalties.

While the LNP will say anything to get into power, I am determined—as is every member on this side of the House—to put the power back into the hands of Queenslanders. We are doing this thanks to our legislated commitment to publicly owned energy assets.

The LNP's failure to genuinely commit long-term to progressive coal royalties gives them no option other than to raise taxes, cut cost-of-living relief or sell off publicly owned assets—just as they planned to do in the past. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.10 pm): I am pleased to support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. The bill ensures Queenslanders will continue to benefit from a fair rate of return on coal royalties. More importantly, we are protecting Queensland's coal royalties from the LNP and their multinational coalmining mates. As Queenslanders, we own the state's coal. That is why we introduced the six-tier coal royalties regime in 2022, so that Queenslanders can be compensated fairly for the billions of dollars that coalmining companies make when coal prices are high. These royalties will be under threat should the LNP get into government. We know that the LNP are no fan of coal royalties. The LNP leader has called coal royalties 'a bad plan'. He said in a Sky News Australia interview in May that he wanted 'the mining industry to be free from a government that's constantly looking for new ways to tax and regulate them'.

His shadow minister for natural resources and mines said in 2022 that, if elected, the LNP would sit down with coalmining companies and consult them about coal royalties. The LNP must be keen to get the ball rolling on these consultations, because from March to July this year they met with coal industry representatives a total of 33 times. The opposition leader told the coal lobby at an industry gathering earlier this year that when the LNP releases their tax and royalties policy for the election—I hope no-one is holding their breath—the coal industry could 'take it to the bank'.

The Miles Labor government wants to keep those royalties in the bank for Queenslanders. The revenue raised by those royalties has allowed our government to invest \$16 billion in critical infrastructure and essential services that have benefited Queenslanders all over the state, including in the coal-producing regions. That revenue has also been invested in our extremely popular cost-of-living measures—the \$1,000 energy rebate, 50-cent fares, the 20 per cent discount on car rego, free kindy, \$200 FairPlay vouchers and the doubling of the first home owners grant to \$30,000.

Like many others in this place, I have been speaking to a lot of people in my electorate who are very grateful for all of these measures, particularly the \$1,000 energy rebate and the 50-cent fares. They are grateful because they are struggling with inflation, rising interest rates, rental increases and higher insurance bills. For some families in Ipswich, the financial pressures of the last few years have been crippling. The cost-of-living relief they have received from the \$1,000 energy rebate means more money in their pockets for essential bills, for medications, for kids' school costs or for unplanned emergency expenses. Should the LNP win the election on 26 October, it will be a bad day for those struggling families.

I have no doubt that the LNP will repeal our progressive coal royalties. When that happens, the billions of dollars in coalmining revenue that currently fund our cost-of-living measures will go back into the banks of those multinational coal companies. This is why it is so important that we protect these royalties. This bill will introduce amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a coal royalty rate floor. That means any proposed decrease to coal royalty rates would need to be considered and assessed by the Legislative Assembly, thereby protecting our progressive coal royalty rates.

The LNP and their coal industry cronies would have you believe that progressive coal royalties will destroy the coalmining industry in Queensland. In July 2022, after we introduced our new six-tier progressive coal royalty regime, an article in the *Courier-Mail* reported the doomsday prophesies by various mining companies, lobbyists and investment banks. JP Morgan and the Bank of America said that our new coal royalties regime would jeopardise coalmine 'expansions, jobs and the viability of the region's resources supply chains'. The Bank of America said that the 'royalties would impact BHP, Glencore, Anglo American and Coronado operations' and that they would 'limit future investment in new mines in Queensland'. The former president of BHP Minerals Australia, Edgar Basto, said—

A new tax damages Queensland's reputation as a stable place to invest, and will make it harder for the state to compete against other global jurisdictions in attracting major new investments that would deliver longer term value to communities and the state economy.

Former Queensland Resources Council CEO Ian Macfarlane continued the doomsday prophesies by saying that royalties would halt coalmining expansion plans, affect employment and threaten the entire supply chain. On and on the article went, with more coal industry spokespeople and lobbyists claiming that our progressive coal royalties would mean the end of Queensland's coalmining


industry; that they would collapse the Queensland economy; there would be unemployment; and that investors would abandon Queensland. In fact, what we have seen in the last two years is that that was all scaremongering nonsense. Over the last three years to the end of 2023-24, the value of Queensland coal exports totalled \$200 billion—up from \$108 billion in the previous corresponding period to 2020-21. Capital expenditure in the Queensland mining sector has grown to \$9.7 billion for the year ending March 2024, an increase of 4.4 per cent.

The value of coal exploration expenditure in Queensland rose 25.7 per cent to \$252 million in 2023-24. The number of workers in Queensland coalmines increased 1.3 per cent in the June 2024 quarter to 45,416 workers, which is 3.3 per cent higher over the year. The number of workers in Queensland's coalmines is now 19.6 per cent above the level of June 2022, just before we introduced the new progressive coal royalties. BHP—who said in 2022 that the new progressive coal royalties would damage Queensland's reputation as a stable place to invest—saw their underlying profit increase this year to \$13.7 billion, an increase of two per cent on last year. This year must have been especially successful for BHP because they tried to make multiple attempts to acquire Anglo American's coal assets.

Since introducing our new progressive coal royalties in 2022, a range of coalmining companies have made public statements or have taken actions that indicate clear plans to continue investing in Queensland's coal industry. Those companies include Whitehaven, Stanmore, Peabody Energy, Coronado, Thungela Resources, Bowen Coking Coal, Sumitomo, Pembroke Resources, TerraCom and Wintime. Last year Whitehaven Coal purchased BHP's Blackwater and Daunia's mines for a combined cost of \$6.4 billion. They stated at the time that the acquisition was 'materially earnings accretive', which I am guessing is corporate jargon for 'profitable'.

While, admittedly, I am more of a supporter of renewable energy than fossil fuels, I believe that Queenslanders should reap the benefits from their state's non-renewable coal resources while they are still profitable and while we make the transition to a clean energy economy. It is Queensland's coal, and Queenslanders expect a fair share of the profits so that we can invest it into our communities, build hospitals, roads and schools and fund vital cost-of-living relief, which we are doing. I strongly believe that this would all be at risk if the LNP were to win government.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Treasurer's hard work in putting together the new progressive coal royalties regime in 2022 and for the bill presented today which will protect those royalties from being repealed by the LNP. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.18 pm): A significant number of community members in my region are employed by the coalmining industry and related supply chains. The Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region, which I am proud to represent alongside the member for Burdekin—he has more coalmines in his region than any other electorate—contributes \$18.4 billion in gross regional product. This is a significant contribution to the Queensland economy. Of nearly 85,000 jobs, 79 per cent come from these areas of employment. The mining sector, which we are very grateful to have operating in our region, has a spend in the region of \$1.7 billion in wages. That is over 18,000 jobs.

When those opposite talk about billionaire companies, they are talking about the mums and dads and members of my community who are out there working each and every day putting their lives at risk in what is a high-risk industry in mining coal that yes, I agree, all Queenslanders own. However, what we have not seen as part of this legislation is an equity share in royalties being invested back into our regions. Unlike Labor, the LNP will consult with industry. In fact, over the last four years the LNP has been listening to the industry. We have been engaging with industry. As the shadow Treasurer has outlined and as a member of the committee, I can say we are not voting against this bill. What we will do is ensure, like we do with other stakeholder groups, that people will not be surprised when it comes to a new tax, like the industry was caught off guard. We value their workforce and we value the contribution that those workers make.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my right.

Ms CAMM: I know the members of my community and in particular across Mackay and the Whitsundays have welcomed the cost-of-living measures. What they cannot understand is how this government drove up the cost of living so significantly with the lack of maintenance of our power generation assets. These taxes could actually be contributing to greater enhancement of social infrastructure across our communities. Instead, they have to be returned because of the failings of this Labor government to control the cost of living across this state.

Like me, our community wants to see coal royalties that contribute to the liveability and the safety of our community. They want it to fund things like the maintenance of the Bruce Highway and our hospital and health service. We have a \$250 million hospital expansion in Mackay that has blown out and our CQ Rescue helicopter has not been able to land at our hospital. I would like to say on the public record thank God for BMA. If it were not for their private investment in our rescue helicopter and the funds raised by grassroots community groups to the tune of \$5 million, lives would be at risk in my community. Where is the member for Mackay in advocating for the royalties to be spent on our CQ Rescue emergency service? There is silence and crickets.

I am proud to engage with BMA, with BHP, with a number of mining companies and with Bowen Coking Coal. I am proud to engage with those industries that employ locals, keep locals employed and also support our small and family businesses.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, just pause for a moment. Members to my right, I am issuing you all a general caution. Your interjections are not being taken. They are disorderly. Let the member speak.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Clearly some people are a bit sensitive about the royalties unlike those on this side of the House. We went through the committee process and I do want to put on record my thanks for the secretariat. It was actually a complete and utter waste of time and the resources of the parliament in terms of some of the hearings and things that went on. This was a political stunt. Why was it a political stunt? 'Keep them in the bank'—it is like the Treasurer watched an episode of *Utopia* and thought that was a really clever line. I would love the Treasurer to keep the royalties in the bank so that there is something we can invest in the future for future generations, for future catalytic infrastructure. However, I fear that the Treasurer will have spent all the royalties over the coming weeks and we will know beyond 26 October just how much is left in the bank.

There is another thing I would also like to put on the record about the current Labor government—and I have heard many including the Minister for Energy speak about the Pioneer-Burdekin. If this government was so committed to that project and so committed to the protection of progressive coal royalties, maybe a larger proportion of those royalties would be allocated to that project instead of what we have seen from this Labor government, which is once again smoke and mirrors. What we have seen from the current member for Mackay and the Labor candidate for Mackay is that they are willing to sell out their community, the beautiful national park of Eungella and the Pioneer Valley; and disrupt families, generations of farmers, those who take care of that beautiful pristine environment. There is no representation from the community that contributes so much to this state's economy.

Once again, I want to place on record the lack of consultation. When speaking with those who invest in the sector they say they want to make sure that they have investment certainty. That is something that the LNP will bring back to this state of Queensland. We are an incredible state, rich with natural resources. We want long-term investments. We want to value relationships. When I reflect upon some of the relationships in the coalmining industry like with Mitsui coal, which has been around since my great-uncle was the minister for mines, and with representatives of that company, I think how they were treated with contempt by this Labor government was disgraceful. If those opposite are so naive to not think it has altered our reputation both nationally and internationally when it comes to investment, they are kidding themselves.

I have also heard many of those opposite talk about the increase in royalties which has obviously been due to the high coal price. Absolutely, we need to make hay while the sun shines. However, I remind those opposite—and I look forward to reminding them maybe for the next decade to come—that the coal price does not always remain high. When they have neglected regions like mine in Mackay, a region that has been a safe Labor seat for 109 years, our community remembers. I can tell honourable members right now that the community of Mackay is looking forward to a change on 26 October.

Mr Skelton interjected.

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


Ms CAMM: Nigel Dalton will bring the change and the representation that our community needs to ensure that the royalties that this government wants to keep in the bank are reinvested in communities like mine, in Mackay and the Whitsundays, to deliver the road infrastructure, to ensure we have a hospital we can be proud of, not one that under this member for Mackay was disgraced and embarrassed and that has caused harm—it is not funny. The fact that the member for Mackay wants

to pull faces flies in the face of the women who were butchered under her watch as the assistant health minister. What a record!

Mr TANTARI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I do not know what the member is speaking about at the moment, but it is definitely not the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, could you please confine your comments to the long title of the bill.

Ms CAMM: I hope that royalties are invested back into our hospital, unlike what we have seen under this Labor government. An LNP government will ensure that royalties are invested back in our region so that we can have the social infrastructure we can be proud of; so we can fix the failings, the chaos and the crisis of this Labor government; and fix the failings, the chaos and the crisis that the member for Mackay delivered for our community. Show Labor the door in '24.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.29 pm): In her contribution the member for Whitsunday referenced the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service and CQ Rescue. However, I think she might need to do some more homework on this because earlier this year I was very pleased, as was the member for Mackay, that the Queensland government was able to fund CapRescue and the CQ Rescue service.

Ms Pease interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I will be writing to the Speaker because it is absolutely so exciting to see that the Miles government has struck a new funding agreement with CapRescue and CQ Rescue, which provide a vital service to the community. Many years ago I said to the minister, 'Can we please have a state government funding injection into these vital services?' because, as the member said, in the past it has relied on a number of contributions—

Ms Camm interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I suggest that it would be useful for the member to have a look at how the new funding arrangement has benefited communities like Whitsunday, Keppel and Mackay. The fact is that these services will be able to continue to grow and expand. I believe that a brand new helicopter was delivered to Mackay not long ago.

I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. The Greens often have a lot to say in here about mining, resources and royalties—they love to have an opinion about Queensland's resources—but they have absolutely no idea about this critical Queensland industry. That is why in this term of government I wrote to both Greens members—the member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar—in my capacity as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Resources. I invited them both to the Kestrel Coal Mine—one of the world's largest underground metallurgical coalmines, located 50 kilometres outside of Emerald in the Bowen Basin. This visit was attended by a number of members from both sides of the House. I think we had about 30 members attend, which was a really great turnout considering that many had to travel to attend the site visit.

When I did not receive a response from the Greens, I wrote to the members for South Brisbane and Maiwar and personally invited them to attend this site visit as a means for them to better understand the coal industry, to understand the environmental protections in place and to understand the hard labour that goes into extracting these resources and putting the royalties back into Queensland coffers, but I did not even receive so much as a response from the member for Maiwar. I will give the member for South Brisbane credit for responding, but—surprise, surprise—she was too busy to attend this cross-partisan site visit organised by the Parliamentary Friends of Resources. The Greens do not want to know about environmental protections, safety or rehabilitation in Queensland mines. They want to take the royalties, but they want to shut down the industry. You cannot have your cake and eat it, too.

Our government has introduced this bill because the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with our progressive coal royalties. We have had to legislate in order to protect these progressive coal royalties. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have made previous public statements criticising our progressive coal royalties. We have had to legislate so as to protect these progressive coal royalties, but if there is a change of government I have no doubt that those opposite will come in here and repeal this legislation. They are critical of Queenslanders reaping the benefits of Queensland's resources, but why? It is because they are joined at the hip with the big multinational coal companies.

I will never forget when the Oaky North coalminers were locked out of their workplace by multinational coal company Glencore for more than 200 days. Those workers still showed up for their


shifts for 200 days and camped out the front of the mine to demonstrate their commitment to the job, but, no, Oaky North—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms LAUGA: I take the interjection. Oaky North locked them out for over 200 days in one of the country's longest ongoing lockouts. I visited those mineworkers and heard firsthand from them their frustration with their multinational coalmining company bosses locking them out of their workplace with no pay. I note the member for Whitsunday's comments about supporting mineworkers. I can tell members that the LNP did not support those mineworkers. It was nowhere to be seen, but some were seen. The LNP's Michelle Landry was seen at the Tieri races down the road from the workers camp, socialising and having a lovely time with the Glencore mine bosses. One would think she could have spared five minutes to drop in to meet with the coalmine workers, but no. Michelle Landry and the LNP are joined at the hip with the bosses and the coalmine companies, and that is exactly why those opposite, if elected to government, will repeal legislation like this that protects our progressive coal royalties.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition and shadow cabinet held 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year and we continue to see the huge \$40 million ad campaign funded by the Queensland Resources Council—a campaign against the progressive coalmining royalties that give money back to Queensland and Queenslanders. I just want to say how annoying those ads have become in Central Queensland. People talk to me all the time about how they are interrupting their nightly news or their streaming services. Given all of this, it is my view that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP cannot be trusted with progressive coal royalties—the royalties that build hospitals, roads and schools and fund vital cost-of-living relief.

We still have not heard whether the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton support progressive coal royalties. They have been absolutely silent on it. I am calling on the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton to come clean about their position. Do they support progressive coal royalties or not? Will they scrap progressive coal royalties and, as a result, all of the hospitals, roads, schools and cost-of-living relief? Will they cut the 20 per cent reduction in vehicle registration that is helping household bills? Will they cut the Rockhampton satellite hospital? Will they cut the FairPlay vouchers helping Queensland children get into sport? Will they cut the Browne Park redevelopment? Will they cut the \$5 million allocated to clean up the old resort on Great Keppel Island? Will they cut funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and LifeFlight? Will they cut funding to the Biloela Hospital upgrade? These are just some of the investments we are making off the back of progressive coal royalties. All of that is under risk under the LNP. I am calling on the LNP candidates for Keppel and Rockhampton to come clean about whether they will back our progressive coal royalties that are delivering hospitals, roads, schools, services and jobs for our local community. Central Queenslanders deserve to know the LNP's position. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.36 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. As we have heard, the purpose of the bill is to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to introduce a coal royalty rate floor, ensuring that regulations cannot prescribe coal royalty rates lower than those periodically prescribed. This requires parliamentary consideration for any decrease in coal royalty rates, ensuring progressive coal royalties cannot be removed without the parliament's endorsement. However, let's not be fooled: everyone in this House is well aware of the political motivations for this legislation.

As we have heard, the Treasurer and those opposite have used this debate to repeat unfounded accusations that the LNP will oppose the government's coal royalty hike and reverse them should we form government. This legislation does not prevent royalties from being changed; its only practical outcome is increased legal complications associated with doing so. If there is anyone who is immune to the pressures facing Queenslanders, it is this Treasurer. Staring down from his ivory tower, this is a treasurer who, as the shadow Treasurer has already alluded to, is more interested in fake scare campaigns and cheap political stunts than in dealing with the real pressures and challenges that Queenslanders are dealing with every day. This is the same Treasurer who has form when it comes to deception and misrepresentations—a treasurer who has repeatedly broken his promise to Queenslanders not once, not twice but at least 26 times. We know that nothing he says can be trusted. He is more interested in running a narrative that is based on misrepresentations and false information than actually delivering anything of substance that could make a real, long-term and sustainable difference.


This begs the question as to why the Treasurer, who continues to boldly announce how coal royalties are being reinvested into regional communities, has yet to provide Queenslanders with an itemised list of exactly where every dollar has been spent. I can assure members that this is not lost on Queenslanders and they will not be misled again. For a decade they have been hoodwinked by the false promises of rivers of gold flowing from our resources industry. In reality, though, Queensland has become ground zero in the cost-of-living crisis, and skyrocketing costs and inflation figures prove it. Under this government, Queenslanders are facing the steepest cost increases in the nation. Labor's failures continue to cost Queenslanders in the hip pocket. When a government fails to invest in our road network, it is Queensland motorists who see their fuel bills grow through congestion. When governments let youth crime grow out of control, it is Queenslanders who see their insurance premiums go through the roof. The more cost blowouts there are on infrastructure, according to the IMF, the more inflation surges. Every dollar an incompetent Labor minister wastes is a dollar that cannot go into the pocket of a Queenslanders who is struggling.

Labor's chaos and crisis is leaving Queensland families with difficult decisions to make around the kitchen table. The only way Queenslanders can expect change is to vote for it in October. Only a LNP government will respect taxpayer dollars and deliver projects on time and on budget. We will re-establish the productivity commission and ensure we get the best bang for our buck and deliver the services and infrastructure our state needs.

It has come to my attention that during the contribution to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee report on the 2024-25 budget estimates I unintentionally misrepresented the provisions of the relevant legislation by mistakenly stating that the minister decided to redact that information from the public in an RTI document. I appreciate that I was mistaken and apologise to the House.

I also wish to correct the record around my statement in relation to the government's commitment to recruit an additional 1,450 police officers being a broken promise. What I should have said was that the government has still not recruited the 1,450 police it committed to by 2025. I am informed that the minister never refused to apologise for failing to meet this commitment, but to the best of my knowledge has still not done so.

Before I resume my seat, with the indulgence of the House I would like to take a moment to pass on my deep condolences to the family of the off-duty police officer who was tragically killed overnight during the Wall to Wall: Ride for Remembrance. This is truly devastating and heartbreaking news to come out of an event to honour the life of fallen officers. Our thoughts are with his family, his friends and colleagues and all our hardworking police officers who every day put their lives on the line to serve our community. May he rest in peace.

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (3.41 pm): I stand to speak to and support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. Before I do, it should come as no surprise to some that I would like to share some observations on some of the comments made by previous speakers. I would like to start with the member for Whitsunday who, in a very emotional rant, talking about some distant relative who lived off the people of Queensland—as she is now—

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments personally offensive and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr HEALY: I withdraw. I note that the member for Whitsunday was on the committee and made no statement of reservation. I do not know whether coal royalties are supported and we should keep them in the bank or whether we should be investing them in the community, which is what we are doing. We have been talking about this for a day and a half. It is ludicrous. It is very hard for those opposite to tell the truth when they do not know where they stand on it. That is not the situation on this side of the House. It is abundantly clear where we stand. It is a simple issue.


Progressive coal royalty rates are designed to ensure that Queenslanders receive a fair return on the use of the state's valuable and limited resources when coal prices are high and coal producers are benefiting extraordinarily from their returns. It is that simple. I note for some it is complicated. That has allowed this government to invest more than \$16 billion in critical economic and social infrastructure. For those who think it is just sitting in the bank, all the evidence says otherwise. It is very challenging to stand up here and speak the facts when some people cannot acknowledge those because it defies their own position. The reality is that we are doing what Queenslanders expect us to do and we will continue to do what Queenslanders expect us to do.

If the average Queenslanders was aware of what we are achieving with this bill they would be ashamed of what the opposition is doing in this area. We have invested in critical economic and social infrastructure and essential services across the state. Coal producing regions have also benefited.

The objective of this bill is to ensure that parliamentary consideration is required for any proposed change to decrease coal royalty rates—that is, coal royalty rates can only be adjusted via a bill rather than a regulation, which we think is very important. The bill achieves this by inserting new provisions into the Mineral Resources Act which prevent a regulation prescribing coal royalty rates that are lower than those prescribed at the time.

The recent economic performance of Queensland's mining industry is very strong, contrary to the assumptions and the unsubstantiated allegations of those opposite. The industry has clearly benefited substantially from high global commodity prices over the last couple of years. Mining industry employment, capital expenditure and exploration have all been trending upwards. The doom and gloom from the banks and big corporations is absolutely unfounded.


Across 2023-24 the value of mining industry capital expenditure in Queensland was \$9.6 billion, an increase of 7.1 per cent in the corresponding year. I want to repeat that: an increase of 7.1 per cent. The sky has not fallen in. Nothing has collapsed. Queenslanders have had \$16 billion more invested in a wide range of areas, particularly in the regions. This is the highest level of exploration spending across four quarters since the expenditure across the year to September 2015, almost a decade ago. They continue to invest because they know it works for them. They acknowledge that they continue to make significant capital, as the people of Queensland should. Our interests are with the people of Queensland, not with the multinationals.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.46 pm): I wish to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill and I do so by first thanking the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier for bringing this bill to the House. It provides comfort to those people who appreciate how the progressive coal royalties regime that was introduced by this government, which has delivered in spades—pardon the expression—to the people of Queensland, in particular in the form of cost-of-living relief, but in so many other areas where public expenditure has been able to be committed to because of the revenue that has been delivered as a consequence of these progressive coal royalties to the people of Queensland.

This legislation provides a legislative entrenchment to protect this appropriate regime in the face of the superprofits that have been experienced by multinational miners. It is absolutely appropriate for the people of Queensland in the grand tradition of our royalties regime that has been around since the early part of the 20th century—that was extended, most importantly, by the Ryan and Theodore governments in the early part of the 20th century. I note that earlier in the debate we did hear from the shadow minister, the member for Toowoomba South, in relation to some of the history of mining in Queensland. I will be conscious of your guidance, Deputy Speaker, because he was brought back to task, but I do want to acknowledge that the history of mining in the state is a rich one. There is no question that mining is fundamentally important to our state's past and our state's future. It is fundamentally important that that story is not about multinational mining companies, that that story is about hard slog and the people of Queensland working hard to deliver the resources out of Queensland soil and taking the best advantage of it for Queenslanders.

The Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill provides a legislative entrenchment to ensure that we do not see a backsliding agenda. I have seen this trick before. There might be some sort of review. Maybe a former federal treasurer gets called in to have a look at the books and then come up with a whole regime of how we can cut, sack and sell.

It is absolutely important that this House entrenches in legislation progressive coal royalties to protect that regime, which Queenslanders have so appreciated, from the voracious appetite of the cut, sack and sell mob. That is why I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.49 pm): I cannot help but note that during this debate members opposite have displayed their total lack of understanding of how the mining industry works. It is mind-numbing. We should bear in mind that coal royalties are paid on a tonnage. It is not a profit tax. They are paid on a tonnage and it is only fair that we get our share of that. That has never been in dispute. However, we keep hearing about the multinationals. While there are quite a number of multinationals working in the coal industry, New Hope is not a multinational and Bowen Coking Coal is not a multinational. They are Australian companies. The thing I fear with royalties is that those might be the last of our homegrown miners. I was a farmer. You go through lean times and you look forward

to the good times to get on a roll and build for the future. We need to be conscious that, like any other business, the mines need a little bit of a buffer.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WEIR: Member for Logan, I think you have had a crack and you did not make much sense so I would leave it there, if I were you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Direct your comments through the chair, please, member for Condamine.

Mr WEIR: In Condamine there is a mine called New Hope. We hear the Treasurer talk about how mining is still going along fantastically and that there are more jobs and money, but that is on the back of what happened 20 years ago. It has taken 15 years for New Hope to get to the stage they are at. That has only started in the past 12 months. They have put on about 400 workers. That is not because of what the Treasurer did. That is because of the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been invested to bring them to that point. It is the same with every other mine that is progressing at this moment. It is happening despite this government. It is happening because they have invested so much money over a period that they are obviously going to progress through and develop their mines and hire workers.

They talk about the rise in royalties, but it not about just that. The industry has had one too many shocks. This government does not consult with industry. I have talked to a lot of mining companies, and the Japanese companies in particular were absolutely offended and shocked that they were not consulted on this in any way, shape or form. They have said that they would have been happy to try to negotiate an outcome but they were never given that chance.

We have heard some comments about the QRC, their campaign and 'how dare they?'. Why wouldn't they? Why wouldn't they fight back? That is what they are for. Those organisations and companies represent their shareholders and that is what they are doing. They have every right to do it.


We have heard about keeping the money in the bank. This government is like a kid at the show. That money will not stay in the bank. They can spend it faster than it comes in. They have never had so much money—ever. This state has never been so flush with cash and we have never seen so little for it.

There was talk about the investment at Moranbah. While it is wonderful to get a hospital at Moranbah, Moranbah survives on coal. If the coalmines shut then there will be nothing left at Moranbah, Dysart, Middlemount or any of those regional towns. They will all be gone. While the government are giving something back, they are not giving much. When I was last at Moranbah I got in a taxi at the airport. The driver ranted about the state of the roads throughout the whole area. They are not getting their share.

Mr Smith interjected.

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

Mr WEIR: I think Central Queensland and the mining areas would like to see some investment in their regions. They want to see a decent cut of that money going back to their regions. Unfortunately, that is not happening at the moment. As the shadow Treasurer has said, this is part of the budget and we will be supporting it, but I would add a note of caution. As the shadow Treasurer said, when we are in government there will be no shocks like this for industry. We will work with industry and make sure that industry survives.


 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (3.54 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act to prescribe a minimum coal royalty rate floor and to ensure parliamentary consideration is required for any changes that would decrease the coal royalty rates. This bill is about making Queenslanders' coal royalties a permanent part of our state's revenue base and keeping them in the people's bank of Queensland. We know that that is a foreign concept to those opposite.

When I speak to the people of Hervey Bay they tell me that they know the progressive coal royalties are right for our state and for our regions. When it comes to providing support to my community, the coal royalties have made people's lives better with our cost-of-living support, our services, our programs and our Big Build infrastructure. The progressive coal royalties have provided much to the people of Hervey Bay, but there is a risk because, in my opinion, the LNP is very uncomfortable with giving progressive coal royalties to the bank of Queensland. That means billions of dollars less—and we have heard other speakers talk about \$16 billion—for the people of Queensland if these laws were to be deleted. That is our money and it is supporting over 50,000 jobs in our regions.

They do not like that we are providing \$1,000 off power bills. They do not like that we are providing 20 per cent off rego. They do not like the expenditure on the hundreds of thousands of FairPlay vouchers. They do not like funding going to free kindy or free TAFE. All of those cost-of-living measures make life easier for the constituents of Hervey Bay. As the member for Maryborough said earlier, the 50-cent fares are having an impact, helping our people to get to and from work and around our region at a reduced cost. All of those reductions in costs and rebates leave money in their bank to ensure they can afford their day-to-day expenses.

In my opinion, all of the great investment we are providing in new schools, new hospital infrastructure, new roads and housing would be at risk under an LNP government. In Hervey Bay that would include things such as a new police station and a new fire and rescue station, the beautiful school halls being built at Urangan State High School and Urangan Point State School, the increases that have been committed to by this government for the expansion of our ED and the building of our mental health unit, the multistorey car park, the 24-bed ward and the list goes on and on. It includes the refurbishment of our specialist spaces and classrooms and, in particular, the wonderful new pump track built at Pialba. Those would obviously be at risk. There would be no new infrastructure under an LNP government.

As always, Labor governments deliver while the LNP know only one thing: profit over people. They will always make sure that the rich multinationals get their fair share and not the people of Hervey Bay. The only way that the people of Hervey Bay can stop cuts to their progressive coal royalties, which would return their money to the multinational billionaires, and the only way they can protect all of Hervey Bay's funded and committed cost-of-living measures, programs, services and Big Build infrastructure is to vote for a Labor government on 26 October 2024. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.58 pm): Today I rise to support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. This is a critical piece of legislation that safeguards the interests of Queenslanders and ensures that our state continues to receive a fair return for its invaluable natural resources. Queensland is home to some of the world's richest coal reserves and our mining industry has thrived due to the global demand for that vital resource. It is only right and fair that in periods of high global coal prices Queenslanders benefit from the extraordinary profits generated by this industry. This bill ensures that any further changes to coal royalty rates, specifically decreases, must undergo full parliamentary scrutiny and debate, protecting the integrity of our royalty system and the interests of all Queenslanders.

The progressive coal royalty rates, introduced in the 2022-23 state budget, have proven to be a game changer for Queenslanders. The six-tier structure was designed to ensure that, when coal prices soar, the people of Queensland see a fair return for their natural resources—the resources that they own. These royalties have allowed the government to invest more than \$16 billion in critical economic and social infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and roads, benefiting every corner of our state.

The importance of this revenue cannot be overstated. Not only does it support our coal-producing regions; it uplifts communities throughout Queensland. These royalties provide essential cost-of-living relief, improving infrastructure and creating jobs, especially in our regional areas. In fact, approximately 70 per cent of our infrastructure investment, amounting to \$15.9 billion, has been directed to the regions outside of Greater Brisbane, supporting 50,000 jobs.

Currently, coal royalty rights are prescribed under subordinate legislation, meaning that they can be amended by regulation without requiring parliamentary debate. This allows for the potential lowering of royalty rates without proper scrutiny, putting billions of dollars in revenue at risk. The progressive coal royalties protection bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to prevent any decrease in coal royalty rates from being made by regulation. Instead, such changes must be made through a bill, ensuring full transparency and debate in this parliament.


This amendment is necessary because of the enormous benefit these royalties have to our economy. The impact of royalties to state revenue is set to moderate over the medium term. The additional revenue generated by the progressive royalty tiers has been crucial for funding essential services and infrastructure. In 2022-23 alone, an additional \$5.8 billion in revenue was raised, which has gone towards electricity bill relief, 50-cent public transport fares and school food relief programs.

In my electorate of Mansfield, we have benefited from a new satellite hospital and more than \$300 million invested in our local schools. We have also seen 112 extra beds at QEII Hospital and an extra 249 beds at the PA Hospital, along with a new nurse-led clinic. Of course, there are many additional services for our local ambulance and police.

The bill protects the interests of my community as well as the broader Queensland community by ensuring that any proposed reductions in royalties that could potentially benefit a few at the expense

of many—and we know that the LNP focus on the few rather than the many—must be thoroughly examined by this parliament. Let us not forget the clear and present danger posed by the Leader of the Opposition, who is yet to release the LNP's tax policy. Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition has publicly criticised our progressive coal royalty rates. He has called them 'a bad plan' and 'dishonest'. He said to the coal lobby that the industry could 'take his policy to the bank'.

The opposition has held numerous meetings with local industry representatives. Are they discussing the LNP tax policy? Any change to progressive coal royalties would have devastating consequences for the people of Mansfield and the people of Queensland. A rollback of these royalties would not only reduce the revenue available for critical public services but also weaken our ability to invest in the future of our state. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—KAP) (4.03 pm): I rise to speak on the progressive coal royalties protection bill 2024. The bill amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 by introducing a coal royalty floor rate that will prevent the state's progressive coal royalty rates being lowered or removed by way of regulation. The bill's primary goal is to make it impossible for an LNP government to reduce the royalty rate without having to go to the parliament first. However, just in case Labor manages to retain government, the bill still retains the current regulatory clause allowing the royalty to be easily raised by Labor whenever they are in need of more funds. By passing this bill today, it will be a win-win for Labor and a lose-lose for Queensland.

If I were in the coal sector, I would be looking for an immediate increase of the progressive coal royalty rate if Labor are returned in October. It will not stop there either, I do not believe. How else are they going to fund all those giant steel windmills and habitat-destroying pumped hydros that are being built in my electorate?

Queensland's progressive coal royalty tiers were introduced as part of the government's 2022 budget. According to the Treasurer, the new royalty regime was aimed at ensuring Queenslanders received a fair return on the use of the state's valuable natural resources, particularly during periods of high coal prices. All of this sounded eminently sensible to me at the time and I did not oppose the bill. However, since this new regime commenced, the negative impact it has had on the coal companies in my region has been alarming, to say the least.

I am now very concerned that these tiers may be putting the whole industry at risk, which is why it is vital that the levers for adjustment remain as flexible as possible, allowing for quick changes when the conditions and circumstances change. Again and again, over the last three years, we were told that this new progressive scheme would have no negative impact on Queensland's 54 operating coal mines. In the case of at least one Queensland company that I am very familiar with—Bowen Coking Coal Ltd—this has proved to be manifestly untrue.

Over the last four years, Bowen Coking Coal purchased several mothballed mines with the intention of restarting operations to create jobs and support for local communities. Three of these mines were Bluff, near the town of Blackwater; Ellensfield South; and Broadmeadow East, which are both near Moranbah. The new progressive coal royalties scheme came in just after the company had heavily invested in these new mines. The immediate impact of the scheme led directly to the closure of Bluff Mine in 2023, which cost some 300 jobs.

It is easy to forget sometimes that decisions made in this House can have real-world consequences, and that impacts people's lives. In this case, 300 honest, hardworking people in my own region lost their livelihoods. The company itself and investors have also sustained a major blow. At the time the new royalty regime was introduced, Bowen Coking Coal and its investors had put \$430 million into the purchase and development of these mothballed mines. Two years after the commencement of the first mine, the company is yet to turn a profit. In fact, its loss over the 2023 financial year was \$163 million, and its interim loss for the 2024 financial year was \$65 million.

Despite all these losses, by the end of 2024 the company will have paid out some \$100 million in royalty payments to the state government without being able to reinvest, and the company's shareholders still have not received any return on their capital investment. Approximately 50 per cent of the company's forecast operating cash flow over the next three years will go towards paying these progressive royalties to the state government. From the remaining 50 per cent, it is expected to pay federal government taxes, service and repay debt and spend its required CAPEX in order to remain in business. How will it have any chance of securing a return for its shareholders who invested the significant risk capital to restart the mines in the first place?

The share price has gone from 14 cents a share down to 0.13 cents a share today. It's ludicrous, therefore—and, frankly, dishonest—for anyone to try to say that these new royalty tiers have had no

impact on the coal industry. They have. Quite clearly, they are making any new investment in the industry completely unviable. The cold reality is that investors simply will not open new mines, or invest in existing ones, here in Queensland if they can find better returns elsewhere or if they cannot deliver a return at all.

Keeping Queensland's coal mines attractive for investment is vital for retaining high-quality, well-paid jobs in our regions and for driving economic growth and prosperity in the whole economy. At the time progressive coal royalties were introduced, there was a temporary spike in coal prices due to geopolitical disruptions. They were brought in without any provision made for the periodic review or proper adjustment mechanisms—a serious oversight that ignores the dynamic nature of the global coal market and its inherent volatility.

The current bill locks in a royalty rate regime which many say is now the highest in the world. Locking in such high rates poses a threat to future investment, leading to yet more closures and job losses in our regions. Without a healthy and strong coal industry, what will be left to drive the real growth and productivity in this state, or fund all the hospitals, highways, schools and giant sports stadiums Labor has promised Queenslanders?

The public transport fares have been reduced in the south-east corner. Every train that goes down the line with passengers paying a 50-cent fare should have the picture of a coal train to show where the money came from. There should be a picture of the coal miners who live in dongas, who do it tough and who work 14-hour days. People who vote down here and the Greens think it is all just one big joke and that we can do without it.

Guess what? Take it out of the state and see what happens. Take the coalminers out of the mines and see what happens. We will not have anything in this state. That is where we are going. Give them a little bit of credit as well. If those opposite want to take it off them then give them some credit for it.

Mr Smith: Where are we taking it off them?

Mr ANDREW: I am not telling you. I am telling you that the situation is this—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bundaberg withdrew from the chamber at 4.09 pm.

Mr ANDREW: If the government kill off coal they will lay waste to the strength of the resource industry at the same time.

Queensland's future economic success is intrinsically linked to the success of the coal industry and the communities that support it. The success of our coal sector relies on new mines being developed. Secondary sales of existing mines create no jobs and as older mines increase in cost they will close more rapidly under this very high royalty tax regime. It is becoming more and more clear that these progressive coal royalties are putting the whole industry in jeopardy by increasing the sovereign risk for coal companies as they grapple with sky-high costs and other pressures. As everyone knows, sovereign risk deters investment. Creating all these disincentives for investment will only serve to increase Queensland's reliance on Commonwealth grants and foreign borrowings. We do not need it.


By introducing this bill, the government has failed to recognise the central role coal plays in the Queensland economy—and when I say central, I mean critical. No other sector of our economy has done what coal has done for the citizens and the governments of this state. In terms of improving Queenslanders' lives, keeping Queenslanders in jobs and supporting the Queensland community, nothing comes close.

By passing this bill, the government will be compounding its error of 2022. They will be putting at risk the long-term sustainability of coal and their ability to continue funding the lifestyle and prosperity Queenslanders have become accustomed to over the last century. They will be killing the goose that lays the golden egg. There is no doubt about it.

I urge both major parties to think long and hard about the ramifications of passing this bill—the message it will send and the many short- and long-term consequences, all of which will be cumulative. I believe that what is on the line is the wellbeing of Queensland and its citizens. If members think I am exaggerating, they should have a chat with their superannuation fund manager. Coalmines make up a huge chunk of super fund industry investments. A hit to the coalmining sector will be a hit to the hip pocket and to the nest eggs that ordinary, everyday Queenslanders have invested.

It is important that everyone in this House understands what may be at stake. It is very well to say 'tax the rich' and 'down with coal' when we have a backup plan. We do not have a backup plan. That is the problem. Any chance of a backup plan was killed off by the globalisation policies and trade deals of both major parties back in the 80s and 90s. The ship has sailed.

With bills like this one, our governing classes are proposing to kill off the one thing we have left—coal. Once it is gone, the state has nothing but foreign borrowings and money printed by the Commonwealth to replace it with. Good luck with building your renewable revolution then!

 **Hon. LR McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. This is a bill that ensures every Queenslanders, not just the multinational mining giants, reaps the rewards of our state's rich natural resources. This is a bill that is not just about revenue; it is about fairness, equity and our future. It is a bill that puts Queenslanders first and keeps Queenslanders' coal royalties in the bank.

Coal royalties go towards keeping our hospitals running, building affordable housing and lowering the cost of living for all Queensland families. Thanks to the Miles Labor government's record cost-of-living relief package it means \$1,000 energy rebates, \$650 energy rebates for small businesses, more energy rebates for pensioners, our signature 50-cent fares, a 20 per cent discount on registration, free kindy and free TAFE.

Royalties have funded upgrades at Bundamba TAFE. Locally, they have delivered state-of-the-art infrastructure in health care, like our Ripley Satellite Hospital. They are delivering the \$450 million investment that is going to turn Swanbank Power Station into South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub. They are delivering the major upgrade of the Bundamba train station—the first one in over three decades. They are delivering new schools. We have already had a new school open at Woogaroo Creek. We have a new school at Bellbird Park. Another school is under construction in Collingwood Park, and Ripley Central State School opened only a year ago. This is what revenues from progressive coal royalties have meant for my local community and so many other local communities right throughout Queensland.

This is all at risk. I believe that, given the chance, the LNP will get rid of progressive coal royalties. I derive that belief from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition and LNP keep on making statements on the public record that viciously criticise our progressive coal royalty regime. On Sky News the Leader of the Opposition stated—

I want the mining industry to be free from a government that's constantly looking to find new ways to tax and regulate them.


In March this year at the Queensland Resources Council's Resources Roundup he said, in front of the coal lobby, that when he releases their tax and royalties policy they can 'take it to the bank'. Maybe this is because the leader and members of the LNP had 33 meetings with coal industry interests from March to July this year. I think there is a lot of evidence out there that Queenslanders should rightly be extremely concerned about when it comes to coal royalties should the LNP get into government.

They can come in here and speak on this bill and vote for this bill, but that does not guarantee anything. It certainly did not guarantee anything when they stood up and voted for the Path to Treaty bill. We only have to look at submission No. 7 to this bill to see that a former LNP vice-president and campaign chairman stated—

... which is to try to "wedge" the Opposition on coal mining royalties. It will fail at this as well, as the opposition has said it accepts the royalty regime, and of course the option will be there for them, should they become the government, to amend the bill in the parliament. In a unicameral system, this is a relatively easy thing for a government to do.

The cat is out of the bag, thanks to one of their own in a submission to this bill.

Only Labor can be trusted to make sure that Queenslanders get the fair share they deserve from their mineral resources. We will keep them in the bank and continue to do what matters for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill before us. It is very clear why we need this bill—that is, to protect the progressive coal royalties regime from a possible future LNP government. I will remind people why. My friend the member for Condamine is in the chamber. I listened to his speech on the bill. There are a couple of things that he mentioned that I will touch on. He said that there would be no shocks for industry. Of course there will be no shocks for industry. After 33 meetings with them, what shocks could there be? He also said that they would work with industry. We would expect them to be working well together after 33 meetings. I thought they would get everything ironed out in terms of what they are going to do after 33 meetings. As the member for

Bundamba said, I believe that if the LNP ever had the chance they would get rid of progressive coal royalties or undermine them.

The big reason we need progressive coal royalties is that cost-of-living relief is the biggest priority for the Miles government. It is the biggest priority for Queensland families. Every working-class and middle-class family I talk to is feeling the pinch. They need support from their government. It is only Labor that delivers that support. Our \$1,000 electricity rebates are one of the biggest shots in the locker. I say to people that we can deliver this because we own the electricity assets. We stopped the LNP selling the assets. We own the coal that is delivering the royalties to fund the cost-of-living relief measures, including the \$1,000 electricity rebate. We are making our assets work for us so we can put money into the pockets of Queenslanders.

One of the biggest cost-of-living relief measures in my area that we need to support is the 50-cent fares. They are absolutely popular in my area, which is a commuter area. People go into the city every day from North Lakes. They will save between \$1,000 and \$2,000 in just six months. That is an amazing cost-of-living measure relief for them. As I was explaining it to one lady, she was literally jumping up and down with excitement when she realised how much money she was going to save.

I am saying to our pensioners, 'Take a trip into the city.' I spoke to one person today. They are going to go to Roma Street Parkland for the first time. They are going to drive to the train station and hop on the train—50 cents in and 50 cents out. They are going somewhere they have not been to. It is great that many people will take the chance to go to places where they would not usually go to.


Progressive coal royalties are helping preserve a 20 per cent discount on car registration for notices issued between 5 August this year and August next year. That is 20 per cent off your trailer, your bike and your car registration. What a great cost-of-living relief measure that is for ordinary working-class and middle-class families.

Progressive coal royalties are helping to deliver a big cost-of-living relief measure—the \$200 kids sports voucher. They are really important in my area. There is no more means testing. For every kid in Queensland between the age of five and 17, get out your Medicare card, go online to FairPlay and register. You will be sent the voucher and then you send it onto your registered sporting club. You can save \$200 for each kid. That is a huge relief for the parents I talk to. They get really excited about that.

Progressive coal royalties are helping to deliver the cost-of-living relief measure of free TAFE—over 80 courses, I believe, are now free. Some of them once cost over \$25,000. What a great cost-of-living relief for people as well. Let's not forget \$1,000 for first-year apprentices to help them buy tools. That is another great cost-of-living relief measure for them.

In my area free kindy is always popular. The last year of kindy before you go into prep is now free—15 hours of kindy a week is now paid for all those families who are taking their child to early childhood education.

In a nutshell, we need these cost-of-living relief measures because they are the biggest priorities for our ordinary working Queensland families. They need some help at this time. We are putting money back in their pockets because of these progressive coal royalties. We will keep doing that. I say to them that all of that is at risk under an LNP government. All of that is at risk if there is any threat to progressive coal royalties. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill 2024. There could not be a more appropriate final bill to be debated in this place in the last term of the 57th Parliament.

On this side of the House sits a Miles government that wants to keep a fair share of profits from resources owned by all Queenslanders in the hands of Queenslanders—royalties that pay for improvements to our schools like the Oakleigh State School hall that is being built in my electorate; royalties that pay for improvements to our transport like the 50-cent fares initiative and the Ferny Grove Railway Station commuter car park; and royalties that the Miles government gives back to Queenslanders through cost-of-living relief in the form of the \$1,000 power bill rebates, 20 per cent off vehicle registration and free kindy—just to name a few measures.


These royalties are at risk. The member for Broadwater stood up in front of mining executives from multibillion dollar, foreign owned companies in March at a Queensland Resources Council function. He has been given the opportunity to clarify to Queenslanders time and time again whether he will support them by locking in the Miles government's progressive coal royalties in perpetuity. Instead of giving his assurance to the people of Queensland, he effectively winked at mining executives

by telling them at that QRC function that he would give them a royalties policy that they 'will be able to take to the bank'.

It is my view that this and other statements by shadow ministers show where the LNP's priorities lie—not with the hardworking families of Queensland but with mining executives at the top end of town. Without this bill that is before the House today, it is my view that the LNP would rip billions of dollars worth of services for Queenslanders out of the budget. When billions are ripped from Queenslanders' public purse by the LNP, we know what comes next. We have seen this all before. We saw LNP cuts right across the board when they were last in power.

In my portfolio alone, the Leader of the Opposition sat around the cabinet table with Campbell Newman and helped to cut Agriculture and Fisheries to shreds. Had it not been for the progressive coal royalties, we would not have been able to replace the 26 per cent cut to jobs on Queensland's biosecurity front line. We would not have been able to replace the 28 per cent cut to fisheries jobs. We would not have been able to replace the 44 jobs axed from the fight against fire ants and a total of more than 600 jobs cut from my department.

That is without taking into consideration their cuts to health, education, training and transport that saw 14,000 Queenslanders lose their jobs. That is what is at stake at this election. In my opinion, that is what is at stake if the LNP get their way with progressive coal royalties. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.25 pm), in reply: I want to thank those members of the House who have contributed to this debate, particularly those members of the parliamentary Labor Party—those members of the government who are proud to support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. As I predicted when I introduced the bill, the LNP are going to grit their teeth and wave this bill through. As much as they hate what they have to do with progressive coal royalties, the LNP do not want to admit it to the people of Queensland. They will cross their fingers, make the phone calls, apologise to the coal lobby and then let the bill go through.

What has become crystal clear from the contributions of the LNP members we heard through the debate is that, while the LNP say they will vote in support of this bill, their comments throughout the debate reveal their true intentions. Just as Queenslanders cannot trust the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, to give a straight answer on any question because he is addicted to secrecy, you simply cannot trust the LNP on coal royalties. That is my view. Just like the leader of the LNP, those opposite say one thing and then do another—which is what they will do on coal royalties regardless of what they said in the debate.

The member for Toowoomba South opened the opposition's debate contribution saying the LNP would support the bill and then he could not help himself. He said—

From the very beginning, we have called the government out for what this was. It was a deceitful plan ...

From the start, in my view, they have never, ever supported these progressive coal royalties and that ran through every single speech of members of the LNP. This was followed up by opposition members who revealed the LNP's true intentions. They took great delight during the debate in saying the quiet bit out loud. Almost without exception all members of the LNP who spoke in this debate took great pleasure in condemning progressive coal royalties and what progressive coal royalties meant for Queensland. Members of this House should never forget the Leader of the Opposition's recent comment on Sky News when he said—

I want the mining industry to be free from a government that's constantly looking to find new ways to tax and regulate them.

There is one thing you can trust about the Leader of the Opposition: when he speaks on Sky News, he is telling the truth. Every member of this House knows that. Queenslanders should never forget what the Leader of the Opposition said. It is no wonder that in this most crucial and important debate the LNP leader was nowhere to be seen. In this debate the LNP leader did not have the courage of his convictions. He could not come into the House and speak on the bill. We know his true intentions. Everyone on this side of the House on the government benches know the true intentions of the Leader of the Opposition which is why he did not come into the House and reveal himself on this important issue.

No matter what the Leader of the Opposition says, no matter what the LNP say or how they vote, it is my view—it is my belief—that the LNP will take the progressive coal royalties of Queenslanders and hand them back to mining companies. While the LNP say they support the bill, history shows the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP say one thing and do another. It was not so long ago in this

House that the Leader of the Opposition said he and the LNP supported a Queensland Path to Treaty. Member after member of the LNP came into this House and spoke in full-throated support of a Queensland Path to Treaty. Then, driven by craven political opportunism and moral cowardice, the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, betrayed First Nations Queenslanders.

Government members: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from government members. It is not only a shame; it is a disgrace. The First Nations people of Queensland know, just as all Queenslanders know, that, when it comes to the leader of the LNP, David Crisafulli, his vote and his word mean nothing. This is a party that before the 2015 election said the Public Service had nothing to fear and then gutted it. That is what they said. They said one thing and did another—sacking 14,000 people, cutting frontline services and leaving communities and families devastated. As we heard from our Premier this morning, they have never apologised for the devastation they caused to Queenslanders and Queensland families. This is a party led by the Leader of the Opposition who, before the 2015 election, addressed trade unionists concerned about asset sales and said—

We are not selling the poles and the wires, but we have a big debt issue we have to deal with and I only wish that yelling and screaming would fix it.

Then the LNP went to the election with a \$37 billion asset sales plan that included selling the poles and wires, and I believe they will do it again. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have voted against our energy asset public ownership targets in this term.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance to the long title of the bill. We are talking about things that have nothing to do with the coal royalties 'keep them in the bank' bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I do not need any assistance while I am considering the point of order. I will take some advice. Thank you for your point of order. We generally will allow ministers to respond to points that have been made during the debate. It is difficult with the rotation of Speakers to be across everything that has been said during the debate. I would ask the Treasurer to be mindful of that and either respond directly to things that were said in the debate or come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DICK: The Miles Labor government backs the hardworking men and women of the mining industry who risk their lives every day to mine the resources Queenslanders own and to deliver royalties to all Queenslanders. During the debate, opposition members said in one breath that they were proud supporters of mine industry workers but in another breath showed their true colours when it comes to the unions that represent those very workers that they claim to support. Some opposition members said during the debate that members on this side of the House were 'ill-informed puppets of unions'.

Mr Stevens: Correct.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who has complete disregard for the hardworking mine workers in this state and the unions that represent them. Members of the LNP went on to say that the government was taking money under false pretences as union puppets. I will say this in the House today: I am proud to be a member of the Australian Workers' Union, and I know that every single member on this side of the House is proud to be a member of a union. Members of the government, members of the state parliamentary Labor Party, members of our caucus: we are not puppets; we are proud trade unionists and we are proud to proclaim that in the parliament.

I am proud to be part of a government that introduced industrial manslaughter laws, safer mining regulations and laws to address labour hire agreements. These were opposed by the member for Mermaid Beach and all of those members opposite. We did that so mineworkers—whom the LNP professes to support—could continue to have the good wages, conditions and safety at work that they deserve. Again, the LNP says one thing but does another in the parliament—voting against those very measures that keep workers safe and protected in the mines of Queensland.

During the debate, the member for Toowoomba South asked for an itemised list of where the progressive coal royalties have been spent in regional Queensland. There is a list—or, rather, documents—that reveal this spend. Our government's revenue and expenditure are clearly explained across the almost 1,700 pages of budget information, including four budget papers, Service Delivery Statements for each department, regional action plans, a budget overview document and a women's budget statement. As the most decentralised state, our government delivers what matters for regional Queenslanders, regardless of how much is generated through progressive coal royalties.

This financial year, the \$8.6 billion in royalties makes up less than 10 per cent of total government revenue. Meanwhile, \$15.9 billion, or 70 per cent of our infrastructure spend, is outside of Greater Brisbane, directly supporting 50,000 jobs—many of them in LNP regional electorates. The 2024-25 budget update also outlined a range of investments across regional Queensland that were supported by coal royalties, including: \$210 million to temporarily double the First Home Owner Grant to \$30,000 for eligible first home purchases until 30 June 2025; \$100 million to boost the 2024-2027 Works for Queensland round for a total round of \$300 million so regional councils can deliver more local infrastructure; an additional \$79 million for a new mental health facility in Rockhampton; \$70 million to increase the Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund; an additional \$30 million for the Backing Bush Communities Fund for workforce training and invasive species management and community projects; up to \$30 million to accelerate development of resource projects in the North West Minerals Province in the next five years; and up to \$20 million for an economic structural adjustment package for Mount Isa and North-West Queensland which the Minister for State Development announced today.

During the debate the member for Burdekin said that he would stand up every day to ensure his electorate got a fair slice of the pie when it came to coal royalties. This is from a member of this House who voted to destroy the community of Glenden; this is a man who professes to stand up for mining communities but voted to destroy the town of Glenden.

Under the so-called Royalties for the Regions program, the Mackay and Isaac region received 12 per cent of the funding despite contributing over half of the state's royalties. That is what they did when they were in government. Again, this is the LNP saying one thing and doing another. The North and Central West received 4.5 per cent of funding despite contributing nine per cent of royalties. The independent Auditor-General found that the LNP's so-called Royalties for the Regions program was 'more likely to fund projects in LNP electorates'. How typical of the LNP, with their politicking of their so-called Royalties for the Regions fund. The independent Auditor-General went on to say—

... it remains unclear what actual criteria were used to decide what projects were to be funded.

That is how the LNP treats public money. The member for Burdekin said that he stands up for his electorate when it comes to roads. We are 44 days out from an election. Will the member for Burdekin demand an election commitment for more investment into Bowen Basin roads or will he turn his back on the region, just like he turned his back on the people of Glenden?

One person who has not turned their back on the Bowen Basin in her entire life and in her public life as well is Anne Baker, the former mayor of Isaac Regional Council and the Labor candidate for Burdekin. She has long advocated for better Bowen Basin roads, including strengthening and widening of the Peak Downs Highway and the Dysart Middlemount Road. These roads are used every day by our coal communities and resources companies. That is why Labor has made a coal roads community commitment. If elected, we will invest \$157 million in upgrades, funded through additional borrowings made possible by progressive coal royalties.

Enough of the crocodile tears from the member for Burdekin and the rest of the members of the LNP about not spending royalties in regional Queensland. We will put our investment in regional Queensland—the billions of dollars we have put into regional Queensland funded by progressive coal royalties or supported by coal royalties—against their pathetic attempt to politicise royalties when they were in government.

All our investment in regional Queensland, in hospitals, including the Moranbah Hospital, in roads and in cost-of-living measures is at risk under the LNP. That is my view, and I know so many Queenslanders support that same view. This debate has revealed the LNP wants to give that money back to coal companies. That is my view, and nothing will dissuade me from that view and nothing I heard from members of the LNP during the course of this debate will dissuade me from that view.

Queenslanders need to know that our coal royalties are in danger under the LNP which means one thing and one thing alone: the plan of the leader of the LNP to cut. They have done it before, they will do it again, and it is exactly the pace that Queenslanders now understand—the leader of the LNP who has promised to spend more, to cut revenue and to lower debt. The only way you take a square and turn it into a circle is to cut.

I also refer to correspondence earlier this year regarding complaints from the member for Nanango. I understand the member for Nanango has said that she did not personally close units at the Tarong Power Station. I accept that and withdraw my statement to the contrary and I apologise if I have inadvertently misled the House.

In conclusion, I say this: Queensland's mining and resource industry has never been stronger, and it has never been stronger under the stewardship of an Australian Labor Party government in Queensland. Despite the member for Toowoomba South's false assertions, I add that Queensland has maintained its best ever global ranking in overall mining investment attractiveness for the second year in a row, according to the independent Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies. Since progressive coal royalties were introduced, the sector has grown, both in capital expenditure and in jobs, and we are proud to have been that government in Queensland that has seen the growth in capital investment and in jobs in not only the coal industry but also in mining more generally across the state. The number of workers in Queensland's coalmines is now almost 20 per cent above the level of June 2022 prior to the introduction of new progressive coal royalties.

Our progressive coal royalties are delivering what Queenslanders deserve. This bill ensures they are protected from any future LNP government. If the LNP want to change the rates and hand back what belongs to Queenslanders, then the LNP will need to come into this House, the people's house, and explain why they want to sell out the people of Queensland. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.43 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.43 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

VALEDICTORY

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.44 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, fellow members of parliament, family, friends, guests in the gallery and residents of the Redlands Coast and elsewhere who are watching online, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve in the role as the state member for Cleveland—Oodgeroo—in the Queensland parliament over the last 15 years. It was a big decision to run for parliament in the first place, to change profession at age 45, and then to decide to finish the race after five terms was equally as big a decision. I have had a good run. I have given it my best. I have achieved a lot of what I set out to do. I am glad to be leaving on my own terms and in my own timing, and to pass the baton on to a good female runner, as I said I would try to do.

Today for me is mostly about saying thank you and farewell, and to make just a few reflections rather than going through a long list of things. I want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation for all those who have made my service possible. Let me begin my thankyou.

I want to pay special tribute firstly to my family. First to my wife, Julie, and with the indulgence of the House and permission of the Opposition Whip, I sing—

And here's to you, Mrs Robinson

Jesus loves you more than you will know

Whoa, whoa, whoa

God bless you, please, Mrs Robinson

Heaven holds a place for those who pray

Hey, hey, hey

Hey, hey, hey ...

Sorry to put the House through all of that! For the love of my life to stand with me in this political chapter has been amazing. I literally live with an angel, at the very least a saint, and we are coming up to our 40-year anniversary next year—25 years in pastoral, chaplaincy, community development work in Asia and education work together, and 15 years in politics. Both chapters have been incredibly demanding on her, and I thank her for the sacrifices she has made for this to happen.

My family members have also been incredibly supportive. If you know me, you know that my family is important and central to everything. I am so grateful for each of them, all now young adults: Ben, Mitch, Laura, Mel, Joe, Susannah and Isaac. Yes, that is seven, and that is apparently how we get the numbers in the Christian Right. Somebody said biological growth is easier than membership recruitment. Four of our adult children have produced five beautiful grandchildren—Eli, Oscar, Roman, Meeka and Adelynn—all created just for Poppy and Grandma to play with and then to hand back as needed. I also want to thank my mum, Lauris, and mother-in-law, Claire.

I also thank the many community organisations, sporting clubs, chambers of commerce, Redland City councillors, school communities, volunteers, small businesses, church and charitable groups—all those who make our local community a better place in which to live, work, play, raise a family and retire.

I wish to take a moment to thank my staff, particularly Sue Hanlon, who has been my senior EO for 15 years, and she has served over 50 years in the Parliamentary Service. I also thank my AEO staff now and the many over time, too many to name. I also thank the parliamentary staff here. I also thank the many local LNP supporters and volunteers, ably led by chair Chris Reeves, and I would like to thank previous chairs and teams over the 15 years, again too many to name.

I want to acknowledge Henry Pike, our federal member of parliament for the Redlands—Bowman—who has hit the ground running in his first of what I believe will be many terms.

I want to also acknowledge and blame Fiona Simpson and Shane Knuth for their roles in talking me into running for parliament at a weak moment in between jobs. I jest, but they did have an involvement.

I also want to thank Amanda Stoker for making herself available to run in the 2024 election as the endorsed LNP candidate for Oodgeroo. Amanda will create history if she wins by becoming the first female MP for the Cleveland or Oodgeroo seat, on either side of politics, in the 30-plus years of the history of the seat. I wish her all the best and a long career in state parliament.

I wish to also acknowledge other Redlands Coast candidates—Rebecca Young for Redlands, Susanna Damianopoulos for Springwood, and Russell Field for Capalaba for making themselves available to run and serve. I wish them every success on 26 October.

I want to especially acknowledge Russell Field. Walking around with him among thousands of people at the annual RedFest show in Cleveland on Saturday was like walking with royalty. Many people came up to pay their respects. I have never been so popular! But it takes an incredible strength to go through what he and Ann have and to put your hand up to do something to bring about change. I saw a similar tenacity in Paul Stanley, whose son, Matthew Stanley, died in an act of violence just before I began my time in parliament. Paul and I become friends. He went on to make a powerful contribution to public life via the Matthew Stanley Foundation and the 'One Punch Can Kill' and 'Walk Away Chill Out' campaigns. I want to acknowledge the late Paul Stanley's contribution to public life and his impact on me as a new MP at that time. Sadly, in the last 10 years youth crime has gotten worse, not better.

I want to thank LNP leader David Crisafulli for the opportunities he has given me for higher service. I wish him all the best on 26 October. I want to also thank my Christian pastors at Favor Church Brisbane, the recently retired Chris and Beverley Aiton. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement to run and serve. I also wish to place on record my thanks to God. I think people know that I am a Christian and a pastor. God has given me strength and patience in this work every day. 'To those who choose to believe,' He says, 'my grace is sufficient for you.' I have found that to be true. His grace and

goodness, prayer and faith have been a great source of strength and motivation to me. It has not always been that way, as I grew up in a non-religious setting and found my faith in my university years.

Mr Speaker, you can understand my concern, as a person of faith, that we still do not have anti-discrimination laws at the federal level to protect people of faith from acts of discrimination. Despite the election promise of the Albanese government, there is still not an act, like the Racial Discrimination Act or the Sex Discrimination Act, for one of the main protected attributes—a person's faith. So faith communities all across our nation remain unprotected. We also see faith-based schools and other organisations—Jewish, Muslim, Christian and others—being attacked by woke laws like the respect at work laws that passed the House this week that actually show no respect for faith-based schools and workplaces. I call on the Prime Minister Albanese today to get on with it and introduce the promised legislation so that people of faith are protected by anti-discrimination laws, not attacked by them.

Critically, I want to thank the residents of the Cleveland area, including North Stradbroke Island, for putting their faith in me and the LNP over five elections. I want to thank the diverse cultural groups for their support, including the Quandamooka people. In moving on, my greatest regret will be that I will not have the same time to be with the people I have come to deeply respect and appreciate, even though we will remain living locally.

I am immensely proud of my record of service in the Queensland parliament. I am proud to have been elected five times, the first time in 2009, as the first ever conservative for Cleveland. Re-elected in 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2020, I got great personal satisfaction from those campaigns. This dispels the woke myth that people of Christian faith, who have traditional family values and who are social conservatives cannot win city seats here in Brisbane.

I was proud to serve in frontbench roles as the shadow minister for main roads, fisheries and marine infrastructure. My Bachelor of Science in marine biology, some studies in fisheries at James Cook University and being a regular boatie and recreational fisherman came in handy. As Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, working with Fiona Simpson—the first female Speaker of the Queensland parliament—and doing some of the Commonwealth parliament work, meeting prime ministers and world leaders, was an incredible honour. I have greatly enjoyed my current role as shadow assistant minister for multicultural communities and international student education. My 25 years in community development in and out of the Asia-Pacific region before politics, working with people of Asian culture and faith, my Masters study at Griffith University and my doctoral research PhD at the University of Queensland in Asian and international studies were incredibly valuable to me for these roles.

I have served on various committees. Tennis Queensland was one of my most enjoyable roles. I was the inaugural co-chair, together with the late Duncan Pegg, of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis Queensland. Being a tennis tragic myself, it was a lot of fun playing in the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis Cup and winning the prized cup on two occasions. I think it was more like a prized cap and a tin of balls! It was in the Tennis Queensland co-chair role that I had three of my most memorable moments. Meeting Australian tennis legends on separate occasions—tennis stars I had idolised since childhood—Rod Laver, the 'Rockhampton Rocket'; Margaret Court, the greatest female tennis player of all time; and Evonne Goolagong Cawley were incredible highlights.

I table a list of some of my key achievements over 15 years. I am proud of my record of achievements, including the Redland Hospital emergency department expansion, the palliative care service at Redland Hospital, the new Cleveland Ambulance Station, various school facilities, road upgrades and other transport commitments, boat ramps and other marine infrastructure, to name a few things.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Mark Robinson: some key achievements' [\[1832\]](#).

Sadly, much more needs to be done to get a smaller Toondah Harbour back on track and the Dunwich Harbour development underway. North Stradbroke Island residents, businesses and registered training organisations need a better deal than the 'Trad-broke Island' plan that has failed them.

I have also fought for pro-family values like improving maternity services at Redland Hospital and increasing counselling support for women with unplanned pregnancies. The woke fixation with promoting abortion services that is resulting in an increase in late-term abortion in this state and healthy babies being born alive and left to die is clearly another wrong priority.

In my inaugural speech I referenced former US president John F Kennedy and his citing of Psalm 127:1 in his address to world leaders. The scripture says—

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.


These words are there in the stained glass windows of this very parliament building. I agree with the notion of the former president of the United States, and with this Queensland parliament, that members of parliament are the watch men and women who stand on the walls—we are the guardians and protectors of the people—but, further, that without reliance upon almighty God, who is our help, we may find that we watch and labour in vain.

I close with a prayer for all those who will be MPs in the 58th Queensland parliament—a prayer spoken by a former king of Israel for his people who at that time, thousands of years ago, lived in an expanded Israel in the Middle East. He prayed in 1 Kings 3:9—

So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?

This is my prayer for those who will be in the 58th Parliament: that to govern the great people of Queensland you will have a discerning heart and distinguish between right and wrong. May God bless you all.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

 **Mr ZANOW** (Ipswich West—LNP) (4.58 pm): A famous quote by Charles Dickens reflects the highs and lows of life: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.' In my case, this truly represents 2024. There are moments in life when we look back and realise that the year was a roller-coaster—a roller-coaster of soaring highs and crushing lows. The highs make you feel you can touch the sky but the lows definitely ground you. They certainly ground you, yet it is in those lows that you discover who you are and what you are capable of. Every peak you climb seems higher after surviving the valleys. That is the rhythm of life: highs and lows but always forward. Looking back on my short parliamentary career, these words could not be more fitting.

Let's start with the lows or, should I say, low—singular. It was an emotionally debilitating time being told your time is most likely going to be cut severely short, especially when you are beginning a new stage of your life—in my case, the second stage of my life, becoming a politician post 32 years of running the family business. Nevertheless after the initial shock, as always in life, we take stock and we make a plan to move forward.

From this negative comes a number of positives. Firstly, my health condition is now well understood and has been discovered early. This is the key to managing it and potentially, with the miracle of modern medicine, even possibly curing it. Had I not put my hand up to run for the Ipswich West by-election I probably would still be putting up with the symptoms, all the while with things progressing in the wrong direction. At this point I would like to give sincere thanks to the people—hundreds of people—who have reached out to me with their kind words of encouragement, heartfelt sympathy and, in some cases, empathy. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the people of Ipswich West, I say that I will still be around for a while yet helping our community wherever I can. Being born and bred in Ipswich, I can attest to the fact that it has a huge heart. It has true community spirit. Ipswich was to be the capital of Queensland. However, the ships got larger, but the Bremer River did not. It was then trumped by Brisbane. Might I say, in recent years—and for many more to come—Ipswich has been the epicentre of growth and is one of the most vibrant areas in Australia. Ipswich is more than just a provincial city. It is a vital component in managing the rapid growth in the immediate past and well into the future.

Ipswich has the youngest population of any place in South-East Queensland. It is currently undergoing a paradigm shift that will transform it into a modern, vibrant metropolis of more than half a million people during the next 20 years. Huge growth requires serious government investment and that is exactly what Ipswich has not been getting. Whilst Ipswich is the fastest growing city, it was ranked ninth in investment in the 2023 state government budget. Successive governments have taken Ipswich for granted. This fact is exactly why I put up my hand earlier this year to run for Ipswich West.

At this point I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, Mr David Crisafulli, for pushing me in that direction. I was sick to death of seeing Ipswich miss out and in the last 12 months, despite having three ministers and an assistant minister from Ipswich, we still do not have the state government commitment to the investment Ipswich seriously needs. It was only during the by-election when things were starting to look a bit shaky for those opposite that the current state government started promising: firstly, \$10 million for the redevelopment of the North Ipswich Reserve, which was requested many years ago. This commitment was the final hurdle to unlocking a total of \$40 million for this project—

\$10 million from council and \$20 million from the federal government. I can safely say it was the pressure applied by the LNP in the Ipswich West by-election that triggered this sudden change of heart. After the previous Labor member for Ipswich West fought for many years for the Mount Crosby interchange upgrade, finally it was included in this budget.

The disappointing reaction to the fight against fire ants is astounding. They are totally out of control in Ipswich West. For far too long not enough has been done to address this serious environmental problem. Not enough has been done. I understand there is a recently devised practical plan to tackle them, but it should not have been allowed to get to this level of infestation in the first place. Areas currently severely infested with fire ants are critical to our food security. There is no doubt that government has not taken the biosecurity threat of fire ants seriously. Farmers are frustrated with the restrictions that have been placed on them within the fire ant zone. This is leading to reduced incomes for many farmers in the Ipswich West electorate causing severe financial burden. The government has dropped the ball on this issue.

Youth crime is another major problem facing our community. This is now at a point where people in my electorate are fearful for their safety. Whether they are walking down the street, shopping or relaxing in their home, the youth crime crisis just seems to be getting worse. It is clear that the watering down of the laws in 2015 has been the catalyst for the problems we face in our community today. Once again, government has failed us. However, it is time for change and Ipswich is a changing place. The median age for Ipswich residents is just 33. Young families make up half of the 80,000 households. These Australians are aspirational people who have come to Ipswich in search of an affordable new home to buy to secure their future. They want a government with hope and action.

I have met many new Ipswich and Ipswich West residents during this year whilst getting around the electorate and the same issues are playing out. They are fearful for their safety and security. From youth crime to cost of living, they are all feeling the pressure. The same applies when I have been visiting schools in Ipswich West, visiting CWAs, churches, RSLs, shopping centres, businesses, childcare centres and many not-for-profit organisations that are doing their very best to serve their community. It is just not good enough. I take this opportunity to salute each and every person who gives their time freely to help their fellow humans. I could list 500 names of great people in the Ipswich West community who give their time and effort thanklessly to serve their community. You are the true spirit of our great community. We are eternally grateful and very proud of each and every one of you.

During my time as member for Ipswich West—in the 5½ months—we have achieved a lot. This includes: donating 40 hampers to community groups; assisting over 30 Seniors Card applications; sponsoring the petition for the upgrade of the dangerous intersection of Haigslea Amberley Road and Schultzs Road on the Warrego Highway, a petition that attracted 2,647 signatures; addressing 27 walk-in inquiries for social housing; referring 15 people to free legal service, including three suspected elder abuse victims; and assisting countless people with various issues, including electoral roll applications, public transport concerns, road network problems and assistance with go cards. We also referred countless reports regarding crime impacts on our community to the right authorities. We have given out fire ant baits including information on how to treat them, and assisted many community groups seeking assistance for grant applications and seeking volunteers and general assistance to keep them functioning for our community. We have also, in my short time, devised short-, mid-term and long-term plans for the electorate including prioritisation of the delivery of critical resources and infrastructure for the Ipswich West region, something that I know we will continue with.

Upon reflection, there has been much accomplished and I have great hope for all that lies ahead for Ipswich West. As community leaders, we must strive to unite everyone under common hope. What has been accomplished is a collective effort of the Ipswich West office that I lead. Georgia Toft, my electorate officer, has been a tower of strength and with her local knowledge and understanding, she will make a brilliant LNP member for Ipswich West. Georgia was born and bred in Ipswich and achieved the highest of accolades during her schooling years at the West Moreton Anglican College. Georgia is a very grounded person and certainly understands the challenges facing our community. I call on each and every person in Ipswich West to support Georgia in next month's election. I know she will serve our electorate with due diligence and determination and will deliver what is urgently needed for our community. I would also like to thank my support staff Lynne Anderson, Brenda Berry and Kami Mutzelberg. I say a huge thankyou to you. The Ipswich West office, might I say, is now a well-oiled machine, serving the good people of the Ipswich West region. Thank you for your dedication and unwavering commitment.

There are many challenges that lie ahead in Ipswich West. It is unfortunate that loss of life has occurred in our region through youth crime and underresourced health services. I would like to

acknowledge the late Vyleen White and Wayne Irving in this respect. We mourn the loss of these great people in our community. We also mourn the loss of people in the Ipswich region to suicide and traffic accidents. What I have learnt during my time in office is about the need to educate the community in all respects at all levels. I have no doubt education is the key to fixing the many problems our society faces. We need to encourage parents to give their children every opportunity to be educated by our schools and to educate their children outside of school at home.

We need to educate people to seek the right avenues for health care, in particular mental health services. These services need to be more easily accessible. We need to educate people of the everyday dangers on our roads. We know that education will drive down crime and criminal activity. All of this is achievable with a combination of the right inputs from government and community working together to make our communities safer, healthier and happier.

I must take this opportunity to thank my LNP colleagues for their help and support during my tenure. I am extremely impressed with their skill sets, focus, commitment, passion and drive. I have never met a group of people who are so dedicated to get to a goal of 26 October. I wish each and every one of them the very best. I know they will make a great government if given the opportunity next month, if the Queensland people vote them in. In particular, I give thanks to our leader and my immediate colleagues the members for Lockyer, Callide, Nanango and Scenic Rim. I would also like to recognise my federal counterparts—the federal member for Bonner, Ross Vasta, and Senator Paul Scarr—who have helped me during my time.

To my family—to my mum Kay, my brother Brad, my daughter Lola and mum Kacie—you are my everything and I thank you for your unwavering love and support. To my friends, thank you for the good times. May there be many more. So many of you have been there by my side for a long time.

To the Ipswich Show Society team, in particular our Senior Vice-President Paul Casos, this year's show proved to the people of Ipswich your true commitment to this important annual event. You produced the best show we have ever presented—congratulations—and you did it with a phantom president. Thanks also to the show society executive board members, all with excellent longstanding connections to our community and a firm commitment to ensuring the longevity of this great 151-year-old institution. Thanks also to my Australia-wide show family. To so many of you from agricultural shows right across Australia and the Showmen's Guild of Australasia members, thank you for your support and dedication to the show movement. I look forward to attending many more shows with you.

Most importantly, I give thanks to the great people of Ipswich West. Thank you for voting for change in the March election and putting your faith and trust in me to lead our community. I have worked to the best of my ability to serve you and represent you in this House. There is much more work that needs to be done and I ask that you support Georgia Toft in the October election to ensure the continuity of strong representation and the rolling out of our plan for our region. There are many challenges that lay ahead and I can assure you that Georgia will not let you down.

In closing, great moments are born from great opportunity, and that is what the people of Ipswich have right here and right now. If you want change, vote for it. The LNP candidates for the four Ipswich seats are outstanding. Give them a go. It is time for change. Embrace it. I will finish where I started, with a quote or two. Babe Ruth said—

It's hard to beat a person who never gives up.

And Arnold Schwarzenegger said—

I'll be back.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (5.13 pm): Mr Speaker—

Respect is earned, honesty is appreciated, trust is gained and loyalty is always returned.

That is a quote I got from former member for Burdekin Rosemary Menkens in her valedictory speech. I used that quote in my maiden speech and have used it every time in the address-in-reply since I have been here. I have always tried to live by that quote in parliament and my time as the member for Gregory.

There are so many people to thank who have supported my journey as the member for Gregory: my wife, Peta; my children, Lucy, Ellie and Poppy; and my grandson, Archer. While we volunteer for these positions, they are conscripts and they miss out on so much.

I have been so lucky with my staff. I have had the same staff that the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, had with Nicki Heslin and Laura Nolan. They have stayed with me all the way. I was very lucky. Nicki and Laura have been by my side and guided me. I could not ask for a better journey. I would also like to acknowledge Larissa Burnett, Alyisa Rutledge and Alex Scott, and of course recently departed but very important people to me are Julie Little and Kerry Lee Ferguson. They have worked in my office and they have done a great job. Nicki has been my organiser in making sure that I am somewhere I need to be, to make sure that I am—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: Very hard! Laura has been the brains behind what I have been saying, so thank you very much.

I also want to thank the opposition staff, led by Richard Ferret. Thank you, Richard; you have done a great job. To the Manager of Opposition Business, Andrew Powell: thank you, mate. To our whips, Mark Boothman and Pat Weir: thank you so much for what you have done over the last term, and especially to you, Pat. You have been a good mate.

To Neil Laurie and the fantastic parliamentary staff, especially security, catering and the cleaning staff: you make this place a home away from home, so thank you very much.

You cannot be the member for Gregory without the support of your local area. I want to thank Sonia and Guy Burton. Sonia is my SEC chair and has worked with me and supported me while I have been in this job. I would also like to thank Rosemary and Warwick Champion from Longreach, John and Joanne Milne, and Bruce and Helen Collins in Winton along with John and Katrina Paine from Winton. I also want to thank Sonia and Peter Doyle in Blackall; Brett Walsh in Barcardine; the Dillion family in Alpha; the Vella family from the Gemfields; Ian Burnett in Emerald; and of course a very close mate of mine, Ross and Andrea Drayton from Emerald. Thank you very much. Thanks also to the Enwitch family from Blackwater and Colin and Katherine Dunne from Dauringa.

Over the past 10 years we have sadly lost some significant people who have guided me through this position: the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson OAM; Andy Cowper from Aramac; John Enwitch from Blackwater; and Mike Burns—a life member of the LNP—from Emerald.

I also want to pay tribute to my federal colleagues the former member for Maranoa, Bruce Scott, and the current member and Leader of the National Party, David Littleproud. Thank you for your support and thank you for your friendship. Thanks also to Ken O'Dowd, the former member for Flynn, and the current member for Flynn, Colin Boyce. Thank you so much for all of your support.

I also want to thank the leaders that I have served under: Lawrence Springborg when I first came here; John-Paul Langbroek; Tim Nicholls; Deb Frecklington; Tim Mander; of course now David Crisafulli and Jarrod Bleijie; and I cannot forget David Janetzki. You have done well.

The electorate of Gregory is a wealth creation region for the state's economy—Mitchell grass plains, gidgee, mulga country in the west producing the state's best cattle and beef, wool and sheep production and some of the best grazing and prime agricultural land that you will find, with the Central Highlands producing cattle, beef, cotton, grain and horticulture. It is really the salad bowl. The electorate of Gregory is basically an economic contributor to this state and it has done a great job. It has been an absolute privilege to see so many industries created and continue in the Central Highlands. You cannot get a better electorate. Of course I am biased and everybody here thinks that they have the best electorate, but I know that many on this side and the other side who visit the seat of Gregory love it. It certainly punches well above its weight and it does a great job in producing not only trade but also royalties, and we have had that discussion today.

On that note, we have to make sure that we spend those royalty moneys back where they came from. Not to get too political, because this is a valedictory speech, but I note that the Treasurer is here. You have to get the Blackwater Rolleston Road fixed. That is a danger at the moment. I have been on that road and I honestly believe that we are going to see a tragedy there soon. The Lilyvale Road going out to Kestrel and those others mines needs to be fixed. The Treasurer and the resources minister are here. You have to put that on your list because we have hardworking men and women who work in the mines who need a safe journey to work and a safe journey home and those roads are not great.

I know that the member for Callide is here, and we both have to deal with the Dawson Highway. The best way to drive on the Dawson Highway is to wear a helmet in your car because you are going to hit the roof all the time. Seriously, it is a disgrace and we certainly need to fix that up.

There have obviously been some great times in the seat of Gregory as the member for Gregory. I have had almost 10 years here, and it has been a privilege and an honour. I have had some fantastic

opportunities to catch up with my colleagues here and take them out there. I would like to mention one trip I had with David Janetzki when he first became the shadow Attorney-General and we went out to Yaraka and Isisford. I do not think he has forgiven me for that yet. I know that the police minister is here, but I was probably just a touch over the speed limit to try to get to a place on time. David thought I was flying. We had to get to the Isisford pub by lunchtime to have a steak sandwich. The steak sandwich at the Isisford pub is two pieces of white bread with a rib fillet in the middle.

I am pretty sure the opposition leader has also not forgiven me. When he first became Leader of the Opposition I took him out west to Longreach. I am not sure if the Leader of the Opposition is too good on small planes—especially a Dash 8 in the middle of summer experiencing turbulence. It was not a great trip for him. To make things worse, I put him straight from the Dash 8 into an R44, piloted by a good mate of mine, Tim Rayner, who used to run helicopters up there, in the middle of summer to travel 100 kilometres. I am pretty sure I was not the most popular bloke at the time and I do want to apologise for that.

Tony Perrett is a good mate. We have only had one argument and it was my fault. Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, was a part of this. She jumped me on a speech where I was giving a tribute to Father Dan from Emerald, who I was very close to. I blamed Tony for it. It was my fault. Fiona jumped and I am sorry. It looked like we were going to have a brawl down here in front of Fiona giving a speech. So sorry about that, mate.


No matter what side of politics you are on, we have to have an appreciation for areas in the seat of Gregory. There needs to be more appreciation for the gem fields and opal fields in my electorate. We have a world-class resource which is sought after worldwide. We need to give the gem fields and the opal fields a little bit more respect and opportunity to expand. They are a trading opportunity for the seat of Gregory. In the seat of Gregory we have a declining population. People are leaving. While things are expanding here in the South-East we have to invest more and more in opportunities in outback Queensland to make sure that our populations do not decline. The member for Warrego faces similar issues, as do the members for Burdekin, Cook and Traeger. Those big seats face a declining population. We have to understand that we will have fly in, fly out workers, but provide opportunities for people to live and work in the local area.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College. The decision has been made. The problem is that there is a lack of agricultural and pastoral training in Queensland. I understand that we do not need the two-year courses, that is outdated, but we need to have those induction courses so we have people ready and available to work on farms. Farmers are screaming for more people to work on their farms. We need to re-establish some sort of agricultural and pastoral training in Queensland.

Finally I have to mention the person replacing me as the candidate, Sean Dillon. As many of you would know, he was the mayor of Barcaldine. I have known Sean for a long time. He is a lovely young bloke. To give you the measure of the man, he went in for preselection against me in 2014. I won the preselection, but he was my campaign manager. He was in the middle of drought, but thank God they got a burst of a storm over their place and bogged their water truck so he had a couple of weeks available and he came along and helped me out. Sean will be a fantastic candidate. I am hoping he will be the next member for Gregory. He will do a good job. He will be ready to go. He is only 42 with a young family. He is basically the same age I was when I came in here. As I say, he will be Vaughan Johnson 3.0. I was Vaughan Johnson 2.0. We have a better version now: it is 3.0. I hope Sean does well. I am looking forward to seeing Sean succeed as the member for Gregory.

There are a few people on our side retiring and also a few on the other side. I would like to acknowledge Michael Hart, the member for Burleigh. He is an excellent bloke who was very good to me, when I first started here, as my deputy chair of the infrastructure, planning and resources committee. He has always been a good mate and very helpful. He is a lovely bloke and I wish him all the best. Mark Robinson, the member for Oodgeroo, has been a great man in this place. He has always stood up for his values and I understand and respect that. Speaker, you have been a good man. I wish you all the best. You have spent a long time in this place. Your family is important to you and I wish you all the best. To the member for Sandgate, Stirling Hincliffe, thank you. You have been a good bloke. Thank you for your friendship. To the member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, thank you so much. Member for Rockhampton, Barry O'Rourke, well done, mate. I wish you all the best. Member for Mackay, Julieanne Gilbert, I wish you all the best and I hope it goes well. To all the people who have supported me, thank you so much. Apparently there is life after politics, and I am looking forward to that. I will still advocate for rural, regional and Western Queensland. I am looking forward to a bit of time on a tractor

or a header or chasing something down a paddock. Thank you so much. I wish everyone here all the best.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.26 pm): I thought long and hard for a good 30 seconds as to whether I would write a speech today and decided not to, so, I am sorry, you are going to have to listen to me rambling on for another 15 minutes, but I do promise this will be the last time. My wife is in the gallery today, as are my children, my grandchildren and my staff. I do not think my grandchildren actually know what Poppy does in this place for a living and I do not think my speech is going to add anything to their knowledge of what goes on in the parliament, but I will try.

I thought the member for Oodgeroo's contribution was very interesting when he sang to his wife. My wife's name is Sally. I just had a quick look on the internet to see what songs might be available for Sally. I do not think that any of them would be appropriate. If anybody knows the words to *Mustang Sally*, *Ride Sally Ride* or Eric Clapton's *Lay Down Sally*—and that is completely inappropriate—I will give it a crack. If not, I am sure Jarrod could probably do it for me.

When I was sworn in in 2012 my mother and father were here. Sadly, today is the anniversary of my father's passing away. He has been gone for nine years and I miss him every today. My mother, brother and sister are watching somewhere. As I thought about what I might say in my speech I thought I would have a look at my maiden speech. I would like to read part of my maiden speech because I think that sets the scene for how I have presented myself in this chamber for the last 12 and a half years. In my maiden speech I outlined my basic philosophies of life. I said—

My commitment to the people of Burleigh, to the people of Queensland and to members here present is to participate constructively in this place and to act in an honest, forthright manner, always keeping in mind the best interests of the people of the electorate of Burleigh and the people of this great state of Queensland.

...

...I place on the record my overriding philosophies of life. The opinions and decisions I make in this place will reflect those philosophies.

I believe in the right of people to make their own choices in life. Regardless of whether or not I agree with them, they have a right to their own opinion and their own choices. I believe in small government with minimal regulation. I believe in a hand up from government, not a handout. In basic terms, I believe good government needs to ensure the population is secure from interference from the action of others. If a government does just that one thing, I believe it succeeds.

One of the key choices I believe a person should be free to make is to work hard, earn a good living and improve the living standard of their family. I do not believe that they should be made to feel ashamed or, indeed, ridiculed because of that choice. I believe this great country of ours is in danger of becoming a nanny state. Presently, too many people rely on the government for handouts for survival. Previous governments have encouraged this attitude and for many people it has now become a way of life. Our ageing population cannot afford for this to continue. If we are not careful, there will not be enough taxpayers left to fund our ongoing social responsibilities.

Not much has changed in the past 12 years, I have to say.

I turn to public transport because I have been ridiculed quite a bit about my stand on light rail on the Gold Coast. In May 2012 I said—

To work, public transport must take you from where you are to where you want to go, be reasonably priced and convenient. If it is not, it does not get used and it may as well not be there. That leads me to the much discussed rapid transit system under construction on the Gold Coast.

To meet the criteria I have just discussed it is clear to me that the rapid transit system must cover the Gold Coast from one end to the other, not a small section in the middle. It must connect to other forms of transport and therefore must be linked to heavy rail and the airport. This concept can be delivered by extending the rapid transit system from Broadbeach, where it is scheduled to terminate under stage 1, to Burleigh and then out to Varsity train station. This could be stage 2, with stage 3 being the replacement of the proposed heavy rail with light rail from Varsity station to the airport using the rail corridor already designated.

Again, that was 2012. I have stuck with that throughout my whole time in this parliament.

I would like to make a few comments about the parliament in general. Members would be aware that I have been quite critical about the committee system. The committee system does not work. It just does not work and something needs to change there. If anything has reinforced my decision to leave this parliament, it has been the conduct at question time over the last two sittings. There is way too much politics going on and not enough good government. It is a nasty environment and you all need to wake up to yourselves.

I would like to thank the people of Burleigh. It has been one of the great privileges of my life to be the member for Burleigh. I have been in this place for 12 years and seven months. On 26 October it will be 4,598 days. I have made 271 speeches. Those 4,598 days make me the longest serving member for Burleigh since its inception in 1992, when it changed from South Coast. Judy Gamin was

the first member for Burleigh. She held the seat for about 10 years. Although Christine Smith was a Labor member, she is a good friend of mine. She held the seat for slightly longer than that and I have now beaten them.

I would not be leaving unless I had a really good candidate to back me up. In Hermann Vorster we will have a great member for Burleigh, if he is lucky enough to be chosen by the people of Burleigh. I have absolute faith that he will do the sort of job that I have been trying to do for the past 12 years. Along with Bianca Stone we will turn the Gold Coast blue again, as it should be. I am not going to talk about what I have achieved or what I have not achieved because they are what they are.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you personally for allowing me to be one of your deputy speakers. I wish you all the best in your retirement. I thank all of the parliamentary staff—the cleaners, the catering staff, the library staff, the security attendants and the travel, admin, IT and table staff. In particular, I thank the Clerk. When I have been in the Speaker's chair, the clerks at the table have saved my bacon a number of times. I would really like to thank those people.

I would like to congratulate all of the members who have decided to retire. I wish them all the best in the future. I would like to provide my best wishes to those who have not decided to retire but may retire at this election. I wish them all the best as well. A couple of members have asked me to speak about them. One of those was the member for Bundaberg. The only thing I have to say about the member for Bundaberg is that I think, one way or the other, he has had his last birthday cake delivered by the government jet—one way or the other. The member for Stafford wanted me to mention him. I have nothing to say.

I have a lot of friends on this side of the House. The LNP team is a great team. We all stick together. We all have each other's backs. We have worked as one for the past nine or 10 years that we have been in opposition. For the past four years we have done a fantastic job of sticking together and taking care of each other.

I would like to make special mention of Tim Nicholls and Deb Frecklington. As leaders, they put me into the shadow cabinet. That was a great experience and I thoroughly enjoyed that position. I also acknowledge Lawrence Springborg. I will paraphrase some words from the *House of the Dragon*: those people are premiers who never were. I think the people of Queensland have missed out by not having them as premiers of the state.

We will have an LNP premier of this state in David Crisafulli and a deputy premier in Jarrod. They and their team are going to have a massive job to fix the mess that this government has left the state in. That is about the only political thing that I have to say.

My mobile number is not changing. Everyone on this side of House has it. A couple on that side have it and they can lose it; that is all right. Those on this side may keep it, and if they need my assistance in some way then I am happy to contribute as much as I can.

Turning to the opposition office, to Richard and his team, I thank you for your support—and I acknowledge previous chiefs of staff. We cannot do the job that we do without our staff. I thank my local campaign managers, Mark Henry, Darren MacIntosh, David Pourre and Zac Reveer. In my previous life as an aircraft engineer with East-West Airlines and Ansett and then running a chain of businesses, I found that the best way you can run a business is to hire the right people and then let them do their job. I have done that.

A few people came through my office before I settled on the staff I have now and they are here with us today as well. I had Richard Towson, Jill Gommers, Mark Henry, Matt Taylor—Matt is with us as well—Gordon Watson and Gloria Johnston in my office before I discovered Renee Whitehead in April 2013 and Anna Honeyman in February 2016. They have been with me for 11 years and eight years respectively. The only times they were not with me were when they went off to have their babies and then I had Jacqui Wild and Ashleigh Marrinan. Now I have Karen and Samantha in my office helping out. I would have to say that one of the greatest pleasures of having great staff is walking down the street and having people come up to say thank you for fixing something but having no idea what they were talking about because my staff had fixed it before I even got involved. Girls, thank you. I love you.


I turn to my family, and I bought a box of tissues because I knew I would need them: Tim and Aimie, Simon and Jess, Hayden and Anna and my grandchildren Josh, Isla, Cameron, Boston and Aurora. Aurora is a little too small to be here today and is not feeling overly well. My granddaughter is in the gallery. She is the one in purple and my darling. They have helped me get elected every time. They have stood on the side of the road and waved at cars. The boys and the girls have gone out and

set up the booths for me in the middle of the night. If we do not have a strong family behind us, we just cannot do our jobs. They have been the best that they can be.

To my wife, Sally—we have been married for 43 years. I think I have mentioned in this place before that we walked to school together when we were five or six. That is how long we have known each other. We met again when we were in our late teens and we have been together ever since. She is my rock. I am looking forward to spending more time with her and with my grandchildren. They are just precious.

I am going to mention one more Labor person. As we all know, thanks to the member for Miller, I had a cruise in Alaska that keeps coming back to bite me. Sally and I will do a bit more travel. We have some great friends in former member for Keppel Bruce Young and his wife, Geraldine, and we are going off on a couple of trips next year. The first one will be to Japan in November so I have learnt a few Japanese words, and the one that springs to mind is 'sayonara'.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.41 pm): I stand here to deliver my final speech in this House. My heart is filled with mixed emotions. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife, Sue Ann, who has been extremely patient and understanding over the past seven years—and thank God she still speaks to me! To our sons—Jim and his wife, Kelsey, and Harry and his partner, Hannah—your encouragement and support has been wonderful, and I thank you for your understanding when, on occasions, unfortunately, work had to come first.

Serving as the member for Rockhampton and representing the Labor Party in this parliament will remain one of my proudest achievements in my professional life. Representing the residents of Rockhampton and Gracemere has been not only humbling but also a great privilege. I first moved to the Rockhampton region more than 30 years ago. A lot has changed in that time but a lot remains the same. It is still the kind of place where you cannot visit a shop or walk down the street without coming across a friendly face or 20. I hope that never changes. I am very proud of my record of delivering for our region. We were ignored in terms of local infrastructure funding under the Newman-Crisafulli government of 2012 to 2015, but that has been rectified on our watch.

Like other communities, many locals are struggling with the cost of living. The support from the Miles government has been unprecedented: every resident has had \$1,000 off their energy bill; rego costs have been reduced by 20 per cent; and locals can access free kindy, free TAFE and Putting Queensland Kids First funding. You can even catch a bus from Rocky or Gracemere to Yeppoon for just 50 cents. We know that all of this will be on the scrap heap under an LNP government, so tough times are ahead for Central Queenslanders if the Leader of the Opposition, David Crisafulli, becomes the premier next month.

Of course, Rocky ratepayers are already paying through the nose because of the decisions of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Crisafulli. This is the man who, as local government minister, drove the case for deamalgamation and stacked the decks in the ballot so that Rocky locals could not vote in it. This has left both Rocky and Livingstone councils with an unsustainably small rate base, and it is the Leader of the Opposition's appalling actions that have continued to tighten the screws a little bit more every year.

His partner in crime in all of this was, of course, former Rockhampton mayor Margaret Strelow, who betrayed the Rocky community by refusing to campaign against deamalgamation. She vacated the field and ran off to London when she could have been standing up for Rocky. Her treachery costs us more every year. If that was not bad enough, she then went on an unsustainable spending spree by promising \$20 million to build a new airport for Adani, building an art gallery and commissioning a \$100,000 portrait of herself—that was a massive drain on council funds. She tried to impose on us a \$189 million flood levy that would have been another massive, ongoing drain on finances and she botched the upgrade of Quay Street by hand-selecting foreign-made granite as the surface, against expert advice. We continue to foot that repair bill every year.

It did not surprise me at all to read last year that Ms Strelow and the Leader of the Opposition had struck a secret preference deal. This partnership has already cost our community so much and I hate to think how much more damage they could do with Ms Strelow backing an LNP government.

Despite all of this, Rocky is currently benefiting from a massive pipeline of infrastructure investment from the Labor state and federal governments. During my time we have seen major projects realised—projects that have created jobs, improved infrastructure and enhanced the quality of life for

our residents. The completion of Rookwood Weir is creating a significant boost to the region's water security and will drive economic growth and job creation for generations to come.

The Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion and upgrade have not only enhanced our correctional facilities but also created an additional 200 ongoing good, full-time jobs. The Alliance Airlines maintenance facility has created over 100 good aviation jobs and many other smaller projects that have contributed to our local economy. Investment in our road infrastructure and accessibility have always been priorities, and I am proud of the achievements we made in this area. The northern access upgrade, the Capricorn Highway duplication to Gracemere, the Laurie Street upgrade and the many other road infrastructure programs have significantly improved connectivity and safety for our residents.

We have seen a record \$873 million allocated in the 2024-25 budget for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. I want to acknowledge our wonderful staff in the health sector and across the whole of the Public Service in Rocky. They do a wonderful job. Across the Central Queensland area, we will see an investment of \$41 million this financial year to expand and improve social housing. Currently, there are more than a dozen homes under construction in Rocky.

Since 2015, the Labor government has invested \$138 million in building and maintaining education infrastructure in the Rockhampton area and plans to spend an additional \$55 million this financial year providing our children with better educational facilities, building a brighter future for our community. I am particularly proud of the investment in our two special schools, the hall for The Hall school and the upgrades to our school tuckshops and playgrounds. There is a massive list of upgrades, and I can confidently say that every school in the Rocky electorate has received funding.

The Works for Queensland Program, with over \$36 million delivered through the Rockhampton Regional Council, has funded over 40 smaller projects enhancing our sporting facilities and community spaces. These projects may seem modest individually but, collectively, they have made a substantial difference in the daily lives of our residents. Some of these projects are the Quay Street redevelopment, the Cedric Archer Park water play area, the pump track, the botanical gardens playground area and walking tracks, the fishing platforms, the SES shed in Gracemere, the numerous footpath programs—and the list goes on.

The total number of Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants issued to not-for-profit community organisations in the Rockhampton electorate from 2015 to July 2024 was 330, with a total dollar amount of \$8,298,464.88. That is a hell of a lot of sausage sizzles.


Looking ahead, I am pleased to see the commencement of some major projects that will continue to shape the future of our region. The \$1.8 billion Rockhampton Ring Road project will enhance connectivity and boost economic growth for years to come. I am particularly proud that 75 per cent of the workforce are Central Queensland locals. This project will take over 2,000 heavy vehicles a day out of town and significantly improve road safety. Importantly, a third bridge will ease congestion as Rockhampton continues to grow.

The nearly \$1 billion pipeline from the Fitzroy to Gladstone and the pipeline to Mount Morgan are critical infrastructure projects that will ensure water security and support massive regional development. I am pleased that tenders have been awarded for the new \$92 million, 32-bed mental health inpatient unit to be constructed at the Rockhampton Hospital. The commencement of stage 1 of the Browne Park redevelopment, the home of Rugby League in Rocky, will provide state-of-the-art facilities not just for Rugby League but also for the many other entertainment opportunities it will enable for our residents.

I would like to thank my electorate staff—Deb and Karen. When you are first elected there is so much to learn. They have made the job so much easier. They know every person in town, I swear. I would, of course, like to thank the Australian Labor Party branch members of Rockhampton and Central Queensland. Thank you so much for your support. I particularly thank my good friend Craig Marshall, who was my campaign manager and who is now the Labor candidate for Rockhampton.

I also want to thank the Premier, Steven Miles, and all of my parliamentary colleagues for their friendship and support over the past seven years. I particularly thank my Unity colleagues, Grace, Di, Leanne, Julieanne, my cousin Jess, Jonty, Curtis and James. You have no idea how much you mean to me. I truly thank you for the many laughs, your friendship and your support. We regularly caught up on a Thursday after parliament. It has always been something to look forward to at the end of the week.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents of Rockhampton and Gracemere for the honour of serving you. Thank you for the opportunities, the achievements and the great memories. It has been a journey of a lifetime, and I am forever thankful. I congratulate the other members who are retiring. I wish you all very best for future. Thank you.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.52 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which parliament meets. I also pay my respects to the Yuwi people—the traditional owners of the land of the Mackay electorate. The Mackay region is a beautiful place because of the Yuwi's many generations of custodianship of our land, water and sky that we all now share.

Back in 2015, Mackay was doing it tough. We had high unemployment, a downturn in the economy, and businesses in the city centre and the industrial centre at Paget were closing. People left our city in droves, leaving behind many empty houses. We had suffered badly from the cuts of the Newman years.

In my first speech I gave a commitment to the Mackay electorate to work for the entire region, with tireless effort and steadfast determination for the betterment of Mackay, and to continue to build on Labor's proud legacy to improve opportunities for the people of Mackay. Thank you, Mackay, for putting your trust in me for the last three terms of parliament. It has been an honour to serve you.

During these lean years, we started a campaign to let people know that we were open for business and ready for visitors. This campaign was started because we do not lay down when the going gets tough. The campaign was #Mackaypride. It was with great Mackay pride that I became the fifth state member for the seat of Mackay.

Winning elections can only happen with the support of many family, friends, branch members and volunteers. There are too many volunteers to name and I do not want to leave anyone out because that will get me into trouble. My sincere thanks and gratitude go out to each and every one of you.

My husband, Frank, stepped up to be my campaign manager for my three elections. He walked the journey with me in between elections, supporting me all the way. Thank you, Frank. Being a parent is one of life's true blessings. My daughter, Catherine, and my son-in-law, Ian, along with my stepsons, David and Edward, make life worthwhile. The joy only doubles and triples when you become a grandparent—Kia, Kieone and Sienna. They also jump on the campaign trail with gusto. It is always good to get a young person's perspective.

My parents, Bev and Jim, worked tirelessly at campaign time. Mum loved hitting the phones and having those persuasion conversations—the poor people at the other end. She also loved being down at pre-poll. Dad each election got out his trusty trailer, and he had a Jim-designed frame that he attached election signs to. He spent many hours driving around Mackay ensuring everyone had seen his trailer. When he talked about what he had been up to some days, I am sure I lost a few votes along the way. It was all done with such pride and support for me. Sadly, our hearts broke when Dad lost his battle with cancer in January last year. He is a big loss to my family and also the ALP campaign family. Thanks, Dad: your trailer might come out for a run for Belinda's campaign this year.

I have a big family. Thanks to my sisters, Michele, Susan and Caroline, and my brothers, James and Anthony, their partners and their kids—I will not name them all because we will be here all night—who have stood on booths and letterboxed. Thank you to my wonderful family. As others have said, I do not know how you can campaign without a family behind you.

The Labor Party is built on the back of the union movement. I am proud to be a unionist and standing up for workers. Thank you to my former colleagues at the QTU and the team at UWU. I am a member of both unions. Our unions work tirelessly for fair and safe workplaces. When workers negotiate collectively they get the best working conditions.

Our frontline workers are our community heroes—our teachers, health workers, paramedics, police, firefighters and public servants. Thank you to their registered unions for looking after their professions and conditions. Thank you to the team at party office. You are all legends, led by Kate and Zac.

No member of parliament can do their job effectively without good staff. Thank you to Suzanne, who has been with me since 2015; Kerry, who worked for Tim and stayed with me until I was fully set up; and also along the way Raine, Vicky, Jane, Casey—who is here tonight—Phil, Emily and Evan. You have all brought your own valued talents and personalities to the office and shared the ups and downs.

Together we saw some challenges. You helped me support our community through Cyclone Debbie and the long haul through COVID. Every time I drive past Queens Park and see the playground and barbecue areas packed, I smile with pride, because our Labor government funded and rebuilt the historic park after Cyclone Debbie. We did not just fund the replacement; we made sure that the council built it bigger and better, with modern infrastructure. It is now a true community space, making happy memories for my community.

The response to COVID by our Labor government kept my community alive and growing. There were immense personal difficulties for people and some businesses but, at the same time, strong leadership from then premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and then health ministers Steven Miles and Yvette D'Ath and the supportive cabinet meant our sugar industry did not miss a crushing season. Our mines and engineering sector kept their doors opened. Money flowed through our community. Mackay would have been one of the few places in the world advertising for apprentices at the peak of the pandemic. It was a tough time for the whole world, but we are alive to tell the stories.

Since 2015, Mackay has gone from strength to strength through the strong economic policies of our Labor government under two strong premiers—Palaszczuk and Miles—and their cabinet ministers and also the best backbenchers in political history. My first campaign for the seat of Mackay was only three weeks long due to the retirement of Tim. I campaigned for the replacement of the Vines Creek Bridges in my first election and I was proud to have them funded in the very first Palaszczuk government budget—and thank you to you, Mr Speaker, because you were the treasurer at the time. Over \$1.4 billion of other roadworks quickly rolled out soon after the bridges were complete: the Mackay Ring Road and approaches, with stage 2 in the planning phase; the Walkerston bypass; plus kilometres of overtaking lanes to the north and south of Mackay on the Bruce Highway.

As the member for Ipswich West would attest, our showgrounds and equestrian centre are the envy of regional shows across Queensland because Labor rebuilt them. Our local Port of Mackay has continued to have wharves upgraded and now we host the largest cargo ships in the world to our port.

I was able to secure a rescue package for Mackay Sugar so the board could do some major repairs to their facilities to attract an investor. Nordzucker, as a new shareholder in Mackay Sugar, is going from strength to strength. Our sugar industry has been the backbone of our economy and will continue to be so into the future.

For those of you over there who are green energy deniers, a third of the electricity needed for our city has been generated from the cogeneration plant at Racecourse, fuelled by the by-product of the sugarcane harvest, for years. Green energy is not new. It is not scary. So relax—nothing strange happens when we turn the lights on!

Our Labor government has supported the sugar industry to diversify through our innovation grants—pilot plants developing biofuels for aviation, marine diesel from bagasse and biofoods through precision fermentation of sugar to make protein. The future of the cane industry is bright.

A local family the Townsends—Graham, Gary and Ryan—are true pioneers for the future of our cane industry. They are researching a range of products that can be processed from sugar cane. Biodegradable packaging, plastics and building materials are only a few. I wish them all the success for their research and development, and the realisation of production of product into the market. I would like to thank Professor Ian O'Hara for his many years of research and determination to see the diversification of the cane industry. He is a champion of the industry.

These new industries will need industrial land to establish their factories, because they all want to come to Mackay. We are developing two new industrial sites, at Racecourse and Rosella. Thank you, Minister Grace, for your leadership in getting these sites up and running.

Mackay is a service centre for the Bowen Basin coalmines. Our engineering workshops are buzzing with innovation and determination to be the best. Mining is an important part of our economy and future. One of my 2017 election commitments was funding for the Resources Centre of Excellence. The centre will ensure we are leaders of best practice for training and research in the mining industry. The centre has been so successful under the management of Steven Boxall that we have committed to funding for stage 2 in Mackay and stage 3 in Moranbah.

There was a lot of work to do for our mining communities and workers when we came into government in 2015. For me, this work is personal. It is my family, friends and locals who work in the industry. I am proud of the work that we did on the black lung inquiry. We are saving lives.

We have protected our communities with the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act. We employ locals first. Our industrial manslaughter laws now cover the mining industry and were recently pressed into place with the first charges being laid on a company after the death of a miner. We need to keep all workers safe. I thank the MEU for their advocacy for workers.

The township of Glenden has been saved from demolition. It was the great work of the then mayor, Anne Baker, and her community to get legislation into parliament to save those homes.

Ms Pease: And Scott Stewart.


Mrs GILBERT: And Scott, sorry. He is a legend as well. Thank you, Scott. We have also brought in legislation to make sure that after mining the mine pits are rehabilitated. This is also growing new local jobs.

In Mackay we love our outdoor activities. The Great Barrier Reef Arena brings big cricket matches, AFLW games and entertainment to our first-class professional facility. When you see this arena on television, you see that the Mackay arena is pitch perfect. We have lots of small clubs like City Brothers Football Club, which has been funded to extend their clubhouse. There have been so many lighting upgrades across so many sporting grounds that it is just like the stars are shining. We have resurfaced and doubled the netball courts to 16 for the Mackay Netball Association. We have also funded first-aid certificates for parent volunteers. The BMX track has also been resurfaced. These are only some of our grassroots clubs that have had upgrades. Thank you to all of the parents for being there for your kids and for being the cheer squads. A lot of families in my community are taking up the FairPlay vouchers.

Some Mackayites like to get out on the water. The new boat ramp at Slade Point is a great hit. Thank you to the ministers for the floating pontoon safety upgrades to make sure it is safe for our boaties to get out and wet a line.

Our young people are the future of our communities. We have been supporting them through programs so they are able to make the best education and career choices and to look after their health. Project Booyah, Transition 2 Success and our youth co-responder programs are all kicking goals. We have our very own special assistance school Kutta Mulla Gorinna. I thank our ministers for helping to support this school. This school is under the leadership of Justin Giblet, and he is shaping the lives of disengaged students, getting them back into education and training. Mackay is a great place.

I wish everyone on both sides of the House all the best for your future lives. Thank you to the parliament staff for your service. I am so proud and honoured to be the fifth member for Mackay following William Forgan Smith, Fred Graham, Edmund Casey and my good friend Tim Mulherin. The Palaszczuk and Miles governments have helped me to build a Mackay community that is resilient, robust dynamic and diverse. The future of Mackay is built on a solid Labor-built foundation of persistence, passion and pride—#Mackaypride.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.06 pm): Mr Speaker, my service to this House spans over 18 years, so there are a lot of people to thank and to be thankful for. There are too many to mention them all individually, but I hope they know who they are. Those people can be allocated to a long list of categories: family, friends, colleagues, staff, public servants, community, stakeholders and the broader labour movement. I am touched by the number who have decided to sit through this speech in the gallery this evening.

Without the support of the great Australian Labor Party, I would never have been in this place. Having joined 35 years ago, the backing of our nation's oldest political party over 18-plus years, and support from branch members and activists in both Stafford and Sandgate, made getting and staying here possible.

Thanks to the current member for Stafford's father, Terry Sullivan, for our partnership on my way into this House. I hope he recognises that tradition in my partnership with the Labor candidate for Sandgate, Bisma Asif, whom I also thank. I am confident she will be joining the task of modernising Queensland—a topic I have spoken to the House about before, a task that became Labor's after the election of the Goss government, a task that I have dedicated myself to, a task that started before Bisma was born but one that she embodies and is well equipped for.

Great support has also come from unions committed to good policies supporting working Queenslanders. My fellow members of the Australian Workers' Union have shown me enduring support, and I thank them and their leadership over my adult life.

The communities of my electorates have been generous to me, especially over the last 10 years in Sandgate. From the time of my endorsement to just these last few days, constituents—even those who do not necessarily vote for me—have demonstrated a willingness to engage, listen and show a compassion that has encouraged me. When times were dark—when those opposite were calling for your head and the media were erecting a scaffold—all I had to do was go to a local community event and mix with real people going about their lives to put matters into perspective and to find support from those who really mattered. I found this at local footy clubs, at local art shows and on the train.

That was where being on the ground and listening translated into tangible community assets—like Sandgate High's new state-of-the-art Centre for Creative Industries representing the single biggest

improvement to the school's facilities, outside of fire reconstruction, in a generation; like the metamorphosis of a disused warehouse created by Newman-era outsourcing becoming a home for Northside Wizards Basketball, thanks to added advocacy from the now member for Aspley and other northside colleagues.

Across my diverse and extensive experience as a minister, I worked with a manifold group of stakeholders—not-for-profits, industry and community peak bodies, businesspeople, innovators, advocates, CALD communities, local government representatives, GOCs, professionals, dare I say lobbyists and our state's great institutions. With these words, I barely scratch the surface. There are some with whom, I am pleased to say, my interactions were brief. There are more relationships which, I am pleased to say, quickly became ones characterised by mutual respect. My work with stakeholders was most intense after becoming tourism minister when the borders were closed and Queensland tourism was at its lowest ebb. I will forever be proud of the work government and industry did together to navigate tourism and events through and out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, as a minister, my daily work with public servants placed me in admiration of the totality of their contribution to our state's successes. As individuals, there are a great number to whom I owe much. I could name my favourites—not based on whether they agreed with my policy ambitions or their seniority—but I have noticed that that is not always helpful or welcomed. I hope they know who they are, but I can categorically say that anyone who played a role in supporting me in my work across five separate ministerial stints has my gratitude.

However, one legacy for which I can claim sole credit relates to public notification signage in the planning system. As Bligh government minister for planning, with extensive support from departmental officials and the industry, I shepherded the Sustainable Planning Act 2009—all 718 pages—through consultation and legislation. Previously, onsite public notice of development proposals involved large black-and-white signs with a huge amount of densely-set text which was often barely intelligible to even the town planner who wrote it. Within the planning and industry bubble, no-one seemed to see this as a problem. I insisted that we mandate a better way, with clear and concise descriptions of the proposal—ideally involving images—to explain what was to happen. The department did not treat my idea as a priority and my office did not treat it as a priority, but I persisted. Finally, I hand-drew my own suggestion for a prescribed layout. My concept prevailed and, through two rewrites of the legislation since, my design basically persists as well.

I want to acknowledge and thank all of the Parliamentary Service staff who have looked after us and assisted us. It was a more unique experience for me, having previously been a fellow staff member to many, when I first arrived as an MP in 2006. The Clerk and I were far more junior staff members in the 1990s.

Mr Speaker, as you know, those workers who bear the greatest brunt of our roles are our personal staff. They see us at our best and at our worst. They catch a lot of the incoming and massively enhance the outgoing of daily political life. Over 15 years, I have been staffed by an amazing range of individuals in both electorate and ministerial offices. I have enjoyed a mix of hard-headed politicians, genuine policy wonks, innocents, players, passionate hard workers willing to make a difference, cool-headed administrators, ex-journos seeking to overcome my bafflement at what the media thought was important, the community minded and those who were focused on just keeping me upright. This is where I start down the dangerous track of mentioning individuals by name.

Members will appreciate that my longest suffering staffer was Genevieve Newton. Since 2006, mainly 'on' and less so 'off', Gen effectively pre-empted what I was thinking up until a couple of years ago. I cannot thank her enough. Electorate officers, especially for busy ministers, have a huge responsibility and I have been served tremendously across the board. My gratitude goes to all my staff in those roles. In Stafford, they bore the brunt of the Airport Link tunnel construction. Now widely appreciated, this outstanding asset took a toll before the success of operation.

A special mention goes to my most longstanding electorate officer, Avalon Mackellar, who came to me in Sandgate with the most experience but who has shared that wisdom with many in my office and beyond.

Mr Skelton: Hear, hear!

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I take that interjection from the member for Nicklin.

Ministers and ex-ministers in the House will appreciate how much they rely on their chiefs of staff or equivalents. Across five portfolios, I had six CoSs who all brought different strengths to the task and our relationships. I want to acknowledge: George Addison, who was there to the bitter end in 2012 and

who continues to be a supporter; Kate Adams, the longest serving and who managed to be more chilled than me; and Elliot Stein, with whom I shared the most intense of times. The work as Leader of the House in the 55th Parliament's minority government contributed to this intensity. Parliamentary agility and careful liaison with the crossbench became our stock-in-trade. The member for Hill, Elliot and I will never forget CPV night, and I do not think the LNP will either.

I owe my CoSs all so much—along with a number of other very long-serving and committed staff, only a further three of whom I am going to name-check: Darren Roberts, Ben Marczyk and Thomas Stephen. I can attest to learning something valuable from each and every one of my staff members. Equally, I hope they have learned something of use from me—or at the very least some left-field trivia.

However, one of the greatest challenges in these all-consuming roles is maintaining friendships not 'in the arena', as Peter Beattie put it. In this, I have been lucky to enjoy support from quarters outside the political realm—great support from longstanding family friends, from social basketball teammates and from my oldest friends from Craigslea State High School, including Matt Low and Graeme 'Cuzza' Currie, who got a mention in my first speech. Even when my duties have prevented me from maintaining these friendships as well as I should have, we pick up and carry on like it always has been. 'In the arena' friendship with colleagues is bound with shared experience—experiences with my local representative colleagues, especially the councillors for Deagon ward during my time in Sandgate, Victoria Newton and Jared Cassidy. They have been steadfast friends—one for over 35 years and the other has become my closest political ally. I owe them much. Equally, it has been wonderful to work closely in the local community with outstanding national contributors, who also stay grounded in their local community, in federal members Wayne Swan and Anika Wells.

Having served in this chamber under four premiers—Beattie, Bligh, Palaszczuk and Miles—I have enjoyed the company and sometimes comradeship of a huge variety of personalities. I like to think I ducked under the dumper of a wave that was the Newman premiership.

Mr Nicholls: It's never too late.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: You seemed to come up gasping for breath after that dumper, I thought—anyway.

Peter Beattie was an unrivalled exponent of politics. Seeing him in action at close quarters provided lessons that are recalled again and again. Anna Bligh elevated a new generation, including myself, to the cabinet and surprised no-one with her strength and determination. Annastacia Palaszczuk, who welcomed my return to the parliament, had an innate sense of people and their strengths. She has my gratitude for giving me responsibilities in relation to the Commonwealth Games and then in tourism and sport. This led to one of my proudest moments and one of premier Palaszczuk's significant achievements: the successful bid to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Being part of the bid team was an outstanding exercise in teamwork, overcoming sometimes seemingly irreconcilable interests. As we have seen recently in Paris, this celebration of humanity is worth it.

When Premier Palaszczuk tasked me with delivering a legacy plan, I was proud of what we achieved. Elevate 2042 has received global accolades. Having known the Member for Murrumba for the whole of his adult life, I admire his quiet determination, his pragmatism and his optimism. This is why I have confidence in his leadership to work with the delivery partners on the 2032 games and other more fundamental missions for the state. I wish him the very best for the upcoming campaign. I wish the Leader of the Opposition well, too, but maybe just not as much.

Across the 15 years in this House and having served with over 200 MPs, I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know my colleagues as best as I can, and I have tried to be open-minded to all. Some of those personalities were figures from another political generation, some are friends now for more than 30 years, yet more have come into this House and added fresh perspectives and insight. In the 52nd Parliament, I was already close to Paul Lucas, but then also got to know Rachel Nolan and Andrew Fraser. I already knew the member for Woodridge well before he and I joined the cabinet together in the 53rd Parliament, but since then our shared experiences have deepened the bond. I am in awe of his skill and capacity and I thank him for his friendship.

Working closely with Yvette D'Ath was inevitable when in 2007 she contested and won the federal seat of Petrie that then overlapped the Stafford electorate. It was after the 2013 federal election that I focused my sights on convincing our now Attorney-General to contest the state electorate of Redcliffe, including the conversation on my deck at Sandgate where I believe she made the decision. The journey since then has had its ups and downs, but we have been there together and it feels fitting that we deliver our valedictories one after the other.

The valedictorians tonight all have very different stories, but that appropriately is symbolic of this House. I wish them all well, including of course yourself, Mr Speaker. I will not mention banner 18.


I will miss sharing a workplace with the members for Logan, Jordan, Aspley and Cairns particularly, but I could say the same for so many others over the years.

The greatest debt I owe is to my family. I am pleased that my brother, Craig, is in the gallery representing a wider family who have been immensely supportive. I deeply feel the pride our parents, Bruce and Janice, have in my public service. While the sudden death of my brother, Russell, 23 years ago still hurts, I feel his presence every time rage at injustice or petty bureaucracy surged within me.

In my first speech, I spoke of 'three delightful children' who had 'many ideas' and 'inspired' me. Having borne an amazing amount of the impact of having a father in public life, I can report that Jack, Tom and May remain delightful. It was a particular delight to welcome Izzy to our family when she married Jack in July. I am proudest to report that they are all genuinely good people who believe in building a sustainable and sustaining future.

In October last year when I announced my intention not to contest this coming election, I spoke a little of how much my wife, Megan, has contributed to making this public service, to which I have been so committed, possible. Whatever achievements I have are shared by her. Equally, I suspect one achievement ranks highest with her, one we share with many colleagues both within this House and outside—the passage of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill in 2018.

Serving this House and serving the people of Queensland has been the greatest honour of my life. In my first speech, I paraphrased Groucho Marx, so in my last let me evoke Douglas Adams' fourth book in the *Hitchhiker's Guide* series: 'So long and thanks for all the fish.'

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.23 pm): Thanks, Stirling. I rise to speak for the last time as a member of parliament, not with sadness but with pride. I continue to be humbled by the opportunity provided by the people of Redcliffe and the Australian Labor Party to me. I have for almost the past 17 years sought to be a parliamentarian that did not take this privilege for granted.

In my first speech in 2008 in the Australian Parliament, I expressed my thanks for the personal support from my family, and acknowledged the events and people that led to my inspiration and passion. My thanks expressed then continue to my final speech today. Thanks to all those people who have not only helped me get to where I am but also helped shape who I am. Some of those people are here today, such as Deirdre Swan, and, sadly, some very important people are no longer with us, the first being my mum who passed away before I was elected in 2007. Mum, I hope I have done you proud. The second is Bill Ludwig, a man who truly helped me turn into the person I am today and nurtured my passion and encouraged my achievements over so many years. Thank you, Bill.

I wish to thank two very special people—my daughter, Emma, in the gallery today, and my son, Cameron, who is in Canada right now. As we know, our children often do not get to choose whether they want to share their parent with the tens of thousands of people in their community or with the greater population of Queensland, but that is exactly what they must do when we make the choice to run for parliament. We all get asked from time to time what our greatest achievement is or what we are most proud of. By far, my answer is my children. My greatest regret is not having been able to be there for them as much as I would have liked to, on the occasions when they needed me most, to celebrate with them, to cry with them, to play with them. That is the guilt that working parents carry and for anyone who have careers that take them away from their family. It is not easy being the child of a politician. Emma and Cameron, I am so proud of the way that both of you have grown up into beautiful people who are independent and are making their own way in the world, in your own style. Both of you continue to do you, and do not let anyone stand in your way. Thank you for your love and support. You will forever be the most important people in my life. I also want to thank you, my children, on behalf of Queenslanders, for sharing your mum with them.

I do want to briefly add to those recognised in 2008. The first is former prime minister Julia Gillard for giving me inspiration, support and opportunity. It is such a pleasure to have worked with Julia and to watch how she has conducted herself post politics. There is definitely no relevance deprivation syndrome with Julia, the way politicians should leave politics. My thanks to the amazing women who helped mentor me and that I looked towards for guidance. I once again thank the AWU, my union, and the broader union movement, and congratulate Stacey Schinnerl on her appointment to State Secretary.

I want to thank the public servants that I have had the pleasure of working with since 2015. To my directors-general, thank you for your tireless efforts in the Public Service and myself as your Minister. Whether it is the incredible staff across the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the health and ambulance services, training and skills and youth justice, or the many statutory bodies, it has been a privilege to work with them and to see their dedication and diligence in providing for the people of Queensland.

I want to make a special mention of former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk for her leadership over so many years and especially through COVID. I have known Anastacia for almost three decades, and I thank her for her friendship and support of me. She had to make tough decisions as Premier, and I respect her for that.

Although it was the former premier who approached me to run for Redcliffe in the by-election, it was the current member for Sandgate who convinced me to run. He asked me, 'What are you most passionate about and where do you think you can make the most difference?' Stirling, thank you for being such a good friend and confidante.

I believe I have made a difference while in this place. Having introduced 68 bills as a minister, and having made more than 1,000 significant appointments, including 180 judicial appointments, it is impossible to talk about all the things I am proud of, and I wish I had thought to table a list of them. Instead of rattling off a shopping list of those achievements—I have mentioned these many times over the years—what is more important is what those achievements have led to: accessibility to more public transport with our rail line in Redcliffe, better health and education outcomes, a roof over people's heads, Safer Communities through our Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence initiative—and I acknowledge Anthony Lynham in the gallery, and I thank him for changing his flight. I was able to ensure our judiciary became a collegiate group of dedicated, skilled lawyers that serve the people of Queensland, after significant upheaval.

The amount of social reform by this government has been so significant: human rights; decriminalising termination of pregnancy; voluntary assisted dying; reforms for the LGBTIQ+ community, which includes Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages changes; and expungement of homosexual convictions, to name but a few. I was able to give the first posthumous pardon to an Indigenous man. It is those lesser known changes that make the difference. Being mindful of sub judice, I simply say that it is only because of the change to the definition of murder to include 'if death is caused by an act done, or omission made, with reckless indifference to human life' that means certain individuals are currently before the courts charged with murder instead of manslaughter in relation to the death of children.

I was proud to find a solution to the offensive language and images that we saw on Wicked Campers vehicles. They are no longer on the road. I thank Ashton, Connie and Stewart for their advocacy for lemon laws. They are making a real difference for people in Queensland.

I am proud of the changes I made in health: the new expanded hospitals; the biggest investment in health infrastructure in our history; and making healthcare more accessible to Queenslanders by dealing with the challenging issues of scope of practice by health professionals—our nurses, our midwives and our pharmacists. I acknowledge the representatives from the Pharmacy Guild who are here tonight.

The one topic that I want to spend a bit of time talking about is COVID. Thank you to the now Premier, Steven Miles, who as health minister led us through the first few uncertain months of COVID. To the then chief health officer, Her Excellency the Governor, Dr Jeannette Young, I simply say: thank you for never taking a step backwards. Thank you for always being available to stakeholders during those difficult times, for your guidance and wisdom, for your leadership and for your exceptional intellect. You saved thousands of lives. We are so grateful. To Dr John Gerrard, who helped lead us out of the COVID restrictions: we will be forever grateful. To all of the incredible health workers and to staff across Queensland Health and the Queensland Ambulance Service: thanks will never be enough. I know that many of you will carry the scars of the decisions that had to be made and caring for the lives lost to COVID.

Finally, thank you to the people of Queensland for putting your trust in our health professionals and the government. All of our efforts would have been for nothing if the people of Queensland had not done their part in complying with the advice given. This includes all of the businesses and organisations impacted by those decisions. Thank you to all of the amazing stakeholders that I have had the pleasure of working beside, consulting with and listening to over so many years as a minister.

To my amazing community: thank you for your support and confidence over so many years. To all of the businesses, community organisations, service and sporting clubs, public servants and incredible volunteers across Redcliffe: you have made my job so rewarding. It was easy to get out of bed every day knowing the incredible people I was able to represent. As the member for Sandgate said, whenever you were having a down day, you just needed to go out and talk to people in your community and you were quickly reminded why you do what you do. I will be left with fond memories of so many kind, considerate, giving people including all those who helped during the floods in 2022. I will never forget those strangers who stood beside me and filled sandbags and helped to clear out people's homes.

On a more personal note, in my ministerial roles over the past few years when asked, 'Are you okay?' I would joke and say, 'I'm fine as long as someone doesn't ask that question,' because to stop and look within was difficult and distressing. I have devoted much of my working life as a member of parliament and as a minister to wanting to make lives better for others and not allowing myself to consider what my life looks like—until this year. I had for some time confused nerves and adrenaline with what was actually anxiety and depression. Although there are many things in my life that have contributed to this, it is important to acknowledge that some of this has been caused by vicarious trauma. I raise this to address the stigma around mental health and so we can do better for society. I also want us to do better for those members who are currently in parliament, our staff and ministerial and electorate officers and those in the future. Many businesses in the private sector, particularly NGOs, put psychosocial support for their staff front and centre of their organisations.

In many government departments where there are frontline staff regularly exposed to significant trauma, they are professionally trained to manage those circumstances. The reality is that our staff—and us as members—all come to these roles from different backgrounds and with different skills, but many of us have not been exposed to the types of situations that we find ourselves in. Although I acknowledge that support is there if you feel the need for it through a phone line—generally after being exposed to distressing situations—I would like to see the parliament providing preventive measures and delivering training to all members and staff as part of induction and before they are exposed. This will assist in reducing the risk of vicarious trauma.

As I said earlier, I am extremely proud and consider it a privilege to have been the Attorney-General and health minister, but these roles have exposed me to many situations, sometimes in graphic detail, that many people would never be exposed to in a lifetime. With four-year terms now in Queensland, we want to make sure we look after our politicians and staff so that they can look after our communities.

It is not an exaggeration to say that it is because of the incredible support from my family, caring friends and colleagues that I am here today. To Marlene, Karen and Brad, Sharon, Laura, Simon and Stirling and many others including the Premier, Kate Flanders and many of my dearest colleagues in this chamber—you know who you are: thank you for your support in letting me lean on you. We have to stop giving advice to people to not show weakness or vulnerability. It is not weak to acknowledge that you need help; it takes great strength. To be vulnerable is to be human, and asking for help and embracing professional help should be encouraged. We can all do with a little help every now and then. It is because of this and the kindness of my friends that I am stronger than ever.

I stand here today on R U OK? Day and can honestly, truthfully answer that question with a resounding 'yes'. I am optimistic and excited about my future and what will come next. I leave this place grateful for the opportunity to have served my community and to have served as a Labor member in both opposition and government. I know that, despite all of the incredible work this Labor government has done, there is always more that can be done. It cannot just be the responsibility of politicians to do it. Leaving parliament does not mean leaving behind my desire to make a difference. My motivations and my passions remain. I will take my personal and professional learnings into the next stage of my life. There is still more to do.

Gendered violence is such a major problem in our society. Social media is feeding a lot of the harm and it is damaging our kids. It is also making adults brazen with their comments—words that can lead to people taking their lives. Child exploitation and harm, domestic and family violence, and the life-changing benefits of education and training at any age but particularly for our disengaged youth are all areas that continue to need addressing. Of course, health, mental health and wellbeing will become more of a focus as our lives get busier and technology continues to change the way we live. Clearly, I have plenty to keep me busy—after a holiday, of course.


I genuinely wish all members well in the important role they have in serving the people of Queensland, especially those who are retiring, including yourself, Mr Speaker. We are the last of those who served in opposition. I am sure you will not be surprised that I hope that Labor wins the next election and that the people of Redcliffe put their faith in our Labor candidate, Kass Hall. I know that I would be leaving Redcliffe in the hands of someone who will take care of our community and work tirelessly every day to return the trust that they, I hope, will put in her this election. I wish the Premier and the entire Labor team all the best as they strive to continue the great work of Labor governments. Queensland could not be in better hands, and I hope that is recognised on 26 October 2024.

To Jimmy Sullivan, my former chief of staff and now member for Stafford: thank you for your friendship for the better part of two decades and your unwavering support of me over the years. I know that life has been difficult for you and your family, having faced the most tragic of circumstances. I sincerely wish you, Carolyn and the family, including your new addition, Edith, all the better for the future. To my current chief of staff, Simon: we have had our shares of highs and lows over the past four years, and for all of that time you have been nothing but loyal, caring and supporting of me. Thank you. You have also become a dear friend to me.

To all the past and current staff: it has been a pleasure to work with you all. I hope you each continue on your journey and seek fulfilment in whatever you choose to do. To my former and current electorate staff: you have been my rock. As we know as members, especially if we have been a minister, our staff become our proxy. I am so fortunate to have had so many passionate and caring people work for me. I am nervous to mention names but I will single one out: Jenny Wald. Jenny worked with me for almost the entire time I have been a member in the federal and state parliament, only retiring recently. Jenny, thank you to you and your family for your support. To Darren Cann: thank you for your support for me while I was Leader of the House. I could not have done it without you.

I have made so many lifelong friends through my time as a member of parliament. Thank you to Mr Clerk and to all the parliamentary staff. Finally, thank you to the Labor Party, my branch members and life members, volunteers and supporters for all your support and efforts over so many years—the early mornings and the late evenings and everything in between. It has been an honour to be your member.

Thank you again to my community. I truly love Redcliffe. I must use my final words in this place for the other love of my life, the Dolphins. For the final time in the chamber I say: Phins up, Redcliffe!

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am delivering my last speech in this place from the Speaker's chair, which is patently obvious. I will in this contribution skate the line between my role as a local MP right through to the position I am fortunate to hold right now as Speaker. I realise there may well be an end-of-year sitting where people will have the opportunity to give their thanks to members and staff, but this is my last opportunity to speak to the parliament and in *Hansard* to make some of those acknowledgements, with the indulgence of the House.

I thank Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes, and the Hon. Scott Stewart, the member for Townsville, for their support as my deputy speakers. Both have supported me and assisted me in so many ways to ensure I could fulfil this role.

I place on record my thanks for the work of every MP who has been a part of the Panel of Temporary Speakers: the members for Burleigh, Cook, Cooper, Scenic Rim, Southern Downs and Stretton, and previous panel members the member for Bancroft, the former member for Caloundra and the members for Condamine, Currumbin, Mundingburra, Mansfield, Mermaid Beach, Mount Ommaney, Oodgeroo and Mansfield. It is an honour for all of us who serve as either Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Temporary Speaker.

I thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin, who has also announced his retirement. Michael has faithfully led me into the chamber with the mace each sitting day and ably escorted me and the Clerk to Government House for the assent of certain bills with Her Excellency the Governor. Michael was preceded by the dearly departed Kevin Jones, who was the Sergeant-at-Arms when I first came here, and he holds a special place in all of our hearts. I want to thank Michael and all of the security team for the amazing work they do.

I cannot possibly individually thank all of the staff who have added to all of our success, but I thank each of the divisions: Corporate and Electorate Services, Property and Facility Services, Assembly and Committee Services, and Information Services. I thank Azra and the Parliament House cleaning staff, our committee secretaries and staff, and Bernice Watson, First Clerk Assistant, Committees.

As chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, I take this opportunity to thank members of the CLA from the government, the opposition and the crossbench for working with me so collaboratively over my time as Speaker. Clerks at the table have played a huge role in delivering great outcomes. I thank the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries; current and recent directors Craig Atkinson, Monique Harmer, Janet Prowse and my horseracing mate Stewart Johnson; our birthday girl Sandy Musch in the Clerk's office; parliamentary attendants for ensuring the smooth operation of the chamber on sitting days; and the team in reception that welcome all guests to parliament.

I want to pay special tribute to the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie. He is the longest serving Clerk of any parliament in Australia—sorry, Tom Duncan from the ACT, but he is—and has a wealth of knowledge that cannot truly be captured to benefit this institution after he is gone. We have had a terrific working relationship and I think I have achieved many great things, in this case: additional electorate staff, the Annexe refurbishment project and, of course, against his better judgement, me as Speaker introducing the reform more than 150 years in the making of allowing members to drink coffee in the chamber. Importantly though, Neil is my friend and I hope me leaving this place in no way diminishes that.

One of my favourite parts of the job as Speaker was visiting schools, teaching a lesson in legal studies or civics. I am so indebted to: the Queensland parliament's education team, Rebecca Quinnell, Maria Mead, Kirsten Murray and Sheree Strauss, and Katie, who is no longer here, also gets a mention; our catering team, led by Kelly Baker and chef Anthony Naylor; our communications team, Nadine Davidson-Wall and Ainsley Brosing; and our IT team, led by James Rasmussen.

I also take this opportunity to thank both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for their dealings with me as Speaker and, of course, all of your respective teams as well as the crossbenchers and the media gallery for representing us and reporting so faithfully what we do in this place, led by president Marlina Whop.

Honourable members, the 54th Parliament between 2012 and 2015 was an extraordinary time in Queensland political history. However, my overriding observation of that time was how humbling it was. The 2012 election result was very humbling. The work of opposition was humbling. The formation of talent which came into the opposition office to support this work was humbling. The gathering of support across the union movement and wider Queensland society was humbling. The faith put in us by Queenslanders in the 2015 election was very humbling. I note that the member for Redcliffe and I are the last remaining members of the 2012 to 2015 Labor opposition. Along with the member for Redcliffe, I pay tribute to the other members who served in opposition during that time, in particular my good friend the late, great Hon. Tim Mulherin. For many neutral observers, the wild swings of fortune will mark this period in Queensland's political history. For me, this period is marked by the extraordinary team that the then opposition pulled together in search of what many thought was an impossible goal—to return to government after only one term.

From Angela MacDonagh, Lindsay Marshall, Carmen Meshios and Adrian Noon to Darren Cann, Tim Linley, George Hasanakos, Donna O'Donoghue and the now member for Stafford, producing what I would say was the most policy from any opposition is what allowed the new government to hit the ground running. To be part of the biggest defeat in Queensland's political history and then to be part of the biggest comeback was really something. Objectively speaking, there needs to be a new chapter in reading for Politics 101 that covers this unprecedented period. I am proud to have been part of this team and humbled by what we achieved.

As I said before, I have been fortunate to have been a minister of the Crown in so many diverse portfolio areas. I have been Treasurer of Queensland, Acting Premier on multiple occasions and Speaker of the Parliament. I take special pride in having served as a representative for regional Queensland.

Queensland is a big state with a big heart. This is exhibited every day all across our state. It is a special source of pride to have seen my home town of Gordonvale grow and prosper during my time in this place and in ministerial office, along with the whole of Far North Queensland. This pride is magnified when I see this occur in regional communities all over the state.

It has been said that the story of Queensland politics is a story of development. This is a story to which I am proud to have made a contribution. Queensland will always be a stronger place when all of its regions can share in our natural wealth, economic growth.

I want to say thank you to Jim Murphy, who was my under treasurer; Jason Humphreys, who was my chief of staff; and all of my treasurer's office staff including the member for Aspley, who is now a minister in his own right. For me, being a treasurer from regional Queensland was a case of being

the right person in the right job at the right time. I believe I had a unique understanding of what was needed outside of the south-east corner and was in the leadership of the government to implement schemes like Back to Work, the Youth Boost and Building our Regions.

There have been special things I look back on: being made a minister in my first term and during that time as minister for disability services being able to work with Jenny Macklin and Bill Shorten on the architecture of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and then later as treasurer being able to implement the National Injury Insurance Scheme with almost no additional costs to Queenslanders but ensuring people would have lifelong cover if they suffered a catastrophic injury.

There is no greater honour, I think, than being an industrial relations minister in a Labor government, and being able to pass legislation to restore rights and conditions for workers under the workers compensation scheme is one of my proudest moments. I do not intend to run through all of my achievements in this speech, mainly because it is hard to talk about yourself for any length of time. However, member for Redcliffe, I did prepare something earlier so I will simply table a document that I hope gives some insight into my parliamentary career.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Parliamentary Career 2009-2024' [1833].

There are a few Far North Queensland specific initiatives that I would like to highlight—after all, none of us can do any of the things we do if we are not first elected as a member for the geographic area we represent: delivering the \$120 million Cairns Shipping Development Project in an environmentally sustainable dredging of Trinity Inlet to allow for more and larger cruise ships; the \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre expansion project, which doubled the capacity of what was already a global award-winning venue; being there from the start to finish for the development of MacKillop Catholic College, which will see its first cohort of year 12s next year; the Yarrabah jetty project, which in time will give local people access to work and education outside of what is Australia's largest Indigenous community; and having delivered the \$535 million Edmonton to Gordonvale Bruce Highway duplication with the former minister Mark Bailey, the largest single road infrastructure project ever in Far North Queensland.

I am sure I do not have to remind honourable members that politics can be brutal. We have all experienced it and we have all seen it occur to our colleagues. However, we should not accept that this behaviour is inevitable and nor should we take the attitude that it is in any way normal. To enter politics, people do need to have strong beliefs. These strong beliefs keep us going for the long haul. However, strong beliefs cannot come at the expense of civility. Our democracy depends on civil discourse in public and indeed in private. It is my belief that I have developed genuine friendships with members on both sides of the aisle. Whatever your beliefs, your opponents are not automatically your enemies. I urge all members and indeed those who have influence in how our political parties and institutions are run to consider how we can humanise things to make our political life better and more meaningful. By doing so, we will open up opportunities for more people who would otherwise resile from being interested in politics to play a part in public life and make our democracy stronger.

Ever since I stepped into this building for the first time when I was 12 years old I have always been in awe of this place—the history, the gravity of its responsibilities and its place at the heart of Queensland democracy. This awe has not subsided as the years have passed. Everything I have done as a member, minister, treasurer and Speaker has all been done out of respect for the institution of parliament.

I am proud to have upheld the independence of the office of the Speaker. For parliament to operate in its historical role, the independence of this role is essential. For our democracy in this state it is critical. Instinctively, I have pursued the path of an independent Speaker out of the awe and respect for this place that has been with me all of my adult life. I have prided myself on not only appearing to be impartial but actually being impartial in the role. I have tried to be fiercely independent and ensure that all 93 members of parliament who represent a different geographic part of Queensland had the opportunity to be heard as they should be, regardless of what office they may hold.

I have immensely enjoyed my time as Speaker of the Queensland parliament—perhaps too much at times. In terms of my style as Speaker, I would like to think I have been firm but fair. For any member who has tried to use the *Ricky Stanicky* defence—do yourself a favour, kids; it is streaming on Netflix—through bluff or other means, it has been good that I have been able to get members to put up their hands and take the rap on several occasions. Whereas some members may have marvelled at what has sometimes been described as my Terminator-like targeting system in order to warn individual members, the member for Maroochydore was less Terminator-like in her gaze and more *Battlestar Galactica* Cylon—a fixed-neck position that could scan only two rows and around four seats across!

That is not completely true, but it certainly felt like it! 'Government warning sheet? What government warning sheet?'

Members know that I am a pop culture guy and I have made no secret that the screen industry has been an important part of my time as an MP. Working with premier Palaszczuk, I was pleased to fund the Production Attraction Strategy, which helped incentivise and secure productions such as *Thor Ragnarok*, *Aquaman* and *Dora the Explorer*. Then the legacy of that fund continued to bring movies like *Godzilla vs. Kong*, the landmark film *Elvis* and the amazing film that captured the Battle of Long Tan, *Danger Close*, which starred Aussie actor Travis Fimmel. Ironically, many members would remember one of my Treasury ministerial advisers, Lachlan Smith. It is funny how the world works, but Lachie is actually Travis Fimmel's cousin. Anyone who saw the Stan series *Black Snow* knows just how talented Travis is—much more talented than Lachie in terms of acting. He was pretty good as Ragnar Lothbrok in *Vikings*, too. Concurrent to this work was the development of Screen Queensland Studios at Hemmant and then what can only be described as a passion project for me—the conceptualisation of and delivery of the \$12.6 million Screen Queensland Cairns studios. This was a process that started in 2018, and I was proud to work on this project with my long-time friend Aaron Fa'aoso, as well as Ross Straguzzi and Barry Stewart. This is an outcome that will continue to contribute to the Cairns economy for decades to come.

To name everyone who has supported me on this journey would be unrealistic and I would most certainly leave people out, but I do want to say a thank you to some particular people and groups. Firstly, I have been a member of the Australian Labor Party since I was 15 years old. I thank Labor members of the Gordonvale, Innisfail and Edmonton branches for their steadfast support of me for five elections and everything in-between. The late Jim Smith was campaign director for my father and me, and I know that I speak for his family and mine when I say that he is missed every single day. I also thank other Far North Queensland Labor members and supporters in the union movement.

I thank Queensland Labor President John Battams for his support over a long time and, whilst I do not always agree with every decision that comes out of Peel Street, I sincerely thank the party for giving me the honour of representing the oldest and greatest political party during my time in office. I take the time to mention that I have worked with councils from Cairns to the Cassowary Coast to Yarrabah in my own electorate very constructively over many years, as well as many other councils around Queensland in my role as treasurer.

Outside of government, I want to say how wonderful it was to work with the North Queensland Cowboys organisation, in particular securing funding for Queensland Country Bank Stadium. Speaking of stadiums, thanks also to Allan Graham from Suncorp Stadium. He does a terrific job and has been a long-time friend. I have had a long association with Tennis Queensland, and in particular I want to acknowledge chair Jane Prentice and her board, multiple CEOs including most recently Kim Kachel and Cameron Pearson, and the human dynamo of government relations that is Elia Hill. There are many sports oriented parliamentary friendship groups that I have also been fortunate to be a part of.

I mention the Ride For Isabel, an event that I founded in memory of my daughter. I want to say an enormous thanks to Georgina and Trent Twomey from Alive Pharmacy who have been the naming rights sponsor for over a decade. I thank Trent for flying in to hear me speak this evening. I also pay tribute to Gina Hogan, Glenys Duncombe and Dr Ken Chapman at various stages for support by the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation of Ride for Isabel. To Mission Australia and Hambledon House, which I have worked with closely during my entire time in public life, I want to give a shout-out to Phil Flint, Crystal Taylor and Kim Daly.

My support of the Cairns Taipans is well known, but I want to take this opportunity to thank CEO Mark Beecroft, President Troy Stone and marketing wunderkind Jasmine Amis for their friendship and support over many years. Other organisations such as TTNQ, Advance Cairns, the Chamber of Commerce, CQ University and James Cook University have also been important in terms of making things happen in the Far North.

I thank all of the amazing people I have had the privilege of working with during my time as a public servant, an MP, a minister and as Speaker, including all members of this House. I pay tribute to the other retiring members who have given their farewell speeches this evening. I think it is important and significant that we have nine members retiring. That is 10 per cent of the parliament and it is something we probably will not see again for a long time.

I thank the members of the Diplomatic Corps here in Queensland and in Canberra for ongoing engagement from their respective countries in my role as Speaker. It was evident here last night, with the Chinese and Indian community events, just how important those relationships are that have been

forged over so many years. I pay particular tribute to Akashika Mohla for her work representing the Indian diaspora, including in the Far North with my local Sikh community. From the team I worked with in Corporate Communications in State Development when I was a public servant and the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to teams I managed in Business and Skilled Migration, these experiences and friendships shaped who I am today. During an enormously challenging period in my life, Clare O'Connor, Paul O'Driscoll and Shane Lowry were part of a small team we worked together in and they gave me support that I can never repay.

In what may surprise some people, David Edwards has been a close friend and supporter of mine for nearly two decades. I worked with David and another David—David Stolz—in the director-general's office. The son of a former Liberal Party treasurer and the son of a former Labor minister: who knew?

My electorate office staff—Kylie Bock, Margaret Osmond and Heidi Osterburg—do terrific work, and I hope that they get the opportunity to continue that work with another MP. Former staff Andrew Talbot, Kobi Winsbury, Ana Vukeljae and Rebecca Spencer—you made me better. My Speaker's office team has had a few different combinations over the years—Shane, Ellie, Jayden, who gets the Sixth Man Award, and Greta. I have previously paid tribute to my good friend George Hasanakos in the most fitting way, I believe, but, unlike Costanza, my George was reliable. He was steady and was rarely 'getting upset'. Having worked together in opposition, in my time as treasurer and in the Speaker's office, I thank him again for his long service and dedication—yada yada yada.

As for Coral-Leah Kemp, I am not sure where to start. She came into my world as my electorate officer in Gordonvale and has been a constant presence ever since. To have had the opportunity to work with her in my local capacity and then continue that here at the Queensland parliament has been an honour. In the more than 14 years that we have worked together I have seen her grow and take on mountainous tasks and then immediately say, 'What's next?' I do not know of a more diligent, smart, friendly or compassionate person. She is loved by all of the Parliamentary Service staff and I consider her part of my family. Thanks for everything, Coral.

It is no secret that I have had my ups and downs over the last couple of years—struggles with my own emotional wellbeing and major back surgery. Over this time I have had amazing friendships with and support from a number of people, and some of them are here today in the gallery. You know who you are. From the bottom of my heart I want to say thank you.


I mentioned when I announced my retirement that all of my children 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. Members know that part of my motivation to run for office in the first place was to raise awareness and funds for families that experience stillbirth or pregnancy loss. One day she could have been Isabel the accountant, Isabel the engineer, Isabel the schoolteacher or Isabel the mum. Instead, she is the child, sister, grandchild, niece and cousin to people who miss her. To say that the loss of my daughter Isabel has had a profound impact on my life would be an understatement. I think about her every day.

My son, Tristan, born only months after I was elected, is now taller than me. He is handsome and clever—he clearly did not get that from me. He is at a juncture in his life where he is deciding his future. All signs point to him doing a trade, which will give him time enough to indulge his other passions of gaming and fishing. My daughters Layla and Kobi are sweet, intelligent, curious and talented. They are gorgeous and empathetic young ladies who I know can do anything they set their minds to. I hope that in this place I have made a difference to make their lives as girls just a little bit fairer so that they can reach their full potential without barriers. To the mother of my children, Kerry, I express my gratitude for raising such wonderful little people and for her support of me to do this job when it was no doubt enormously difficult.

My decision to not recontest at the election will give me the chance to be there for my children during an important phase of their life. My wonderful sister, Dionne, her husband, David, and their children, Heidi, Phoebe and Hugo, in Tasmania: you have been an amazing support. To my parents, Warren and Linda: your imprint on me was certain and for that I am grateful. The contribution they have both made to Gordonvale and the Far North Queensland community is immeasurable, whether it be through education or sport and, of course, my father's long career in this place. Dad was the only minister to serve in cabinet under the three premiers: Goss, Beattie and Bligh. He was awarded the Order of Australia for his services, but perhaps most fitting of all was that the Edmonton to Gordonvale road was named in both their honour—the Warren and Linda Pitt Way. They have looked after me for 47 years. Now it is time for me to do the same for them.

Honourable members, in my first speech in this House I promised, as the member for Mulgrave, that in my local area I would fight for them and deliver results through hard work and determination for as long as they would have me as their representative. At the end, at this time, I hope they see that I have delivered on that promise. In conclusion, as an observation: in politics and in life, winning may on the surface be satisfying, but what I have learned is that today's victory soon becomes yesterday's news. It is not enough to win; it is more important to be successful in a meaningful way. Success in life is about being part of building a better place for others that is enduring. That is something that will stand the test of time. Many people do this with their families, their jobs, in business or in the volunteer work they do for sports clubs, charities and other causes. We in this place have a larger scope: the community at large—Queensland and Queenslanders. This cause, a better Queensland, is not the responsibility of any one member alone; it is the responsibility of all of us. Being a member of parliament has been the greatest privilege of my life. I hope that I have left this place in a better state than I found it.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn to a date and a time to be fixed by Mr Speaker in consultation with the government of the state.

In moving this motion, I would like to put on the record the government's appreciation of all parliamentary staff, whether it is in this chamber, across the precinct or in the electorate offices right across the state. We thank them for their work. We thank them for their dedication throughout this 57th Parliament. We thank them for ensuring the people of Queensland's house, the Queensland parliament, runs smoothly. I wish all members good health and most members good luck for the election ahead. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.04 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.04 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, 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, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Zanow