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# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**Tuesday, 10 December 2024**

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## TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Pat Weir, Condamine) read prayers and took the chair.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people of this state and their elders past, present and emerging. I also acknowledge the former members of this parliament who have participated in and nourished the democratic institutions of this state. Finally, I acknowledge the people of this state, whether they have been born here or have chosen to make this state their home and whom we represent to make laws and conduct other business for the peace, welfare and good government of this state.

### ASSENT TO BILL



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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 29 November 2024

A bill for an Act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Public Sector Act 2022, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Path to Treaty Act 2023

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

29 November 2024

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 29 November 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 29 November 2024.

### PRIVILEGE


#### Alleged Failure to Register an Interest, Referral to Ethics Committee




**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been advised by the Registrar of Interests that a complaint by the member for Woodridge about the Premier and Minister for Veterans' registration of interests in the 56th and 57th Parliaments was received after the dissolution of the last parliament. In accordance with schedule 2, section 14 of the standing rules and orders, a complaint from a member is required to be forwarded to the Ethics Committee by the registrar. Given the risk that this matter may be raised in the House, it is appropriate that the House be formally advised. I draw to the attention of members that standing order 271 now applies to the matter.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

## Members, Conduct in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, given the changes to the sessional orders, I advise members that there will be three separate warning lists each day. The warning lists will restart each day after the luncheon and dinner adjournments.

## Petition Responses and Answers to Questions on Notice, Due Dates

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, due to the Christmas shutdown period, in accordance with standing order 7, responses to petitions tabled on Thursday, 28 November 2024 under standing order 125 and answers to questions on notice asked on Thursday, 28 November 2024 under standing order 114 are due on Monday, 6 January 2025. The *Notice Paper* and questions on notice and petitions databases reflect this due date and the Table Office will advise relevant departmental officers.

## PETITIONS

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

### Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

**Mr Andrew**, from 900 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure claims made under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme are reimbursed within 30 working days as set out in the guidelines.

### Factory and Hill Streets, Pomona, Pedestrian Crossing

**Ms Bolton**, from 314 petitioners, requesting the House to install pedestrian zebra crossings on Factory Street and on Hill Street, Pomona.

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

### Public Housing, Tenant Meetings

831 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate regular tenant meetings for Housing Commission tenants.

## TABLED PAPERS

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

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

29 November 2024—

[219](#) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman—Annual Report 2023-24

2 December 2024—

[220](#) Final response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4141-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 473 petitioners, requesting the House to resume unused blocks of land; give the owners a year to begin building on the land and if they fail to do that resume the land for the price paid by the owner

[221](#) Final response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4136-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 468 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to ensure that the new priority development at Waraba, Caboolture West, is an environmental and energy efficient development

[222](#) Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator—Annual Report 2023-2024

[223](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 52, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into prehistoric, dinosaur and paleo tourism in Outback Queensland, government response

4 December 2024—

[224](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2023-2024

6 December 2024—

[225](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

[226](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2024

[227](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2024, explanatory notes

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

SPEAKER'S PAPER

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

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Weir)—

Information Commissioner Report 1: 2024-25—Minimising Personal Information Held: Strategies to mitigate the risk of privacy breaches

### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki)—

National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Unlocking CER benefits through flexible trading) Rule 2024, No. 4

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington)—

Final response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4098-24) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 1,530 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a range of measures to provide stronger legal protections and expedited judicial processes for children who are victims of sexual assault

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg)—

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4165-24) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (4133-24) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 137 and 548 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade the Gympie-Woolooga Road from the Exhibition Road intersection to the Wide Bay Highway

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4137-24) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 738 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of traffic and pedestrian safety measures at Highfields State School along the New England Highway

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4142-24) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 342 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the Glastonbury and Exhibition Roads intersection at Southside, Gympie

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4148-24) sponsored by the member for Callide, Mr Head, from 636 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the single lane sections of the Mundubbera-Durong Road between Boondooma and Brovinia

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4160-24) sponsored by the member for Warrego, Ms Leahy, from 1,325 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to address the safety of the Warrego Highway

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4167-24) presented by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, and an ePetition (4161-24) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 381 and 222 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise critical upgrades to the intersection of Ramsay and King Streets, Cloncurry

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a paper petition (4168-24) presented by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, and an ePetition (4162-24) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 101 and 432 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise critical upgrades to the Flinders Highway

Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4147-24) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 905 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Curra and the planned Tiaro bypass

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell)—

Final response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4090-24) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 4,183 petitioners, requesting the House to revoke the part of section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 that provides for the establishment of ecotourism facilities in National Parks

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Crisafulli LNP Government



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.34 am): The LNP's commitment to Queenslanders was clear at the election of 26 October: a vote for the LNP was a vote for a fresh start for Queensland. We are delivering on that fresh start. Since the last time the House sat we have passed another milestone in our 100-day plan. It has now been more than a month since the cabinet was sworn in. As part of the plan our team had 17 items to deliver across the first week and the first month of our new government. Today I am pleased to say we have successfully delivered on each of them and I want to take this opportunity to touch on a few to the House.

In the first week, cabinet held its first meeting, the cabinet housing ministerial taskforce was established and charter letters were issued to all ministers. These confirmed the values, deliverables,


goals and KPIs that will drive ministerial accountability, which is the foundation of our government. As I mentioned last week, Queensland Treasury was instructed to abolish stamp duty for first homebuyers on new builds and to begin axing Labor's GP patients tax. That work will take a further step forward this week as we solidify that commitment.

The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project has also been scrapped. It will save Queensland taxpayers over \$37 billion. That is \$37 billion that can be spent on schools, on our hospitals, on our roads and on community safety. Speaking of community safety, on this side of the chamber we know the value Queenslanders place on feeling safe in their homes, in their businesses and in the communities they live in. Under the previous administration too many people in our state no longer felt safe at home or at work, or walking or driving the streets of their neighbourhood. We heard these concerns and so we acted. We introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws into this House during the first sitting week of the new parliament. It has one primary objective: fewer victims of crime. We did what we said we would do. I very much look forward to hearing the contributions of all those in this chamber as the laws are debated this week.

In the first month, our government has also instructed the Department of Transport and Main Roads to make 50-cent public transport fares permanent. They are now locked in and they will finally be funded. Under our new LNP government we have established a tourism cabinet committee and begun working on our 20-year tourism plan to boost tourism productivity and growth. Last week we delivered on our commitment to establish the Olympic and Paralympic Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority and we increased the independence of the Public Sector Commission. We have also implemented the electricity maintenance guarantee on government owned power plants to address the root cause of why power prices soared in our state under the watch of the former government. We have instructed Queensland Health to roll out our health plan to stabilise waitlists and reduce ambulance ramping, because Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system no matter where they live.


In a short space of time we have achieved a lot, but there is much more to do. Our team will keep working to ensure the next set of promises are delivered by the end of the year, just as we said they would be. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is what our team is delivering.

## Veterans

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.38 am): Last Monday, the Commonwealth government responded to the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the families, the friends and the colleagues of veterans who fought for and contributed to the royal commission. Having been through what they have, it cannot have been easy. In doing so, though, they ensured their loved ones leave behind a legacy to improve how we treat veterans and do better, and as a nation we will do better because we must do better.

Defence members, veterans and their families play such an important part in Queensland's history and they will continue to shape our state for the better. Our veteran community brings valuable skills and knowledge to Queensland business and industry, and they play an important role in the social fabric that makes up the Queensland way of life. We will look to address opportunities for better coordination of common services as identified in the report, such as the coroner sharing data and the improvement of services provided to defence families. Our government will look to build on our initiatives that support Queensland's veterans, recognising service and maximising social and economic participation. I want all current and former servicemen and women in our state to know that in Queensland you have a state government that truly values your service.

## Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.40 am): The Crisafulli government is getting to work on delivering our Fresh Start for Queensland. Queenslanders voted for change and we have hit the ground running on delivering the clear commitments we took to the last election. Within the first month we have fulfilled all the things we said and promised we would do. The 100-day plan is well underway. We are making sure that Queenslanders get the change they voted for in the 100-day plan.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I hate props. I will put it down for you.



**Mr SPEAKER:** What is the point of order around the prop?

**Mr BAILEY:** Clearly, it is on the use of props. He is an experienced parliamentarian and he knows better.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Indeed he is, member for Miller. Deputy Premier, you know the rules around props.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the honourable member. I thought they had a manager of opposition business, but he has not done too much work over the past sitting days. As I have said, someone is back.

After the passage of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 through the parliament, I am pleased to report to the House that the Games Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority Board has been appointed and convened for the first time last week. The 100-day countdown to deliver a bold plan for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is well and truly on.


The GIICA board appointees are the best of the best. Stephen Conry AM, Chair, has over 40 years experience in executive positions in the property industry in Australia and globally. Jess Caire, Director, is the Executive Director of the Queensland Division of the Property Council of Australia and has extensive experience working with the Queensland property industry. Tony Cochrane AM, Director, is an experienced director and chair who has worked in the sporting, events and entertainment industries for 45 years. Jill Davies, Director, has 28 years experience in securing, planning and delivering Olympic and Paralympic games across five continents and multiple cities, including Sydney 2000. Jamie Fitzpatrick, Director, is a highly respected leader in North Queensland with over 30 years experience spanning the hospitality, tourism and events industries. Regional Queensland is represented on the board because of Mr Fitzpatrick. The former Labor government opposed and voted against regional Queensland being represented on GVLDA, their Olympic and Paralympic Games delivery authority. GIICA is now established and GIICA has regional representation.

**Government members:** Go GIICA.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjections from honourable members all over the place. Sue Johnson, Director, has over 20 years experience in developing, funding, constructing and operating complex legacy infrastructure. Laurence Lancini AM, Director, is the founder and executive chairman of Lancini Property Group and has overseen the construction of property development across Queensland, including in Townsville, Mackay, Cairns, Yeppoon and Brisbane.

After more than 1,200 days of games chaos under the former Labor government, we asked Queenslanders for no more than 100 days to fix the games and that is exactly what we are doing. Today I am pleased to announce that the portal for consultation on the games is now open. For the first time, Queenslanders are being given the opportunity to have their say as part of the GIICA review process. Queenslanders, now is your chance to have a say. Head to [www.gamesreview.com.au](http://www.gamesreview.com.au) and together we can get the games back on track. This is what an honest and responsible government looks like. We are getting on with the job and delivering a fresh start for Queensland, no matter where you live.

### Infrastructure, Costs

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.44 am): It is highly likely that the Crisafulli government has inherited an outlook downgrade and ultimately a credit rating downgrade. On taking office we discovered fiscal settings burdened with project overruns, cost blowouts and ballooning debt. For the awareness of all in the House, here are some of the hidden project overruns that the former Labor government left the incoming government with: the Sunshine Coast and Chandler Olympics venues, \$181 million over budget even before they started; an additional \$500 million to connect the Brisbane arena to the surrounding area—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, only one person has the call and it is the member for Toowoomba South.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Cross River Rail has \$494 million in fresh overruns; Gold Coast light rail, up \$330 million; hospital capital upgrades, up a total of \$1.37 billion; the CopperString transmission project, up to \$9 billion; the Pioneer-Burdekin project, up from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion; and the Borumba pumped hydro project we now know will cost over \$18 billion, which is up from \$14.2 billion.

All of that has led to Queensland Treasury warnings in the incoming Treasury brief of a 'strong likelihood of large structural deficits', a 'significant and growing debt burden that won't stabilise', a 'heightened risk of credit rating downgrades' and a 'concerning increase in the interest burden likely to exceed critical thresholds'. Those opposite left a budget in place that 'presents a challenge to achieving fiscal sustainability'.

Before all the hidden project cost overruns and cost blowouts, Queensland was on track to reach \$172 billion in 2027-28, with interest repayments at the end of the forwards totalling more than \$7.7 billion. As I said, that was even before Labor's hidden cost project overruns.

**Mr Dick** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, I have already cautioned you. If I do it again you will be warned.

**Mr JANETZKI:** These are serious challenges and that is why my first official meeting as Queensland Treasurer was with Standard & Poor's. They have flagged their concerns in the past with language like 'waning fiscal discipline' and 'downward pressure on the rating'. What was the response of those opposite? It was \$1.4 billion a year to deliver school lunches. It was another state owned energy retailer. It was state owned general practices. It was state owned service stations.

We will not be doing any of that. I sought to reassure Standard & Poor's that a serious, calm and methodical government was now in place. We will take their advice seriously. Unlike those opposite, we know that this is a serious issue. On the cold hard metrics used by the ratings agencies, Queensland's performance has become equivalent or inferior to some of the states and territories that have received recent outlook downgrades.

We know windfall revenues have peaked in the short term. Compared to 2023-24, revenue is expected to decline further this financial year due to the impact of global coal prices and weakening GST revenue. Combined with the project overruns and cost blowouts we have inherited, it adds pressure to our fiscal settings and our debt trajectory. After a decade of Labor neglect and irresponsible fiscal management, we face significant headwinds. However, we will approach Labor's fiscal vandalism calmly and methodically because Queensland deserves nothing less.


### Energy System

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.48 am): Over the weekend, 25,000 homes across South-East Queensland lost power. Energy Queensland continually works to prepare for the storm season and that work is ongoing. However, it is a reminder of the importance of maintaining all aspects of our energy system. Let us not forget that the Callide Power Station exploded on the former government's watch and, following that, power bills across Queensland rose 19.9 per cent that year, which was more than three times the national average.

The Brady report into the Callide explosion exposed a lack of maintenance and maintenance practices leading up to the explosion and a failure to implement effective safety practices. It found the process safety program was under-resourced and starved of funding and there were likely competing tensions between cost reduction and process safety. It found shareholder mandates have pushed to extract more from aging assets and multiple cost-cutting initiatives have been undertaken.

We will ensure our government owned power generators will be well maintained. Our \$1.4 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee will ensure an up-front investment and enforce accountability and performance to safeguard our energy system with KPIs that GOCs must meet on maintenance, personal safety, process safety and planned performance. This was our promise to the Queensland people and that is what we are delivering on.

### Virology Laboratory, Biosecurity Breach Investigation

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Yesterday, the Crisafulli government announced an investigation into a serious breach at Queensland's public health virology laboratory. This investigation will review a major breach of biosecurity protocols at Queensland's public health virology laboratory which saw up to 323 vials of infectious virus samples unaccounted for. Many of these are samples and the public does not need to worry about them but there are others that are much more concerning.

The part 9 investigation will be led by the Hon. Martin Daubney AM KC, a retired Supreme Court judge, and will examine the handling of the Hendra virus, the Lyssavirus and Hantavirus—a virus not

normally present in Australia. It will examine the handling of those materials without appropriate record keeping. Mr Daubney will be assisted by Mr Julian Druce, who is the former head of the Virus Identification Laboratory of Victoria. The investigation is expected to conclude in June next year and the findings will be released in full, subject only to any privacy provisions required under the law.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised there is unlikely to be any risk to the community from this breach, the public does have a right to know about this incident. The breach in question occurred in 2021 while the public health virology laboratory was part of the former Forensic and Scientific Services based at Coopers Plains. If Forensic and Scientific Services sounds familiar, it is because it was also the site of Labor's failed DNA scandal where a commission of inquiry uncovered instances of grave maladministration and now may require the review of over 40,000 cases while delaying justice for victims of crime, as the Attorney knows.

Labor must have known there were bigger problems at the FSS facility. The 2022 commission of inquiry into Labor's DNA lab debacle revealed that the management structure at FSS—where only one executive director had oversight of 10 specialised scientific services with 380 staff, as was reported in the report—was destined to result in at least some insufficiency of oversight. The report does go on to say—

The structure of FSS to give one Executive Director such a remit was destined to result in at least some insufficiency of oversight.

Mr Doherty said—


... that there were budget constraints and cultural concerns prevalent across the whole of FSS and a lack of corporate support to address those issues.

Labor did the bare minimum in response to the commission of inquiry. They took no action to examine issues across the broader Coopers Plains facility. Even when a second commission of inquiry in 2023 uncovered further scandals at the DNA laboratory, the member for Waterford failed to make sure the other critical services at Coopers Plains were up to scratch. If one thing was going wrong, why not ask the question, 'What else needs to be looked at?' The member for Waterford and Labor failed to ask the simplest of questions.

We have seen yet another consequence of Labor's failed management of these laboratories because they were more interested in how things looked than in how things were. The Crisafulli government has now also commissioned respected scientist Dr Kirsty Wright to examine the ongoing issues of the DNA laboratory. Our government is, yet again, left to clean up the mess left by Labor at Coopers Plains.

This is not the only mess we are cleaning up. We are raking through Labor's cooked books on health infrastructure and finding blowout after blowout, so far to the tune of \$6 billion across the state. The Crisafulli government will fix Labor's mess, end the cost blowouts and deliver world-class health services for Queenslanders.

### Community Legal Services

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.54 am): The Crisafulli government have offered a fresh start for Queensland and that is exactly what we are doing, particularly for the community legal sector. As a former lawyer from regional Queensland, I have seen firsthand the vital role these legal services play in helping people across Queensland access support and advice when they need it most. When the LNP were last in government, we delivered funding for the Women's Legal Service to set up a hotline to support rural and regional Queensland women. I know how hard it can be to access legal support and the very real consequences of governments neglecting their responsibility to invest in those community legal services.

I was looking forward to hearing the details of the new National Access to Justice Partnership, signed up to by the former government. Rather than receiving good news that this partnership would unlock vital legal support for vulnerable Queenslanders, I was advised more than \$800 million in Commonwealth funding was at risk. The agreement required Queensland to maintain base funding that the former government left out of its budget, leaving the sector with funding uncertainty. This funding cliff meant Queensland would not have been able to ratify this agreement.

I am proud to say the Crisafulli government has negotiated and acted quickly in its first month and delivered the extra funding of \$142 million for Queensland's legal assistance sector to unlock Commonwealth funding available under the NAJP. To be really clear: this is new money that the former

government failed to budget for. Once again, it is up to an LNP government to guarantee these vital community services are paid for and delivered. The viability of—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Those opposite are protesting again about more money going to this vital sector and the vital services across Queensland. They did not give them anything. That is what we are doing. The Crisafulli government has had to come in and clean up the mess left by those opposite. They can carry on all they like but it is only our side of this chamber that is actually looking after the vulnerable in Queensland, the people who require this funding—Indigenous people, people facing domestic and family violence. That is what this—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Can you believe it? Those opposite failed to fund ATSILS. They failed to fund Legal Aid. They failed to fund community legal sectors. They can say it is not true but they forgot to put it in the budget—\$800 million of Commonwealth funding almost gone. Imagine: if those opposite had been re-elected, the whole community legal sector would have been wiped out in Queensland. It was because—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Couldn't find 140 to get 800.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you. I will take that interjection from the Premier—they could not find \$142 million to support the most vulnerable. I will tell you who did: the Crisafulli government. We are here with a fresh start for the community legal sector across Queensland.

### **Police Service, Queensland Human Rights Commission Report**



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): I would like to acknowledge the report being released today by the Queensland Human Rights Commission, which has been reported in the media this morning. I will be attending its official launch this afternoon at QUT and I thank the commission for their briefing yesterday.

This report was conducted as a recommendation from the commission of inquiry into the police response into family and domestic violence. The Human Rights Commission's review, funded by the QPS, began in July last year involving 137 interviews with former, current and prospective officers. The next steps include a two-year implementation phase and an evaluation phase which will run for 12 months after that.

Firstly, I wish to thank the men and women of the Queensland police for their participation in this process and for the commitment they displayed to help create meaningful change within the organisation. Inclusive workplaces free of discrimination and harassment are safer workplaces. Increasing diversity and inclusion is essential for our police to effectively represent and protect all members of the broad Queensland community.

The issues identified in the report are not new—many having been identified in the commission of inquiry—and are not unique to the Queensland police. Embracing change will ensure the Queensland police is a modern police service which is an attractive place to work, can retain its workers and can become a world-class organisation that is trusted and respected in the community. I know firsthand that there are many wonderful men and women who work tirelessly and sacrifice so much for the Queensland community, but I also know there is a lot of work to be done.


Since being sworn in as the Minister for Police, I have visited police stations across the state from Cairns to Cooktown and Wujal Wujal to Townsville. I have spoken with hardworking officers in Kirwan and across Brisbane, Caloundra, Cleveland, Redcliffe, Bribie Island, the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast who have told me the importance of having not only tough laws but also the appropriate resources and more motivated and supported police to enforce them.

This government is committed to supporting our police officers. We are committed to giving them the resources they need to do their job as well as crafting the laws that protect both the community and police officers as they go about their work. It is unfortunate that over the past decade our dedicated police officers have not received the backing that they deserve from government. High attrition rates, discontent within the workplace and concerns from police officers themselves about their capacity to do what is required of them characterised the former government's chaotic approach to policing.

We are dedicated to change. As police officer continue to serve our community we must continue to support them. The Crisafulli government will not waver in our support for our committed and

professional police officers and look forward to helping create a better and more effective Queensland Police Service.

### Residential Care

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.01 am): All Queensland children deserve to be safe and supported and given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Sadly, this is not the case for many of the children in the residential care system. Queensland has more than 2,000 children living in residential care facilities across the state—a number that has more than tripled since 2015. Some 683 of those children are aged under 12—a number that has increased 381 per cent since 2015.

The cost of residential care is simply unsustainable. The state will likely spend more than \$1 billion on residential care this financial year, with the average cost per child per night of \$1,360. The current trajectory of residential care costings has left a budget black hole to the tune of \$500 million and Queensland Labor has been negligent in their fiscal responsibility and as the guardian of these children. Labor has been caught out lying to Queenslanders and our government has inherited a broken system.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I caution you on using unparliamentary language. You need to withdraw.

**Ms CAMM:** I withdraw. This government has inherited a broken system—a system that was without a plan to protect children and our communities. The previous government's road map for residential care was quite frankly on the road to nowhere. Their extreme underfunding for the sector, along with the sheer increases in children living in residential care—especially those under 12—is a disgrace. When I meet with departmental staff and hear about five-year-olds who have been in residential care for more than one year, those opposite should hang their heads in shame.

It has become clear that Labor did not care about Queenslanders' money, their safety or doing the right thing by the state's most vulnerable children. The children who currently call residential care home are the reason that I am standing here today—to be their minister and to support them in their future—committed to reforming the broken system that this government has inherited. We will provide them with better care and hope for the future.

The Crisafulli government is not daunted by the task ahead. Our \$383 million Safer Children, Safer Communities policy includes a plan to reform the residential care system. It includes critical support for early intervention.

**Ms Grace** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I will stop you for a moment. Member for McConnel, I caution you.

**Ms CAMM:** It includes critical support for early intervention for our most vulnerable children and young people. Under the reforms, we will increase allowances for extracurricular activities and education support for children in out-of-home care which will support foster and kinship carers with cost-of-living pressures associated with raising children.

We will also pilot a new professional foster care program for children with complex needs and with disability who are currently placed in the residential care system. That will mean more children living in family-based care are not in single bedrooms all alone. The reforms will also deliver residential care facilities that are staffed appropriately with staff who are able to manage the complex needs and behaviours of children and young people who live there. We on this side of the House care about safety.

A new dual carer model will be developed with the sector and implemented, providing two rostered carers at residential care facilities 24 hours a day when required. Under the former government, one child in care this financial year has resulted in the highest cost of \$2.448 million. This is not acceptable. This is why we will also deliver Queensland's first secure care facility to provide safe care to children who are a danger to themselves and others. We are a government that will deliver safer children and a safer community.

### Small and Family Businesses

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.06 am): I am extremely honoured to be the inaugural Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business. I take this opportunity to thank the Premier for creating this inaugural department. Since being sworn in, I have

visited hundreds of staff as we build this new department from the ground up. I am extremely impressed by their professionalism and willingness to serve Queenslanders.

What is very obvious, however, is that the four ex-ministers sitting opposite were rarely seen and some long-serving employees even commented that I was the first minister they had ever met. The Crisafulli LNP government made a clear commitment to those Queenslanders running small and family businesses before the election and now we are getting on and delivering those promises. Queensland's more than 482,000 small business employing more than one million Queenslanders can be confident of a brighter future under the LNP. We will listen to them and deliver on our commitments, not work against them like the former Labor government.


Let us take two examples. I commend the Deputy Premier for his work to immediately pause the Best Practice Industry Conditions, BPIC. These conditions caused significant budget blowouts which economically flowed down the line and had a major impact on many small and family construction industry businesses. The previous Labor government had no respect for other people's money.

In addition to the pausing of BPIC, the Crisafulli LNP government has taken a strong stance on crime. Labor, as we all know, is soft on crime. Crimes against small and family businesses affect staff, impact customers, put pressure on the cost of security systems and cause insurance costs to skyrocket. We will support those policies and programs that allow small and family businesses to thrive.

I recently had the pleasure to meet the good folk at Mentoring for Growth, an outstanding small business program. Since 2016, the staff and volunteers at Mentoring for Growth have delivered more than 4,000 sessions across Queensland, with almost 3,600 businesses. In 2024 alone there has been more than 360 sessions with almost 360 businesses. Half of those sessions have been with female business owners and almost a quarter were with business owners who identify as being culturally and linguistically diverse.

This year there has been an almost 100 per cent increase in the number of First Nations businesses participating in the program. We want to ensure that people from all backgrounds with all experiences are well-supported to start and operate small and family businesses. Unlike the former Labor government, where crime and pandering to the CFMEU were stifling small and family businesses, the LNP will in fact deliver the fresh start that small and family business needs.

### Infrastructure, Costs


 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): The Crisafulli government has committed to deliver a fresh start for Queensland, and that includes being honest with Queenslanders about the true cost of infrastructure. Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3 was originally priced by the former Labor government at \$709 million. By this year's budget the price had increased to \$1.219 billion, an increase of 72 per cent. Unbeknownst to Gold Coast voters at the recent state election, however, the former Labor government had agreed to further increase the budget by \$330 million, meaning that the project had doubled in price. That \$330 million Labor blowout was hidden from Queenslanders. Mr Speaker, \$330 million is not an insignificant amount of money. Queenslanders should have been told about this blowout before the election. They had a right to know about it, and this right was denied them by the former Labor government.

Gold Coast Light Rail is not the only example of Queenslanders being kept in the dark about the true cost of infrastructure. Last week I was in Cairns with the hardworking members for Barron River, Cook and Mulgrave to talk about infrastructure, including the common user facility at the Cairns port. This facility was signed off as a \$360 million project in 2021 by the then Labor minister for state development, the member for Murrumba and now opposition leader. That project now sits at over \$800 million. Despite knowing months before the election that the budget had blown out by hundreds of millions of dollars, the previous government did not tell the people of Cairns. They hid that information from the people of Far North Queensland. The LNP knows how important the marine industry is to the far north's employment and economic growth, and that is why Ports North is now in discussions with stakeholders on an appropriate way forward.

The Crisafulli government has committed to releasing the full cost of the Cross River Rail project because we will be open and transparent with Queenslanders. We have already identified an almost \$500 million increase in the cost of surface works for Cross River Rail, and I look forward to updating Queenslanders about that project in the future. Given their pattern of behaviour, Queenslanders will be asking themselves how they can trust anything they were told by former Labor governments. We must rebuild people's trust in government. That is why the LNP is going through the budget line by line to get a true understanding of the infrastructure pipeline and costs to deliver projects here in Queensland. The

Crisafulli government will not keep Queenslanders in the dark. We will be honest and accountable when it comes to the cost of our road and public transport projects. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government will deliver.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation is absent this morning due to an interstate ministerial meeting and that the Premier and Minister for Veterans will take the minister's questions in question time.


## MOTIONS

### Order of Business; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, for this week's sitting, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:

1. The House will continue to sit past 9.30 pm on Tuesday, 10 December 2024 and Wednesday, 11 December 2024 to consider government business until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House, to be followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate;
2. With respect to the Making Queensland Safer Bill:
  - (a) The minister to be called on in reply by 4.40 pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024;
  - (b) Consideration in detail to commence no later than 5 pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024;
  - (c) If the bill has not been completed by 5.25 pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024, the Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.
3. The House shall not break for dinner on Thursday, 12 December 2024 and shall adjourn at the conclusion of valedictory speeches (to the special adjournment) and after the adjournment is moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House, without any adjournment debate.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (10.14 am): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'move' be deleted and the following inserted:

'that all stages of the Making Queensland Safer Bill be completed by 9 pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024, with the minister being called on to reply, no later than 8 pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024.;

It did not take long for this LNP Premier to dispense with the work ethic he told us all about. It did not take long for the Leader of the House to show their true colours. It only took a couple of sitting days—

**Mr Miles:** One!

**Mr Dick:** One!

**Mr de BRENNI:** Just one sitting day; I take the interjection from the leader and deputy leader. It only took one sitting day for the LNP to revert to type: back to stifling debate in this chamber; back to limiting the ability for scrutiny on legislation; back to ramming laws through this parliament. The member for Moggill has only been the Leader of the House for a few sitting days, but already he has rendered everything the member for Glass House ever said or did a complete waste of this parliament's time. How many times did we have to endure complaints about adequate time for the consideration of bills, yet they come in here and move this motion with their first big bill. They came in here to ram through their bill so there is a lack of opportunity to scrutinise the legislation. Now they propose a lack of debate. So much for the work ethic we heard so much about. The priority of those opposite is to get to Christmas drinks rather than debate this bill for the duration to which the House agreed. I remind the House that just one sitting week ago we agreed to sit until 9.30 pm this Thursday to debate these important laws. After just one week, here they are ignoring their own sessional orders.


The motion put by the Leader of the House is designed to limit the ability of members of this chamber to speak to this important legislation in detail. They have rushed this legislation through the committee; now they want to rush it through this chamber. The motion before the House wants the House to agree that the Making Queensland Safer Bill should be passed by 5.20 this Thursday. The amendment we have moved means that members of this House will be afforded adequate time to debate the issues in the bill. We will be afforded adequate time to question this Attorney-General and the government on this bill. That is important, because we have indicated the opposition will move

amendments to ensure that clauses which pertain to elements not canvassed at the election are appropriately scrutinised and not rammed through after just two days of consultation. Our proposed amendment would mean that we can deal with elements of this bill adequately on a clause-by-clause basis and specifically address the matters that experts fear will be bad for victims. Our proposed amendment would allow the House to appropriately deal with matters in the bill that were not taken to the election, especially those that stakeholders, particularly victims' groups, have raised concerns about in the committee process.

If the LNP votes against our amendment to this motion it is another clear signal to everyone who cares about a safer community that the LNP is not ready to answer questions about the detail. They are not willing to have laid bare the unintended consequences of their rushed laws. Voting against our amendment means the LNP puts the idea of a Christmas party above the safety of Queenslanders.

The LNP want to limit scrutiny on the detail of the bill. The LNP are happy to trash parliamentary process and parliamentary democracy. They are not really interested in transparency; we have seen that. We have also seen the level of disrespect the LNP show for members of this House. If they vote against our amendment now, it shows the LNP are disrespectful to advocates, to victims, to police and to Queenslanders both young and old.

Members are elected to this place and they have a duty to debate and scrutinise legislation above the desire for a night off. The motion to knock off early in the midst of this debate is just as disrespectful as the truncated committee process was. It shows again the LNP do not want to allow adequate time for the debate and scrutiny of this bill. The amendment we have moved will ensure there is adequate time for all members to address this issue. If the debate concludes by then, so be it, but it should not be curtailed and it should not be diminished by the government. I commend our amendment to the House.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.19 am): Mr Speaker, I cannot help myself because I feel like I am living in a parallel universe. What has happened to the Labor Party? Where have they gone? What has happened to them? What was coming out of the Manager of Opposition Business's mouth is completely—

**Mr Minnikin:** It's your old speech.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection—it is my old speech. It is 10 years of my speeches. It is 10 years of copying my speeches. It is 10 years of trawling through my speeches from when Labor was in government. But here is the difference.

**Mrs Frecklington:** He is on the way up, though.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He is not on the way up. Here is the difference. This week we are asking this parliament to deal with one bill all week. That mob rushed in pieces of legislation. I think on one occasion we had five or six bills rushed through in one week—all cognated, no debate time, no consideration in detail—and now they have the hide to come in here and whinge that we are giving parliament three days to debate one bill. I am aghast that the word 'victim' was mentioned out of his mouth because at no time during the election campaign did the Labor Party mention victims. At no time—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, we are talking about the amendment. That is what the current debate is around. I would ask you to debate the amendment.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am responding to his contribution on the debate and his amendment today. Here is the other thing: this is also coming from the party—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, you will also direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is from the member who introduced family friendly hours with the Labor Party because they quit at five o'clock and demanded we go into adjournments at six o'clock on a Thursday night and seven o'clock every other night. Now they are waxing lyrical about democracy, the institution—everything the Labor Party thumbed their nose at for 10 years and before 2012.

What we see today is the Labor Party doing what they always do—politics. Here is the thing: if the Labor Party want to sit all night tonight until the next morning, then happy days, we are happy to do it. If the Labor Party want to sit all through tomorrow night, then happy days, but I suspect it will be past their bedtime and they will not want to do it because they quit in those 10 years. They never wanted to be in this House and they showed it through every speech they made and every time they cognated



debate and rushed bills. Honourable members must take with a grain of salt everything this Labor Party are now saying and doing in this chamber because they do not believe it.

**A government member interjected.**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. Look at their history. There is plenty of time for debate on this one bill this week. As I said, if they want more time and want to sit all night tonight and tomorrow night, then go for it; we are happy to. We are happy to sit tonight and tomorrow night and then we will give victims the say they so deservedly need.

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

**AYES, 37:**

**ALP, 35—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 53:**

**LNP, 50—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr de Brenni) negatived.

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

**AYES, 53:**

**LNP, 50—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**NOES, 37:**

**ALP, 35—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## Referral to Education, Arts and Communities Committee



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That the Education, Arts and Communities Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 12 December 2025 into the abuse of older people in Queensland (elder abuse), defined as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, in the context of a relationship of trust, causing harm or distress, including the:
  - (a) nature and extent, including for vulnerable cohorts, of:
    - (i) forms of neglect and abuse, such as physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and financial;
    - (ii) relationships where elder abuse occurs, including family and kinship relationships;
    - (iii) risk and protective factors, and barriers and enablers for people to access support.
  - (b) effectiveness and cohesiveness of responses to elder abuse, including Queensland laws, policies, programs and services, in preventing, safeguarding, identifying and responding to elder abuse, including:
    - (i) adult guardianship and violence protection services, other funded services, and community-based interventions;
    - (ii) civil and criminal legal frameworks;
    - (iii) community awareness, education and engagement initiatives;
    - (iv) monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes;

- (v) human rights protections.
  - (c) opportunities to improve responses to elder abuse in Queensland, within the government, broader community, non-government, and private sectors, including ensuring responses are trauma informed and culturally appropriate.
2. The inquiry will consider:
- (a) voices of people with lived experience of elder abuse (with appropriate assistance to be provided for people to engage with the inquiry where required);
  - (b) views of other stakeholders; and
  - (c) relevant findings, reports and prevalence studies (insofar as they relate to elder abuse).


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.34 am.

### Public Hospitals, Transfer Nurses

 **Mr MILES** (10.34 am): My question is to the Premier. Whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that the Crisafulli LNP government is cutting transfer nurses from hospital emergency departments. The Premier said before the election that there would be no cuts to Queensland Health. Has the LNP government misled Queenslanders?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for the question which mirrors the tweet of the shadow health minister. The Leader of the Opposition has chosen to ask his first question today to me about something that is categorically untrue. I have great news for the House and that is that today, in the case of Gladstone, the first of the clients have walked into that facility and have been treated. That is a magnificent achievement. Why is it a magnificent achievement? It is a magnificent achievement because when the minister took office, he discovered that, despite the commitments that had been made, those services were not fully funded. I can inform the House that every single cent that has been allocated will be spent on those facilities, but sadly for Queensland taxpayers, more money will need to be found. So, contrary to the question from the Leader of the Opposition, which is—

**Mr MILES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question related to transfer nurses in emergency departments, not the nurses at the nurse-led clinic in Gladstone.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, if I can continue: the Leader of the Opposition has asked a question of me about reductions in health services and I am giving a fulsome answer. I will continue to do so and respond to the Leader of the Opposition. The process has not been fully funded and, as a result, the health minister has to find a contribution to keep valuable services open.

There are multiple black holes across the health portfolio. There are black holes across nurse-led clinics. There are black holes across capital infrastructure. There is a health blowout north of \$6 billion, and we have been honest and up-front with Queenslanders. What we have said to Queenslanders, contrary to what has been peddled by the shadow minister and the Leader of the Opposition, no, there will not be cuts.

**Mr Bailey:** Here come the cuts.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No, there will not be. What there will be is transparency and honesty. What there will be is a reflection to Queenslanders that they deserve a world-class health system, no matter where they live. These services will not only be funded in line with what has been left but also more money has to be found to keep them operating. The great shame from those opposite is they have not learned a thing from the election campaign. They have not learned a thing. The same scare campaign that Queenslanders were subjected to did not work before the election and it certainly is not working afterwards. The answer to—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the Premier is not answering the question. It was very specific about transfer nurses. He has 22 seconds to actually address the question which he has not done so in the first 2½ minutes.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was broad. There was specific elements to that. The question was broad.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** If I can continue?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear the point of order in silence.

**Dr ROWAN:** There were some specific elements to the question. There was the broad nature of the question as well. The Premier is being responsive to the question and providing a fulsome and detailed response to the question as asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question was framed quite broadly, but I will bring the Premier back to the specifics at the end of the question. You still have time to round out that answer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** To be very clear, everything in the budget is being honoured. I will continue to talk about the unfunded promises from those opposite that have to be met. They promised there would be money in the budget for capital that did not exist. They promised there would be money for services that did not exist. We are honouring what is in the budget and we are going to work to deliver more.

### **Public Hospitals, Transfer Nurses**

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain to the House what a transfer nurse is, and can he categorically rule out cutting them on 31 December?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The opposition leader is referring to the nurses who work in our emergency departments. They are vital. Why they are vital is because emergency department nurses in Queensland—frontline clinicians in Queensland—are under more pressure than ever before. In the last 10 years, ambulance ramping has gone from 15 per cent to 45 per cent. Those opposite come in here and try to rewrite history. There is a reason emergency departments are under incredible pressure. There is a reason why nurses are leaving in droves. There is a reason why frontline services have not been funded, and it is because those opposite were not transparent about what was in the budget—and they try to talk about a system that was not properly funded.

We have a new health minister trying to pick up the pieces after four very bad ones. Three of them remain, and they sit side-by-side, flanked on either side by the worst two industrial relations ministers ever. They sit there—the three of them. It started at 15 per cent. It had dropped before COVID and it is at 45 per cent. That is why we need to properly fund our frontline staff. They need to be properly funded. More than that, nurses need to know that they have a government that will properly resource them, that will treat them with respect; that will not make excuses for blowouts or for the pressures they are under but will get to work.

**Mr Bailey:** Here come the cuts.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take the interjection from the member from Miller. It is on the contrary. We are cleaning up the mess that was left by those opposite.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand you are giving the Premier some latitude. The question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition was clear. He asked if he could explain what a transfer nurse was, and if he could categorically guarantee no cuts. He has failed to do either. I would ask you bring him back to the question on the matter of relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, if you could go directly to the question that would be great.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They are at the frontline of our EDs and they do a mighty job. They do a mighty job because of the pressure that the system is under. To return to the interjection from the member from Miller, yes, he was not in the cabinet in the dying days but he had his fingerprints over a lot of the mess. Let me give it to you straight, member for Miller: the health minister is desperately trying to fix up the mess that has been left. The health minister is trying to find a way to make sure that our Queensland Health system is properly resourced. To be categorically clear: Queensland Health needs more nurses, it needs more doctors, it needs more occupational therapists and it needs more wardies. Queensland Health is in crisis. It has taken 10 years for someone who is standing in this chair to admit that it is in crisis—to admit that the nurses are under incredible pressure and to admit that they need a government that is honest, that has their back and that gives them the resources to do their job.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements**

**Mr HUTTON:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline the progress that has been made on the LNP's first 100-day plan, and will the Premier outline how this contrasts with the scare campaign around a change of government in Queensland?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Keppel for the question. In this book are the commitments that we took to the people of Queensland that outline what we will do in the first 100 days

of office. The honourable member asked about commitments. The commitments in the first 100-day plan will be met in full. To date, we have met all of our commitments that we made for the first week, for the first month and we are well on our way to delivering the commitments we said would be made in this calendar year. This week in the parliament, not only will we will take a big step forward when we comes to addressing the youth crime crisis in this state but there are also other things that have been brought ahead of schedule, like the first meeting of the Tourism Cabinet Subcommittee. It is important for Queenslanders to know that we have a 20-year vision for tourism in this state.

The honourable member asked me if I was aware of how our record of delivery contrasts with the very grubby and vile scare campaign that was run. We saw it on billboards, we saw it on social media—we even heard it on phone calls. It was one of the most disgraceful, dishonest scare campaigns ever run by a very desperate political movement—all knowingly untrue. There were claims about satellite hospitals that are already on the way to being strengthened with MRIs and CT scanners as promised. There were claims about kindergarten and TAFE, despite a commitment for three additional TAFE facilities. There were claims about coal royalties, despite three budgets and some ridiculous motions by the former treasurer. There were scare campaigns about fishing in the Moreton Bay. Because of a commitment to install gross pollutant traps to stop plastic going into Moreton Bay, those opposite said that meant fishing with lures would be cancelled in Moreton Bay. Above all, there has been a scare campaign against the Public Service. I say to the Public Service, who have seen more visibility from ministers in one month than what they saw in 10 years: thank you for what you do.

Fortuitously, Queenslanders did not believe a word the former government said—they voted them out in record numbers. There are 18 new members of the LNP in this chamber because Queenslanders did not believe a word the opposition said. We saw 18 members who were energetic in their communities. We saw them by the roadside on the weekend, hungry to serve. Despite what was a vile, untrue and vicious scare campaign, Queenslanders saw through it.

### **Queensland Health, Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme**

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Premier. Whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that the Crisafulli LNP government is cutting the Queensland Health Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, effective from 31 December this year. Given the Premier said before the election that there would be no cuts to Queensland Health, has the LNP government misled Queenslanders?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I would like to inform the honourable member that every single cent in the budget will be spent. This is important because we have a workforce crisis when it comes to health. We have a workforce crisis, and we have to make sure that that fund is attracting the best and brightest. We have to make sure that that fund is focused on bringing people to Queensland from other jurisdictions and that is how we can drive the change that is needed. I say to frontline staff, whether they are doctors or nurses: we value the work you do in regional areas.

You only have to look at the pressure on facilities like the Rockhampton Hospital to realise how vital it is to make sure that nurses and doctors have a supportive environment. You only have to walk through that emergency department to see what an absolute disaster the former government made of it. You only have to go to regional areas—represented by people like the member for Burdekin that did not have a full-time doctor for over five years—to know how bad workforce attraction was under the former government. I can confirm for the honourable member that every single cent in the budget will be spent on attracting the best and the brightest. I understand what those opposite are trying to do. They are trying to paint a picture that does not exist because it is all they know. Scare campaigns are all they know.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118. Will the Premier inform the House whether the attraction scheme will be kept or cut on 31 December?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I understand those opposite might have questions written for them but not points of order. I understand that they will give him a refidex. I get that they write the questions for the shadow minister, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because he does not like going in to work very early. I get that, but you would think he would listen to the points of order. Every single cent—and I know the narrative. I get it. We understand. His strategist wrote the table for today. We understand it, but it is not working. They are not listening. Queenslanders do not buy it. They saw through it.

Every single cent will be spent because we need the best and the brightest and they need to know that they have a government that has their back.

### **Infrastructure Projects**

**Ms MORTON:** My question is for the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on its commitment to build critical state infrastructure projects including for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any scare campaigns that offered alternative views?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I start by thanking the honourable member for Caloundra for the question and congratulating her on her election. The only thing the former member for Caloundra, whom she beat, took to the people of Caloundra was a proposal to build a jail in the heart of Caloundra at Bulcock Street. With her advocacy and the advocacy of the then LNP opposition we got rid of it and then he flipped on it. I say congratulations to her. I know she will be an outstanding member for Caloundra in advocating for that area.

The member asks about infrastructure. We have seen a lot of blowouts and we have been exposing those Labor blowouts since the election. None could be more present than in the Olympic and Paralympic space where I have already announced there were three projects with a total blowout of \$181 million. The then minister knew it; former minister Grace knew about the blowouts and she refused to tell Queenslanders. She shakes her hand. She says she does not know. How was I able to become a minister and within five minutes ask, 'How much are they actually costing?', and I got the information? Maybe the minister was negligent and she never asked the question about the blowouts. Maybe that is why the Labor Party had a problem with delivering things on time and on budget, because there was never ministerial accountability and they never asked the questions.

We are getting the games back on track. They had 1,200 days to plan the Olympic and Paralympic Games and they did nothing. This government has done more in 30 days than those opposite did in 1,200 days, because they did not do a lot. We have said publicly that these games and this government are going to concentrate less on the glitz and glamour. Here is the headline, 'No glitz or glamour, just great Games' for Queensland. I table a copy of that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 5 December 2024, titled 'No glitz or glamour, just great Games'.

The only time you will see glitz and glamour on me is when I am in my Elvis jumpsuit. Other than that, I do not want glitz and glamour in the games; we just want to deliver a good 2032 games that all Queenslanders can be proud of.

Not only did we see the venues blow out under the Labor government, we saw the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro blow out to \$37 billion. The member asked me about scare campaigns. The biggest scare campaign in infrastructure that the Labor Party put to the people of Queensland was that the LNP were apparently going to cut the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme. Yes, we did because it was \$37 billion unfunded. Those opposite knew it and the Leader of the Opposition hid it from the people of Queensland.

Yesterday I saw the Labor leadership team ducking and weaving from the media, missing in action. We saw an article in the *Courier-Mail* today that they were scurrying their way into the party room caucus meeting without any transparency or openness. When talking about the Olympic Games and sport, I have to say that yesterday the Labor Party were running faster than Gout Gout away from the media, and that is saying something about former minister Grace Grace.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence, Deputy Premier.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Ms GRACE:** Smart! That was offensive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you are warned.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, you are also warned.

### **Brisbane City Nurse-Led Walk-In Clinic**

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Premier. Whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that the Crisafulli LNP government is cutting services to nurse-led clinics. Can the Premier advise the House how many operating hours will be cut from the nurse-led clinic in the Brisbane CBD?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I say to the honourable member, again, every single cent will be honoured—every single cent. I understand the narrative that they are trying to paint but it does not work and the budget reveals it.

**Mr Nicholls:** No-one believes them.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No-one believes them. It is a broken record because it is all they have. After seven years of sitting on the government side you would think there would be an ounce of humility because of what the electorate said. The same tone that was set by the now Leader of the Opposition on election night when he delivered the most grubby concession speech ever is being reflected today.

**Mr Nicholls:** He wouldn't concede.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** He is a leader who could not even have the decency to admit what had happened. It is the same tone today and they all know it.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on 118(b) relevance. There is nothing in the Premier's response that pertains to the question asked by the member for McConnel. I would ask you to bring him back to the very specific detail about how many operating hours will he cut from the nurse-led clinic in Brisbane CBD.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is a fair point of order, Premier. I ask you to respond to the question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, I will go back to the start of the answer: everything is being honoured. It is all being honoured—

**Mr Smith:** In Brisbane.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In Brisbane and in Gladstone it is being honoured as well as in our satellite hospitals and in the expansion of our EDs. However, there will be a change. I do acknowledge there will be a change. Staff will be respected. Doctors will have a—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I will stop you. I am sitting right here and I cannot hear the Premier. The noise level is way too high and I will begin warning a multitude of members and removing members from the chamber if the behaviour does not improve.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The change will be the way that staff are treated and the resources they get. They will be respected. Patients will have a health service that will improve year on year. As part of the minister's charter letter there will deliverables around ambulance ramping, around stemming the tide that those opposite oversaw. There were four health ministers under the former government and it is hard to say which was the worst of the bunch. I will tell honourable members one thing they all had in common: every one of them saw numbers go the wrong way. Every one of them saw ambulance ramping increase. Every one of them saw the surgery waiting lists increase. Every one of them had doctors and nurses under more pressure than ever before and now they come in and ask questions about something that the minister not only is funding but is trying to find extra money for in terms of the fit-out of some facilities that were not even budgeted for.

In answer to the question, every single cent will be honoured; every single clinic will be working. The difference is more money has to be found from the budget which was under immense pressure because those opposite were the worst government for a health system, and they had Gordon Nuttall on their team once. They were the worst government for a health system ever. Those opposite have presided over a disastrous system. We will fix it.

### **Mental Health Services**

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer outline how the Crisafulli LNP government intends to fund mental health services in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any contrasting views or scare campaigns?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question because in our first 100 days the Crisafulli government is doing what we promised. When it comes to our tax plan, we are doing as we promised. We have maintained coal royalties across the forwards as promised. We have started the abolition of the patient tax in Queensland as promised which will drive down pressure on our emergency departments and drive up bulk-billing across Queensland. We have started abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. We are doing as we promised. Contrary to Labor's scare campaign, we are retaining the mental health levy in Queensland. This is just another of the pathological scare campaigns undertaken by the previous Labor government during the 2024 election campaign,

and I am going to go to the source. Quoting directly from the media release of the now shadow Treasurer and then health minister—

... if given the chance the LNP would cut the mental health levy and the critical services it provides.

That is wrong and it is a pathological scare campaign—a grubby scare campaign—that those opposite ran right throughout the election campaign in 2024.

The honourable member asked about alternatives and it is appropriate that she ask because, as the assistant minister for mental health, the member for Rockhampton is on the front line of making sure that the mental health levy is spent exactly where we need it to be spent. We will be up-front and transparent about where we will be spending the mental health levy, and I reflect on the step-up, step-down mental health facilities. We promised two in the election campaign. They will be funded through the mental health levy, and the first one will be in Rockhampton because the people of Central Queensland deserve their fair share. I look to the new members for Keppel, the history maker in the member for Rockhampton—the first in 100 years—and the member for Mirani as well making history in Mirani. The people of Central Queensland deserve their fair share and for us on this side of the House our word matters when it comes to our tax plan—unlike those opposite who promised 26 times not to increase or introduce new taxes and then they broke it, but they just did not break it: they denied ever breaking it. They never conceded it. We promised to retain the mental health levy before the election, and that is exactly what we are doing.

### Queensland Health, Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I table an email from Queensland Health which says—

I'm writing to advise of a decision that has been made to end the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme within Queensland Health effective from 31 December 2024.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from document, undated, regarding the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme.

Given the Premier has said that the scheme was not being cut, has the Premier misled the parliament?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the honourable member for the question because the honourable member is part of the quad of failed Labor members who have seen ambulance ramping throughout the state almost triple so that we now have ambulance ramping over 45 per cent in some of our facilities throughout the state. We now have an elective surgery waiting list of over 64,000 people. We now have a capital budget program that is going to be \$6 billion more than those opposite ever announced. We have an expansion program that is \$1.3 billion underfunded that will not deliver one single extra bed. We have a question from a former health minister who failed to properly and adequately fund the services that Queenslanders need, and there will be more to come in relation to that, including in relation to walk-in nurses because CBRC under Labor approved about \$46 million for nurse-led walk-in clinics. The only problem with that is it did not fund all of the operations, all of the labour costs, all of the fit-out or all of the leasing costs. On the eve of an election they made an announcement—

**Mr MILES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The shadow minister very clearly tabled proof that the Premier had misled the parliament and it is time for the health minister to clarify why his department is advising contrary to what the Premier is telling the parliament.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not a point of order under the standing orders.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I also point out that the shadow Treasurer is interjecting while I am making my point of order, Mr Speaker, so if you could deal with those two points of order: that the Leader of the Opposition's point of order was not a point of order and the shadow Treasurer was interjecting in relation to me making a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I will look after that side of the chamber. We still have one minute and 30 seconds on the clock. The minister has heard the question. He knows the question. There was a specific section of that question, so I would ask the minister to address that section of the question.

**Mr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It was interesting to see the Leader of the Opposition rise to his feet and take a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition of course is a doctor—not a medical doctor; he has a PhD in social science—and his thesis was—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, you are now warned.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—a topic in trade union membership. Of course, it is—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was very specific about the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme that relates—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear the point of order in silence.

**Mr BAILEY:** The question was very specific about the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme about the attraction of regional and remote staff in Queensland Health and clearly the minister is avoiding the question. I would suggest he should answer the question given the documentation provided by the member for Waterford.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Take your seat. I am going to take a bit of advice. There are a number of aspects here. The question really should have been directed to the Premier. You are asking a minister to comment on an issue with regard to the Premier. The minister is talking about the cost side of the question and I am going to allow him to continue with that answer, so I am not going to allow that point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your clarification on those matters. Every cent in the health budget will be spent and it will be spent properly on deploying doctors, nurses and clinicians to where they are needed throughout Queensland. The Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme was announced yet again without any budget allocation, so those opposite announced a scheme and did not put any money into the budget to pay for it. All they simply said to the department was, 'Absorb the cost within your budget.' They said, 'Open your wallet and use what's in there.' There is nothing in the wallet. It has all gone. They have overspent, so what happened is they diverted \$40 million from the strategic initiatives that actually get doctors long term into rural Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They fail on every account, Mr Speaker.

*(Time expired)*

### Health System

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government will ensure public health services are strengthened across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns that offer alternative views?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Burnett for his question. The member for Burnett, a longstanding colleague and friend of many in this place, has had a longstanding interest in the delivery of health services in the Burnett, Bundaberg and Wide Bay region and that is why he has been able to represent the people of Burnett for so long in this House.

Under Labor, Queenslanders have suffered the worst ambulance ramping and record long waitlists for elective surgery and specialist appointments. We are going to heal Labor's health crisis by diagnosing the issues from within our health system. We will treat the causes and we will deliver long-term solutions to cure those problems. This work is well underway. We have commenced the rollout of our health plan to reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise the waitlists. I have directed Queensland Health to prepare for the publication of transparent, real-time data.

As each day passes we are further unravelling the mess left behind by the former government. Three of the previous four health ministers are still sitting over there. I have not yet dealt with the member for Miller, and I will relish the opportunity to do so. It is abundantly clear that Labor's low-rent scare campaigning, filled with falsehood after falsehood, was a desperate attempt to cling to power and if nothing changes, as it seems not to have from what is happening today, we will still see the same low-rent scare campaign rolling out across Queensland.

Transit nurses play an important part in our facilities. As the first health minister to attend the Metro South Health and Hospital Service awards night, I presented an award to Penny of the transit



lounge at Redlands Hospital for the great work she is doing there. Those transit nurses are recurrently funded in the budget. That was another Labor scare campaign.

It is hard to know where to go first. Let us start with their dirty and desperate campaign in Pumicestone. I look to the new member for Pumicestone; what a breath of fresh air the new member for Pumicestone is. She is doing a great job. I am reminded of her predecessor in this place who is not so favourably remembered. For those who do not remember, the former member, when she was not busy denigrating the age of her opponent—and who cannot forget that disgraceful scare campaign—then said, ‘They will privatise our satellite hospital, they will downgrade services and they will sack local doctors and nurses.’ That could not be further from the truth. We have commenced the process for nine new CT scanners and six new MRIs to go into our systems. We are renaming satellite hospitals. We have had over 2,000 responses from people who want to see those renamed so they deliver what they say they will. We will continue to deliver the health care Queenslanders need.

### **Gladstone, Nurse-Led Clinic**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Premier. Whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that the Crisafulli LNP government is cutting services at nurse-led clinics in Queensland. Can the Premier update the House on how many nurses will be sacked from the Gladstone nurse-led clinic and how much longer will people in Gladstone wait for treatment at the Gladstone Hospital?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I have waited four years for the member for Gladstone to ask a question about health services in Gladstone. I have waited four years to hear that member stand up about the health issues in Gladstone. He sat silent while for four years women in that community were denied the services they need. As a result, the member for Gladstone suffered the biggest swing against him of any of those opposite—nearly 20 per cent. The member for Gladstone knows full well his community saw him go missing.

Let me assure the member for Gladstone that the new minister is doing everything he can to make sure that people in the community of Gladstone get the services they deserve. I sat there and I listened to Jemma and many of the young mums tell me what it was like to have that service taken away. There was barely a whimper from the member opposite. The only person who advocated like a local member was the member for Callide. The member for Callide was the closest the people of Gladstone had to a local member. This member sat in silence and today, on the day that that clinic finally opens, he comes in and asks a question. It is a misguided question and I will tell members why: along with everything that is in the budget it will be honoured. I want Queenslanders to know—and Queenslanders have worked out—that we are a government of our word. When we say we are going to do something we do it. If we say we will not do something we will not do it. That is the contrast to those opposite.

Queenslanders saw a desperate Labor Party trying to cling to power. Those opposite ran scare campaigns, they ran billboards, they phoned Queenslanders—they tried everything and it did not work. One would think that that would have been the call. One would think that being reduced to what they are would have been the moment where they said maybe we will find something with a bit of substance. Instead they come in with the same scare campaigns. I say to the member for Gladstone, every single cent will be honoured. The minister has had to find extra money for things like hours, for things like fit-outs. He has had to go to work to find more. To the community that the member for Gladstone represents, I say that you matter, you deserve a world-class health system and you will not be put through four more years of the misery you were given under the former government.

### **Cattle Management, National Parks**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question was to the minister for environment, but I believe the Premier is taking those questions so the question is to the Premier: Queensland Parks and Wildlife notified landowners on 13 November that shoot-to-kill operations will commence from 9 December on cattle in Cape York national parks. Considering Parks make it extremely difficult for landowners to obtain permits and organise contractors, will the Premier immediately cancel the operation and work with landowners to resolve all ongoing problems?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** If I can, may I take the question and I will get some information. The minister is not here today. He is at a meeting of environment ministers from across the country. The question is one of genuine sincerity and I know it is something that the member is deeply interested in. I will get some information and get straight back to the member.

## Kindergarten

**Ms JAMES:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver kindy programs for Queensland children and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches raised through scare campaigns?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** What a pleasure—after nine years, 10 months and 10 days—to answer a question from an LNP member for Barron River. It is wonderful to welcome the honourable member as an assistant minister. She is also, apart from being the assistant minister for early learning, assistant minister for tourism, creative industries and Far North Queensland. She is going to be very busy as well as being a hardworking local member. In answer to the question, those opposite delighted in a scare campaign, not only about health issues that we have heard about today or Treasury issues, but also with accusations that the LNP would cut Free Kindy. I advise the House that this is categorically untrue. Scare campaigns were spread across Queensland from Labor telling blatant untruths, deliberately creating uncertainty from a desperate government.

I am pleased to say the LNP will continue to ensure Free Kindy is effectively delivered across Queensland to provide access to 15 hours of free kindergarten per week for all four-year old children in Queensland. More than 2,200 approved kindy services participate in Free Kindy. The government is investing more than \$2 billion over four years to make sure Queensland children have access to quality kindergarten programs in the year before prep. Free Kindy has been a success, with eligible providers that have claimed Free Kindy having been paid. Services have reported an increase in enrolments from 2023. Approved kindy providers must opt in to Free Kindy and agree to keep their fees below the Department of Education's threshold.

I have met with the department to ensure that we have dedicated resources and an effective hotline to provide parents and services with support on accessing Free Kindy funding. Last week I met with early childhood stakeholders and my department. There were about 20 stakeholders present. Recently there have been stories in the media about terrible incidents that have happened and these stakeholders are working to make sure that we safeguard our children. That is so important. I will be working with the assistant minister along with this group.

I want to give a couple of examples, such as the Mareeba kids campus. We have seen a lot more interest in the regions through the support of the government. Kindy enrolments are up 40 per cent from 2023. The service is now running two full programs. However, it is different in areas such as my own electorate of Surfers Paradise. The Broadbeach C&K, which my children attended, is having problems attracting children simply because of the changing demographics of the area. We know that there are challenges across the state. The free kindy initiative also supports children with disability. In 2024, 62,450 children enrolled in the kindergarten program, including 11,000 disadvantaged children and 5,000 children with a disability.

## Queensland Health, Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme

**Mr BAILEY:** My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security. Based on the minister's charter letter which states that one of their fundamental commitments is 'to reinstate health services when you need them', can the minister advise if they have advocated for Queensland women's access to health services, particularly in regional Queensland, in light of whistleblower revelations regarding cuts to Queensland Health's Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, which is designed to attract staff to regional and rural health facilities?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My points of order relate to relevance to the minister's portfolio and a lengthy preamble under standing orders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am going to allow the question, although it was very long and did range a little.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I am pleased to rise as the new Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. I will talk to the issues within my portfolio, particularly in regards to an issue that impacted women throughout this state and occurred under the Labor Party's watch. A record number of maternity services were closed. How many?

**A government member:** Thirty-seven.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thirty-seven in 25 years. What a disgraceful record. Women in this state did not know if they could go to their local hospital where there had been a history of birthing services supplied. They were left to give birth on the side of a road.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was very specific in relation to the 'Queensland Health's Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** This is not an opportunity to ask the question again. Member, I could have ruled that question out of order because it was so long and it was not quite specific. I have allowed the question. You will allow the minister to answer.

**Ms SIMPSON:** There are things that the Labor Party does not want to talk about such as the fact that women had their babies on the side of the road. Those women's children now have birth certificates that say 'insert ... highway' or 'insert ... road'.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algester, you are now warned.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Tragically, there are women in Mackay who lost their babies. Women faced that stress at a time when they should have had safe access to health services where they live. They were left without those services even in regional hubs such as Gladstone. This mighty state and the women of this mighty state were let down by Labor politicians who were silent about the withdrawal of health services for women across the state. They should hang their heads in shame. Health workers were working under great stress and were trying to do their best while knowing that, under Labor, they did not have a government that had their back. As those services were being stripped out, Labor members were silent. Those services were disappearing under their watch.

Queensland women deserve better and their children deserve better. You should not have to get in a car and drive from Biloela or Gladstone to Rockhampton when you are in labour. That was the story under the failed Labor team. That is what they did to Queensland. Queensland women deserve a fresh start with access to services.

## TAFE

**Mr G KELLY:** My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Will the minister advise how the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver TAFE services in Queensland and will the minister share with the House any contrasting approaches identified through scare campaigns?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for Mirani and I congratulate him for bringing the seat back to the LNP. I congratulate him on all the hard work that he does. I know how far he travels in his electorate. He and I did press conferences from one end of the electorate to the other. I know that he will service that electorate wonderfully.

The Crisafulli LNP government is firmly committed to improving the TAFE landscape across Queensland through several key initiatives that will help deliver more skilled workers, especially apprentices, at a time when we need as many as we can get in a housing crisis created by the previous government. We are setting the bedrock that will allow TAFE Queensland to be a secure and well-performing entity well into the future. Unlike the previous Labor government, whose grubby scare campaign spread mistruths to the Queensland public, the Crisafulli LNP government is embracing TAFE as part of the Right Plan for Queensland's Future, ensuring we have a secure pipeline of skilled workers for the future. We are undertaking a \$2 million recruitment drive to employ the next generation of TAFE teachers in order to secure a pipeline of critical workers by addressing Queensland's skilled worker shortage.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I hate to pause you but there is cross-chamber chatter happening. Only one person has the call and that is the minister.

**Ms BATES:** Additionally, hardworking TAFE teachers will help to ease the workload as class sizes continue to balloon. That is the type of action that a government for the people takes, unlike the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and their grubby scare campaigns. Labor were too busy doing sweetheart deals and last-minute funding arrangements with their union mates to notice that Queenslanders were suffering a critical shortage of apprentices on vital job sites.

As part of the Crisafulli government's commitment to TAFE, we are completing and updating TAFE centres of excellence in Moreton Bay, Caloundra and Rockhampton. Our \$78 million investment in Caloundra will focus on advanced manufacturing and construction. Our \$60 million investment at the Mill in Moreton Bay will also deliver an advanced manufacturing and training precinct. Our \$16.1 million investment at CQU in Rockhampton will deliver a world-class TAFE excellence precinct. Not only that,

our \$11.5 million worth of investment will see us partnering with the University of the Sunshine Coast to provide six new [micro-credential tertiary courses tailored to small business planning.

Just last week, the government took steps to ensure the future of the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. That college has been providing training and hospitality services in Stanthorpe since 2007 and was woefully neglected under the previous Labor government. We are going to continue to support the College of Wine Tourism, unlike the former the Labor government and its grubby scare campaigns.

### Public Hospitals, Transfer Nurses

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Premier. Whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that the Crisafulli government is cutting the transfer initiative nurse model. Can the Premier advise how many nurses will be sacked from the Gold Coast health service and how much longer Gold Coasters will have to wait to access the health care that they need?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask the honourable member to authenticate the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Can the member authenticate the question?

**Ms SCANLON:** We have received information. As I have outlined, this is a whistleblower who has provided this information.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we have had a number of questions along that line this morning. I would urge members, if they are going to ask questions, to authenticate the evidence behind those questions. Once again, I will allow the question but, obviously, the responder has a bit of latitude in their response.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the less than a fortnight since we were here last, those opposite have had seven whistleblowers come forward and all of them have reflected the tweets of the shadow health minister. Anyway, that is okay.

Let me respond to the whistleblower from Gaven. If it is in the budget, it will be honoured. Simple as that. Every single cent will be honoured. I understand the metronomic nature of the questions. I understand that they gathered together a little later today than they should have and decided the theme of the day was to try to somehow paint something that is not there, but you have to be nimble. If the strategy is not working—and it is not—you have to be nimble. Somebody has to be in charge of using their brain.

If the Manager of Opposition Business is not up to the job, get someone who is. Get the member for Miller back there if you need strategy. To the member for Gaven: if it is in the budget, it will be honoured. I have to be very clear: this morning, those opposite have done their very best to try to paint something that is not there. The LNP government is committed to making sure we have a world-class health service. Not only will we honour everything in the budget; the minister is working extra hard to make sure that we can deliver more services for the state because we have a health system that is in crisis because of those opposite.

### Public Transport, Fares

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government will permanently lock in 50-cent public transport fares, and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns that suggested contrasting approaches?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have two minutes.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Southport for his question. It is good to see him back after what has been a challenging 12 months personally. I know he has been a strong advocate for public transport on the Gold Coast, including the Gold Coast Light Rail when he was on the council and before he was in this place and since coming to this place as well.

The Crisafulli government promised to make 50-cent fares permanent and we have done that. We have directed the Department of Transport and Main Roads to include funding for 50-cent fares in the budget across the forwards. We have done it within a month and those opposite could not do it once. We heard the hollow rhetoric of the now opposition leader, who said he wanted to do this for a long, long time. He was a senior minister for the last 10 years in the previous government and not a cent went to 50-cent fares the entire time. When the now opposition leader was a senior minister, the

deputy premier and then premier, not one cent went to 50-cent fares from the Labor Party. Not one cent.

What did we see during the election? We saw a grubby scare campaign from many of those members opposite. The member for Mansfield; the former member for Capalaba, god rest his soul; and the now opposition leader—who can forget that jetski video—were peddling scare campaigns about the LNP cutting 50-cent fares. We said that we would make 50-cent fares permanent and we have done that. Only an LNP government is committed to 50-fares for public transport across Queensland. Only an LNP government is committed to getting Queenslanders home sooner at the end of a long work day. We are not going to run petty scare campaigns or use grubby political tactics like the Labor Party. Only the LNP will deliver for Queenslanders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.34 am), by leave, without notice, I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

- 5 minutes for each member; and
- Total debate time before question put—30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Termination of Pregnancy



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (11.34 am): I move—

1. That, notwithstanding anything in standing or sessional orders, this House orders that:
    - (a) no bill or amendment seeking to amend the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 is allowed to be introduced.
    - (b) no motion or amendment seeking to have this House express its views on the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 is allowed to be moved.
  2. The Speaker is to rule out of order any bill, motion or amendment that offends the order in 1.
- This morning we heard about—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A motion has just been moved before the House and I have not seen a copy of the motion. I do not think any member has seen a copy of the motion and it should be provided to members for their benefit.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It has been distributed, member. Resume your seat. It is being distributed right now.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** This morning, we heard about a number of disgraceful scare campaigns waged by those opposite but there was none more disgraceful than the one waged against the Termination of Pregnancy Act. This motion today ends the disgraceful campaign. Queenslanders said no to a US-style scare campaign. Queenslanders said no to politicising a sensitive issue. Queenslanders said no to the re-election of a very bad Labor government.

I was asked about this issue from day one and I said from day one it was not part of our plan. I said there will be no changes. Labor knew this but, despite that, the social media tsunami and the grubby phone calls continued unabated. They spent millions of dollars on a disgraceful scare campaign. I want to speak directly to those people who were victims of the scare campaign, many of them young women and first-time voters—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry Premier, but there is way too much noise in the chamber.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—many of them young women and first-time voters, many of them people I know well. I say to those young women: today, the scare campaign ends.

Labor knew this was not on the agenda but they did it for grubby political purposes. Labor did not care about a woman's right to choose; it was all about Labor's desperate right to rule. That is what this was about. The level of desperation and insincerity on a sensitive issue was a disgrace.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Logan is warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Today, those opposite are exposed for the disgraceful campaign they ran. It was rammed home to me about how grubby and how disgraceful it was on election day when I met Anna from Ipswich West. She said to me, 'I was going to vote for the LNP for change and I will explain why I did not. When I received the first phone call, I thought, "It can't be true," then I received a second and a third.' Anna's best friend's daughter had had an abortion and those opposite preyed on people like Anna. Disgraceful!

Labor did not care about a woman's right to choose; it was about Labor's desperate right to rule. That is what this was about from day one. It was wrong because it was untrue. It was wrong because it preyed on people's vulnerability. It was just plain wrong.

For four years we will remind every one of those opposite about what they said. There is something else that makes a lot of sense that this was never an issue they cared about but was always about politics.


**Mr Smith** interjected.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In the address-in-reply we barely heard about it. In fact, the only thing mentioned less in the address-in-reply was thankyou to the member for Murrumba. There were more references in the address-in-reply to thanking Wayne Swan than there were the member for Murrumba. There was barely a mention of this and it shows us everything we need to know.

This was never about the issue. It was US style. It was grubby. For the next four years, every one of those opposite will hang their head in shame. In four years time Queenslanders will get the chance to pass judgement on a government that will do the things it says and an opposition that will not be able to run that scare campaign again. They will not be able to run the same grubby campaign because Queenslanders have seen it. They have been exposed.

Today we have highlighted all of those scare campaigns. But only one scare campaign was so personal, vitriolic and based in mistruths that it has exposed once and for all why Queenslanders said no—said no to a US style campaign, said no to the scare and innuendo and said no to a very bad Labor government.


 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.41 am): I say in response to the conclusion from the Premier that on this side of the House we will never be ashamed of defending a woman's right to choose. In fact, we will do so continuously.

What we have here today is a leader of this state so weak he cannot control his own party room—so weak he comes in here to move a motion constraining his own party room because he cannot control them and cannot trust them. Make no mistake: this motion is a gag on that whole side of the House and shows the Premier's inability to control them.

We will oppose this motion in part because on this side of the House we want to continuously see women's rights expanded and strengthened, just like we did earlier this year when we expanded access for women to MS-2 Step. How did those opposite vote on that expansion of those termination services for Queensland women? They voted against it. This motion would stop us from recognising the expanded scope of practice and continually expanding scope of practice of nurses. It would stop us from considering new clinical practices or new treatments.

If the Premier were sincere in anything he just said then he would not have pulled this stunt with no notice. If he were sincere, if he had a shred of the honesty he claims to have, then he would have put this motion on notice so that we could have considered it and its implications and could have talked to doctors and nurses and Queensland women about what it means for them. Instead, he again uses grubby parliamentary tactics to rush through a motion that does nothing but gag his backbench because he cannot trust them.

It also blocks the crossbench from what should be their legitimate right to bring private members' motions to this place. Again, those opposite are gagging them because they cannot trust their own members to vote against a private member's bill. These are extraordinary scenes. I thought I had never seen anything as extraordinary as what they did during the last sitting week, but this comes with no notice, no discussion and no advice to the media—such grubby treatment of what should be a very serious issue.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.44 am): We said at the election campaign, apart from when we were responding to the grubby tactics of those opposite, that the opposition at the time would be more concerned about the outcome and how we achieved that outcome. This is how we achieve that outcome for Queensland women. This is how we achieve the outcome we promised Queenslanders.

A case in point is the opposition leader's continuation of the grubby tactics that are known now to be those of the Labor Party. It is all they know. They only know the gutter. The more desperate they became during the election campaign the more desperate the campaign and gutter tactics of all of them became, including the Leader of the Opposition. He knew it was not true. He talks about honesty. He talks about a weak leader. He was the weak leader who did not stand up to his union, every other union and every former minister opposite. I will quote some of the disgraceful things they said. No-one pulled them up for the mistruths and the scaremongering.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, the member has already been warned and I ask that you take action.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You warned the member for Waterford earlier in the day.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not warn the member for Waterford. Continue with your contribution.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Silence on my left. I will look after those who are warned and those who are not.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I just heard former treasurer Cameron Dick talk about gagging and then he said 'your own members' and 'the rights of democracy'. We promised Queenslanders that we would not allow changes to this legislation and this is how we achieve that objective today. That is what we promised Queenslanders.

Let us go through some of the things the Labor frontbench said. The Leader of the Opposition, using a cricket video, said we had a 'plan to cut health care and attack women's rights'. This is despite Labor not funding access to women's legal aid while in government. Talk about hypocrisy! The former attorney-general did not budget \$142 million for women's legal services in this state.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was standing next to Reproductive Rights Queensland signs—an organisation that worked hand in hand with Labor spreading blatant mistruths like 'A vote for the LNP is a vote to make abortion a crime'. They were the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's words during the election campaign.

The member for McConnel said, 'In America, women's rights are not just under threat—they're being significantly wound back' and went on to say, 'We cannot let this happen here in Queensland.' She was spreading fear amongst Queenslanders that our state is somehow like the United States. They were your words, member for McConnel.

The member for Waterford was scaring Queenslanders by saying, 'Only a Labor government will protect women's rights and access to reproductive health care this election,' implying our position was somehow different. The member for Gaven said on the eve of the election, referring to our LNP team, 'Intent to restrict a woman's right over her own body.' This is a disgraceful mistruth. The member for Gaven then went on to say, 'The only way to keep abortion safe and legal in Queensland is to vote Labor at this election.'

The member for Pine Rivers stood next to 'Protect abortion rights, vote Labor' signs authorised by their mate Gary Bullock and the United Workers Union. No-one stood up to the disgraceful union campaign.

I stood with the new member for Pumicestone on election day surrounded by about 12 Labor Party volunteers. They were intimidating the then candidate for Pumicestone and were trying to intimidate me about this very issue. The former treasurer, Cameron Dick, talks about gagging backbench members. Every member of the LNP stood for election with this position. Nothing has changed in terms of our position from the election to this motion today.


We are a united team on this issue. We promised Queenslanders there would be no change to these laws, and that is what we are delivering today. The Labor Party says it is going to oppose elements of this motion. Do members know why? It is because they want to continue their scare campaign. That is the only reason they do not want this to pass. They want to continue the scare

campaign and the fear. My daughter is getting messages from her friends saying, 'This is what your dad's doing.' This is a mistruth and a lie, and Labor should be ashamed of itself!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I will ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I inform the House that the members who have been warned are the members for McConnel, Kawana, Algester, Logan and Bundaberg.


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.49 am): I never thought this House would see a Premier who acted in a worse way than Campbell Newman, but we have seen it today. As I said, on the first sitting day of the first sitting week of the first year of this parliament this Premier sees this parliament as his personal plaything. I can assure members that if they have a voice that is different to the Premier's they will be silenced, because this motion is designed to silence every single member of this House. I say to the members of the LNP and all of the new backbenchers that they can forget having a conscience under Premier Crisafulli. He has moved this motion because he is a weak and frightened man who does not want to hear the voice of others.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The House is far too noisy. One person has the call.

**Mr DICK:** The Premier is a weak and frightened man who does not want to hear the voice of anyone who contradicts him. He is seeking to gag not only members of the ALP but also every single member of the House so they are unable to exercise their rights under the standing orders, the Parliament of Queensland Act and the constitution to move motions and legislation before the House. That is what he is seeking to do. He is silencing Katter's Australian Party, he is silencing the Greens and he is silencing the independent member for Noosa, because he does not want to hear a voice that is not his own—just like he wanted to silence First Nations people in his very first legislative act, betraying First Nations people and saying their voice means nothing and they are to be silent.

We are not in this House to be silenced by Premier Crisafulli. We will not be silenced by him. We will not be silenced by this grubby abuse of the parliament, its procedures and its processes. We will stand up against this sort of bullying and abuse of power. We will stand up against it because that is exactly what he is doing. People see through the fake emotion and crocodile tears we saw earlier today. He is frightened of his own backbench. He is frightened of what they will do. He is frightened of what they will move. That is a sign of fundamental weakness. This is not a strong leader; this is a weak leader. Queenslanders deserve better. You cannot have a conscience under Premier Crisafulli. You cannot have a voice and you cannot have a say because he will stop you. On the second full sitting day he said, 'You are to be silent for four years.' We are not going to be silent. We are not going to accept this. We say no to Premier Crisafulli. We say no to this motion. We say no to the LNP.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (11.53 am): Labor likes to shout down the voices of people in this parliament who are speaking. We have put forward a motion through the Premier which keeps an election commitment we took to the people of Queensland, yet Labor's response shows they have learned nothing. They continue to peddle a lie. I withdraw that. They continue to peddle a blatant, hypocritical mistruth.

The LNP is keeping a promise to Queensland. It is time to call out the disgraceful scare campaign run by the Labor Party and put it to bed. Labor and its political machine took a topic of great sensitivity and distress for many in the community and weaponised it for base politics of the lowest kind. They deliberately and wantonly fabricated a whopper. They sold it as truth when it was anything but. It was a mistruth about the LNP's legislative and political agenda which is evidenced by the fact that now Labor indicate they are going to vote against a motion whereby we put our promise on the record.


Labor did not care about women; they cared about their own survival. They were willing to do anything and say anything to protect their seats. It was nasty, it was dishonest and it was all about them trying to do anything but talk about their own disgraceful record, particularly with regard to crime, the cost of living, housing, health and the issues Queenslanders were raising about the way Labor mishandled their power in this state. Labor behaved dishonestly because they do not care about women and the difficult choices and circumstances they face during a crisis pregnancy. Women in crisis face difficulties. They need support and help to meet their needs and the choices they make. Labor cared about their own political lives and selling out the truth for their own survival.



We continued to be clear about what our plan was and what it was not. We have been continually clear about our plan with regard to addressing the crime, health, cost-of-living and housing crises and giving Queenslanders a fresh start with a government that works for them. Labor, gripped by chaos and crisis, were more and more desperate to talk about anything but their record and the mess they created which is causing everyday difficulties. They did not want to talk about a way forward to address the crises so they came up with these blatant falsehoods about our agenda.

This motion puts that to bed. We knew they would stoop low to try to bolster their election chances through a misinformation campaign to distract and distress. There was a clear commitment from our leader and the LNP team about not changing legislation, saying that it would not be part of our agenda. It was not part of our plan and it is not part of our plan. This motion gives effect to that election commitment.

In a pluralistic society people can have different views about many different subjects, but we should respect their right to these views, the democratic institutions through which people serve their communities and the election commitments given in the lead-up to this parliament being formed. Laws are one very important part of that, but the more difficult space is caring for women and helping meet their needs at a time of great stress and crisis. This requires empathy, understanding and practical support. Laws matter, but culture also matters. It is time there was a culture of care, not callously using people as we have seen the Labor Party do. We need a culture that respects the difficult choices people face and provides help and support rather than stigmatising them for the choices they make or the beliefs they have. Labor has abused its hold on power and spent millions to embark on a disgraceful scare campaign.

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (11.58 am): This is evidence of how weak this Premier is and why, despite the fact the LNP are now in government and have a majority, they need to gag their own members. Why would those opposite need this motion—given they have won the election and said, ‘It’s not part of our plan’—unless they knew that almost all of their members would vote to wind back a woman’s right to choose?

The Premier has come in here today and made it completely clear for every Queenslander that his own party cannot be trusted to protect the rights of Queensland women. Why? Why would he say that—when we have members like the member for Rockhampton, who says that the greatest human rights abuse of all time is abortion, or the member for Lockyer, who says that abortion is playing God, or even the member for Everton, who says that abortion is nothing short of legal killing? The Premier has to move this motion to gag the parliament, to gag his own members, because every single one of them, given the chance, would take the opportunity to wind back a woman’s right to choose. Thank you to the member for Scenic Rim, who belled the cat on this at a Christian debate.

**Mr Dick:** You punished him because he said that.


**Ms FENTIMAN:** He was punished because he let Queenslanders know that any chance they got, as soon as they got the numbers, they would wind this back.

I want to make this really clear. This motion today makes it impossible for there to be any strengthening of women’s rights over the next four years when it comes to termination of pregnancy. Just this year the TGA approved MS-2 Step being administered by nurses and midwives. This would help women in regional Queensland access abortions. Those opposite voted against it. The Premier, David Crisafulli, voted against it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, just wait a moment. The level of interjection is too high. The noise needs to cease. One person has the call and that is the member for Waterford.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** If there were further developments by the TGA to further strengthen scope of practice for health professionals to make it easier for women, this House could not debate that issue. If women needed more protection when attending abortion clinics, those reforms would not be possible. If we wanted to strengthen public hospitals to provide more termination-of-pregnancy services for women, those reforms would not be possible. Not only is the Premier gagging his own members who want to wind back a woman’s right to choose; he wants to gag all women in this place from making stronger protections for women in this state. This is appalling. It is unprecedented. They should be ashamed for being so obviously against women’s rights in this state that they have to gag their own members for four years. Shame.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.01 pm): I am almost lost for words at reading this today. I appreciate that there is a dichotomy of views in the House. I am not sure if there is a precedent for

preventing debate on an issue in this House. I understand there was some repugnant language during the election campaign, much of which I was at the end of. It is used, but that is no excuse for removing the right of anyone to put something into parliament.

As we all know, the KAP had the ‘babies born alive’ bill. I remember being interviewed in the election campaign and being asked, ‘Why would you bring this up here?’ to which I said, ‘I didn’t. You asked me about it.’ I have not brought this up once. I did not put out one media release and I did not ask for one interview on it. If I get asked about it, I will tell you what we think about it because I am happy to tell you what we think.

I was asked, ‘Why would you bring it up?’ The answer is: why not? Isn’t an election about knowing where people stand? We thrive on differentiating ourselves from Labor, the LNP or the Greens. That is the whole point of politics—to establish parameters of where we differentiate our positions. That is the whole point of this place. We could cut and paste ‘abortion’ with ‘tree clearing’ or any other issue we wanted to bring in. A lot of people find some of these issues repulsive. We want to put the debate back in.

I would love to take interjections if there are any. I would love to know what the counterarguments are here because I am absolutely gobsmacked. We cannot ignore that this is a big issue. There are kids dying in bins—and that was from the coroner’s report. That is not speculation; that is not disputed. There are kids whose hearts were still pumping—and some would question whether they were alive or not—but they are being thrown in a waste bin. That is a pretty big issue. Whether we think it is right or wrong or will end on pro life, it does not really matter. We cannot ignore that it is there and it is happening right now. It should be addressed, whether it is agreed with or not. The debate cannot be truncated. We can end up on the wrong or the right side of it, but the ability to debate it cannot be removed.

I come back to that commentary from one of the media outlets that asked me why I would bring this up now. Firstly, we did not bring it up. Secondly, why not? That is exactly the point of this House, the media and the election campaign. It is to say where we stand, what our values are and what we believe in. What do the pro-life people in Queensland do now? Do they just park it up? There does not seem to be a termination date on this so does it mean that we cannot mention this forever? I cannot get my head around this. Clearly, it is targeted. We were going to be the only party to bring something like this in here. We try to do it with respect, appreciating that it is a tricky subject for people. We should have the right to bring something in here, and certainly those babies need representation.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**LNP, 50**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Poole, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 38:**

**ALP, 35**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O’Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL

### Message from Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.10 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL 2024

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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


A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2023

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 December 2024

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 10 December 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024.

### Introduction

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.10 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2023. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.

This is one of two bills that I will be introducing today. This one relates to the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service and numbers of unforeseen expenditure that have been incurred over the last financial year. The Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service incurred \$22.4 million in unforeseen expenditure. Additional departmental services were primarily due to additional funding for collective bargaining outcomes, and additional equity adjustment items were primarily due to funding for Parliamentary Annexe repairs and refurbishment projects.

The Parliamentary Service does outstanding work looking after this building as well as all members and staff. I take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for everything that they do.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.12 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

## APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.13 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL 2024

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2023

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 December 2024

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 10 December 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024.

## Introduction

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.13 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2023. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to now consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights.

Today, I present a bill to approve Labor's unforeseen expenditure from 2023-24. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to finalise the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year. This bill relates to decisions made by the previous government including unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 billion, the final component of their record \$9 billion overspend last financial year.

The Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 sets out a sum of \$1.128 billion in addition to the earlier unforeseen expenditure of \$2.267 billion contained in the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Act 2024 and the unforeseen expenditure of \$6.154 billion contained in the Appropriation Act 2024.

Departments incur unforeseen expenditure for many reasons. For example, a department may need additional appropriation to respond to emerging issues or to implement government policies or due to a change in timing of a project's delivery. In aggregate, the unforeseen expenditure for 2023-24 was \$9.078 billion. The main contributors to the total unforeseen expenditure were: \$2.2 billion from the now Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism for temporary electricity rebates not in the forward estimates for future years; \$1.85 billion from the former Department of Energy and Climate to cover Labor's blowouts across a string of energy projects including CopperString, the Swanbank Battery and Borumba; \$1.32 billion from Transport and Main Roads for blowouts to the Train Manufacturing Program and a series of road projects; and a little over \$1 billion from Queensland Health for everything except bolstering hospitals and empowering our front line.

This overspend of more than \$9 billion represents 11.6 per cent of original appropriation, the highest total unforeseen expenditure and percentage since 2010-11. However, back in 2010-11 it was primarily impacted by the repayment of whole-of-government borrowings administered by Treasury in relation to the sales of QR National and Port of Brisbane and for natural disaster reparations. Once that is taken into account, the level of unforeseen expenditure in 2023-24 is the highest on record.

This bill fulfils a legislative requirement that all payments from the Consolidated Fund be authorised by parliament in a timely manner. They satisfy a technical requirement necessitated by the excessive spending of the former government. Effectively, Queenslanders have been forced to write out a cheque for \$9 billion to pay off Labor's tab.

This bill is a stark demonstration of the poor fiscal discipline of the former Labor government and their complete failure to plan over so many years. I stood in this House as shadow treasurer time and time again, pleading with the government to end their culture of project overruns and cost blowouts across the budget. I never thought I would be standing here talking about an overspend north of \$9 billion. Cost overruns and the inability to manage the state's finances are the legacy of the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, the worst treasurer in Queensland's history, and this bill officially makes a mockery of Labor's economic legacy. I commend the bill to the House.

## First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.18 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


### **Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

Resumed from 28 November (see p. 153).

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Honourable members, because this is the member's first speech, I ask that you give it the respect that it deserves.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (12.19 pm): I dedicate this first speech to the memory of Balin Stewart, Keyhill Gibbs, Bradley Smith, Michael Warburton, Emma Lovell, David Connolly, Scott Cabrie, Robert Brown, Kelsie Davies, Michale Chandler, Sheree Robertson, Vyleen White, Rosemary Franzidis, my beloved son Matthew Field, his loved partner Kate Leadbetter and their treasured unborn baby, my grandson, Miles. With respect to Miles, I would like this House to know that, despite an autopsy, a death certificate and a funeral, the Queensland justice system did not recognise his life or his death. He was not classified as a statistic on that day. We know that he was, and he needs to be acknowledged. For all those deaths since Australia Day 2021, juveniles have been either convicted or charged. I acknowledge that there are many more victims, including others before that dreadful day, and I dedicate this speech to them also.

Some members are elected to the Assembly not knowing what they believe or who they will fight for. Some discover that on their journey here and others never quite do, but I stand here knowing what I stand for and knowing what I believe. I stand with victims. I believe in justice. I am here, in this body of lawmakers, because lawlessness can never be accepted as the norm. It is what I feel in the depth of my bones. To the names I have spoken I dedicate not just today but every day I sit in this chamber. Politics is not a game to me; it is real life. I know that the consequences of what we decide, of what we do, really matter. As I have found in my life before parliament, sometimes what matters much to citizens is also what governments choose to ignore, play down, let fester or turn a blind eye to.

I am the most unlikely member of parliament to have ever sat in this chamber. I am 69 years of age. Until recently I owned just one suit, which I dusted off for weddings and which shrunk before every event. My most recent occupation was 'retired', and I was pretty good at that. I am a typical Aussie granddad who thinks the best thing in the world is spending time with his grandkids. We talk footy and they tell me about their teachers and adventures. They teach me about Taylor Swift and the Kid Laroi and I learn their lingo, too. A day off school? Well, that is 'slay'. See, kids, I knew I could put that into a speech!

If you approached me on my 65th birthday and offered me the choice of a Powerball ticket or the odds on becoming a member of parliament I would have picked the Powerball ticket, because there was more chance of that happening. But life took a turn—a turn that most Queenslanders now know. When my life turned, I remember the example of my mum and dad who, when facing adversity, simply sought to make the best of the cards that fate had played. This is an approach that seeks to make a better life for others, even when it hurts. On good days, bad days and terrible days, that is what my wife, Ann, and I have tried to do. To prevent crime and lawlessness, to deliver justice, to keep our community safe and strong and to make life better for others—that is why I am here.

Today I want to speak of three things: the party I belong to; the community I serve; and the family I love. I am but one of 24 new members of parliament across the political divide. I have gotten to know them in recent weeks and they are all extraordinary people with broad life experiences. Almost all are LNP. I believe that one of the reasons we were so successful and why the people of Queensland voted for the Crisafulli LNP government at the last election is that the then opposition leader, David, sought out people with experiences that matter: police officers, nurses, teachers, councillors, small business owners, farmers and someone like me.

The Premier knows that you make the best decisions when you are close to the community. Connection to community, to people's real-life experience, matters. You know what is happening with the kids in school; teenagers and young adults in TAFE; those travelling in utes or in buses to work;

those visiting loved ones in hospital; and those paying bills that only seem to get bigger. I know that matters to the Premier because he is a genuine, caring and compassionate man. He is a man of his word who wants to change Queensland for the better. He is my boss, but he is also a friend. He is more than a boss and a friend; he is a leader, and he leads by example. He supported us—me, my family and Kate's family—from the very beginning of this stage of our lives, and I want to thank him. Fifty years ago I did a four-year apprenticeship—hard times, great times, mates for life. This is my second apprenticeship, and I want the Premier to know that I will work hard—put my head down and bum up—and master this trade as well.

Karen Williams, the former Redlands mayor, and Katerina Carroll, the former police commissioner, also supported us from day one, and they have been steady rocks of support. They are two people who have served their community. They know it and have delivered for it.

I was not a candidate for long—we had only eight weeks to make a difference—and the local LNP membership embraced me from day one. Winning Capalaba was a team effort, a massive volunteer effort. Seeing all those volunteers throughout the campaign and on election day was very humbling—people freely giving their time, putting their trust in me. There are too many name, but without my current campaign manager and team I would not be here. I want to give a special thanks to those guys: Robin Archer, Gary Hindle, Bob Neich, Jack Barton and Peter Linde. We share some of those old-fashioned but timeless values: mutual respect, hard work, reward for effort, giving back and being able to raise a family in a safe community, believing that Australia—actually Queensland—is the best place on earth, and it is. On that we all agree.

I know that most are familiar with the former member for Capalaba's comment on youth crime, and it was a reaction that inspired me to stand to run, but if I left the story there that would be unfair to him. He and I disagreed on the direction for Queensland, but I learned in that campaign and in the handover that he is sort of a decent man. I wish him and his family well for the future.

There are many things you learn in a campaign, and I discovered that through meeting locals at their front door. Often I would knock at the door, hear a dog barking and see the door behind the screen open. People would squint their eyes and say, 'I know you,' and I would say, 'What, Australia's most wanted?' That would break the ice. I said that because I was in the media so often advocating for victims of crime. The media do not often get a good rap, but they have treated me fairly and kindly and I thank them. At one house, a lady came running down the hallway when she saw me knocking on the door. She pushed her screen door open and gave me a hug. She was in tears. The memory of our family's tragedy never left her. This happened two more times, except those ladies asked if they could hug me first. Funnily enough, I knew I had this effect on women 50 years ago, but it just goes to show I have not lost it! More seriously, in those conversations on porches people told me what mattered to them. Yes, they wanted justice for victims past and present—and I thank the community for their support of this priority; it is a shared priority—but they also want to see better infrastructure throughout Capalaba, better transport services, more social housing, more policing and health services that can appropriately support our growing community.

Capalaba is the best of Queensland. Our Redlands region was known for its farms. As our population grew, the farms made way for family homes with a backyard, homes filled with aspirational families working to build a good life. It is a community filled with small businesses that employ locals. I know it is not easy for small businesses. We must deliver ways of cutting red tape, reducing their taxes and making it easier for them to invest and employ more people to help strengthen the local economy. I know as a former builder that small businesses are not only the engine room of the economy; they embody the heart and soul of their communities, too.

We will also deliver in the area where people know I have the most passion, youth justice, as well as getting our schools and community services working better so fewer people take the wrong path. Many of these kids will benefit from early intervention programs. Unfortunately, some may not. Those who commit crimes must face them squarely—with punishment but also with gold standard rehabilitative programs, using the time behind bars to face their conscience and in turn make better choices.

I want victims in the justice system to be valued, to be consulted and to be listened to. All too often our justice system knows how to clear the wreckage and the debris from the site of a crime but it does not know what to do with the victims and their families. We feel as if we are the wreckage discarded at the side of the road. This must stop. I want perpetrators of crime to understand the pain they have caused. If they did so, it might just prompt them to change. If judges understood the importance of justice to healing, they would deliver more appropriate sentences. Too many victims lose their joy and

happiness when they lose their loved one. They lose faith in Australia and their hope for the future when the system ignores their cries for fairness and justice.

To the people of Capalaba, I want you to know I am about justice and justice in all its forms. If your bank is giving you a hard time, I am for you. If the council is not listening, I am on your side. If your loved one is not getting the care they need, I will stand with you. We will make Queensland a greater place by making it fairer for everyone.

Now I want to speak of my family. I am going to do my best to not get too emotional. I am a sentimental old guy. I wear my heart on my sleeve. I realise as I get older what wonderful parents I had. Dad's name was Roy Field and Mum's was Violet—Violet, not 'violent'! Dad was a large, solid, typical policeman and was in the force for over 37 years before retiring at Woollongabba in 1971 as a detective inspector. He would be amazed today, but then again, maybe not. He spent his life keeping people safe, putting himself in situations that were difficult. He believed in policing as do I. To the police in Capalaba and around the state I want to say one thing: I have got your back and I thank you for supporting our families. I know what you do, the sacrifices you make and I respect it so much.

At 69, I am still a copper's kid. We grew up all over the place, spending time across parts of Queensland as far back as I can remember. Dad was stationed in Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville and Longreach and finally ended up in Brisbane at the end of 1967. Mum supported Dad every bit of the way. I know life was difficult for Mum, moving house every couple of years. Once she had gotten to know the locals, it was time to move again. She enjoyed cooking, as mothers did in the day. We all gave it a go when we could. I have an older sister, one older brother and one younger brother. We were scattered all around Queensland at times, but we are all back in Brisbane now. Coral, Hume and Grant have always been wonderful supporters of mine.

The biggest moment in my life occurred in October 1976. I went on a footy trip, an end-of-season cruise with all my mates around the South Pacific. Yes, I was a bit of a lad then. On that cruise I met Ann. Ann was with her mum who was somewhat suspicious of the footy lad who had taken a liking to her daughter. It took a few months, but I won her over, too. Kit was a wonderful mother-in-law and Charles as a father-in-law. We were married in 1980 on 15 March. For those who know Shakespeare, there is a turn of phrase relating to the assassination of Julius Caesar, 'Beware the ides of March'. I have to confess I did not 'beware them' and I am so grateful for the wonderful life Ann and I have built together. We are each other's rock.

We have now been married for over 44 years. We have raised three wonderful children: Andrew, Matthew and Kimberley. We are an Aussie Rules family. Andrew and Matthew played Aussie Rules for years and Kimberley played for a couple of seasons when she was younger. At one point, our weekends were spent balancing three different kids in three different football teams—chaotic and wonderful. Ann was always involved in the canteen at the footy club or the school tuckshop. I would run boundary at whatever ground the boys were playing at. As well as football, Kimberley took up dancing, but Matthew and Andrew were always AFL players. Andrew did go on to play a couple of years of Rugby League but realised he was going to get hurt if he did not stop.

Our Easters were spent camping; we would go away with all our friends and families. In some years the numbers would be between 70 and 80. During those times, there were no portable fridges, solar panels or even batteries. It was all campfires. Now we are proud grandparents and I want to give all our grandchildren a shout-out. There are Olivia, Molly, Duke, Andrew and Nicole's children. Olivia and Molly do dance most days. I say this as someone not biased: Olivia and Molly are beautiful dancers and I always enjoy watching them. Duke loves soccer and bike riding. He is a dynamo and my little mate. He looks spiffy in his soccer gear. There are also Jasper and Vann, who are the children of our beautiful daughter, Kimberley, and her wonderful husband, Alex. Jasper starts preschool next year and Vann is still at kindy three days a week. They play soccer on Mondays, go swimming every Friday and they like bike riding as well.

I know the grandkids groan at my bad dad and grandad jokes, but I know they love coming around to Papa and Granna's place. The girls like sewing with Ann and cooking and making a mess. Duke, Jasper and Vann all like playing on their bikes, running around the yard, kicking the ball and making noise. Can I let you in on a secret? We love having them around more than you can imagine. The joy, the innocence, the hope—it is like an elixir for Ann and me. Kids, it is your love, and your parents that keep us going. The lesson for life, when you might look at this speech years from now, is that in tough times, it is family that keeps you going.

Now I come to the hard part, talking about the four members of the family who are not in the gallery but who are in our hearts. Queen Elizabeth was right when she said grief is the price we pay for


love. We lost our eldest son, Andrew, this year to brain cancer. Diagnosed and operated on in May last year, he passed away in June 2024. Andrew was a mighty man. He was an electrician in the commercial sector. We would sit down, have a beer and talk about work, play and everything in general. He was a hard worker and a good family man. He was a strong, super fit lifesaver. The Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club only recently competed in the 2024 world lifesaving championships. They dedicated their efforts to him with a T-shirt that read 'Racing for Ratty'. 'Ratty' was his nickname. He would be so chuffed. Olivia, Molly and Duke, your father was a great man.

As members know, we lost Matthew, Kate and Miles on Australia Day nearly four years ago in very different circumstances—a terrible crime committed by an out-of-control, selfish juvenile. We did not just lose them; Kate's parents did too. Kate's parents, Jeannie and John, and their spouses will always be part of our family. If any members in this chamber had met Matthew they would have liked him. Matthew was working in the domestic housing market and employed apprentices to pass on his knowledge. Together with Kate, he was in the process of renovating their home. Kate was an interior designer and decorator, so it all went hand in hand. They had completed all the upstairs, and the nursery was all decked out ready for Miles. What a wonderful job they had done. Matthew was besotted with Kate. They were the perfect match for each other. They were so looking forward to welcoming Miles. None of us ever met Miles, but he lives in my heart and Ann's too. I can see him in my mind's eye. He sustains me, and we will meet one day.

There is sadness and there is grief, but there is love too. I have been carried by that love in my family, by the strangers I have met and by the people across the community and politics and Queenslanders who have shared their kindness and support with me. My job is to leave a legacy for Matt, Kate and Miles and, in a different way, Andrew. My job is not to let them down and I will do my best not to let the good people of Capalaba down either, and I promise you that.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Congratulations to the new member for Capalaba. I extend my sympathies and thoughts on the tragedies that have motivated you to be in this place.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.41 pm): I want to start by firstly acknowledging the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we are gathered: the Turrbal peoples north of the Brisbane River and the Yagara peoples to the south. I acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge all who are present today. I want to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the millions of footprints that have travelled the dreaming pathways and to pay homage to the ancestors who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years.

I thank Her Excellency the Governor for her attendance and participation receiving the royal salute and the inspection of the guard. I would like to congratulate Mr Speaker on his selection as Speaker of the 58th Parliament and extend my congratulations to all of the newly elected members of this House. I acknowledge my former colleagues who are no longer with us as members of parliament, having lost their seats in the most recent election, but who I know will continue to fight for what is good and right for Queensland. It is incumbent on all Labor members who retained their seats to attempt to stay in touch with these former members. I know that many of them will continue to fight for their communities and for the betterment of Queensland as their commitment to the people of their former electorates.

I would like to warmly welcome our three newest Labor members to the House, one of whom I have had the privilege of knowing for many years: Bisma Asif, the member for Sandgate; Wendy Bourne, the member for Ipswich West; and Dr Barbara O'Shea, the member for South Brisbane. I also want to thank Terry Wood, my campaign manager, for his work on this and earlier campaigns and the entire campaign committee, who worked tirelessly. I would also like to thank everyone who donated to my campaign, who attended my functions, who made bids at auctions and who bought tickets. Every little bit helped.

My election is due in no small way to the combined efforts of many volunteers. I have a thriving multicultural community in Toohey, and this is reflected by the people who volunteered—the people who put their hand up for pre-poll and polling day, made phone calls, manned street stalls, erected street signs and did the hundreds of other things that are essential to a successful campaign. Though time does not permit me to name all those who assisted, I ask them to please know that I am grateful for all of their hard work.

It goes without saying that I am eternally grateful to my diligent and hardworking staff in my electorate office. As we all know, the interaction between your staff and your constituents forms a large part of an elected representative's success. These daily interactions helping the people in our



electorates are vital to our electoral success. I would like to acknowledge the work done by Meredith Newman, William Wu and Jan Sheppard. Thank you. I would also like to thank the union movement for its continued support over many years, in particular Rowan Webb and Ann-Marie Alan from the AMWU and Alex Scott from the Together union.

I would like to thank my children, James, Katy, Grant and Joe, and my wife, Kerri, for their love and for supporting me in all of my endeavours. I should make special mention of my eldest son, James, who on election day travelled from Adelaide to be my chauffeur and helped to hand out how-to-votes at polling booths. Grant and Joe also joined me on the Warrigal Road election booth in the closing hours of election day but I understand with some reluctance. They turned up at Warrigal Road in red 'Peter Russo' hats and shirts with cousin Lisa. Grant then proceeded to instruct his dad on what he should be doing on the polling booth. It was good inspiration and motivation from my 13-year-old.

As I prepared my address-in-reply speech it was raining on the south side—and, for that matter, around the state—for most of the week. Every time it rains I know that the people of Rocklea face the unpredictable risk of having their homes flooded, every time there is a heavy downpour that runs into Stable Swamp Creek. I just want to assure the people of Rocklea that they are not forgotten and I will always fight for them.

I would also like to mention a great asset in my community: the Toohey Forest Park. It is named after James Toohey, an Irishman made wealthy in the California goldfields. He selected these lands in 1872 and his family held the forests until the council gradually acquired the land after 1945. It is an open eucalypt forest and is home to over 400 species of native wildlife and plant species. It is only 10 kilometres from the CBD and offers a variety of walking tracks, shared-use trails for walking and cycling, and a bikeway which is enjoyed on the weekend by many of my constituents. I realise how important this forest is to the environment and to the wellbeing of my electorate.

As I commence my political journey being elected for the fourth time, I now have to embrace what it means to be on the opposition benches and both the challenges and the opportunities that presents over the next four years. I feel very privileged and humbled to have an opportunity to serve the people of Queensland for a fourth term. I am sincerely grateful that the people of the electorate of Toohey have put their trust in me to represent them in this House again. I will honour that trust by ensuring I work hard to represent them for the next four years.

I live in hope that this government does not undo the good that we have done over the last 10 years. The early steps taken by this new government give me serious concern that it intends to go on as it has started—operating not from a position of principled integrity but from one of perceived political expediency, irrespective of the cost to those in our community most deserving and most in need of much better. The decision by this government to cease the truth-telling inquiry has caused enormous anguish to many First Nations people and is a backward step away from an educated, modern democratic society. The Premier's slogan that the LNP government would be held accountable for doing 'good' for First Nations people has, by his and his government's very first actions, abandoned any genuine hope of any reconciliation taking place and being held accountable for First Nations people.

It is a further example of governments not listening. Ceasing the inquiry continues the pain that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have felt for the last 165 years. Truth telling and listening are at the heart of healing and reconciling. In my view there was nothing divisive in the language and the intent of the truth-telling inquiry. To the contrary, the terms of reference, and the way in which the inquiry was conducting itself, provided a means to bring Queenslanders together and facilitate healing that is well overdue. Queensland has a long history of past wrongs and the current LNP government are perpetrating the past wrongs by ceasing the inquiry.

Likewise on the matter of pill testing this government is also operating from political expediency not principle. This government's decision to abandon pill testing is not based on what is right, not based on what is most protective of the lives of young people and not based on what those who are actually experts in the area say. Drug use at some events, despite all reasonable attempts to prevent it, is inevitable. We can be unrealistic and say that we have to be tough on crime or we can save young people's lives. This tragic loss of young lives is preventable. Pill testing allows people to test their drugs before taking them so they can be better informed about the risks. Pill testing is a well-established harm reduction policy around the globe. The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, the UK and Belgium have all provided pill-testing services for over 20 years. Canada adopted pill testing in 2019 and we have even adopted it on our own shores in Canberra. There is now an undeniable body of evidence that shows that pill-testing services at festivals and fixed sites drastically reduce drug-related harm. Pill testing has been embraced by health and medical experts, legal groups and police. The Australian

Medical Association Queensland has said that scrapping pill testing will cost lives. I was pleased to see that the health minister advised that pill testing was still available during schoolies. We need a further commitment that the pill-testing clinics at Bowen Hills and Burleigh Heads will not be defunded from 2025. These clinics provide important and lifesaving services.

What we strove for in government was reform based on principle. As a member of parliament I have been proud to support and vote for abortion law reform, voluntary assisted dying legislation, coercive control legislation, pill testing legislation and the Path to Treaty. These are only a few of the law reforms that I have supported and will continue to support.

In my previous address-in-reply speech I spoke about the stories of racism my father told me about when growing up in North Queensland and the segregation between Italians and white Australians. Because of these stories of my father I have always had a strong conviction to speak out against racism wherever and whenever I see it. I felt very privileged to be chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee and in 2022 to head the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. Queensland did not have a piece of legislation dedicated to serious vilification and hate crimes. It was clear from the evidence received during the inquiry that people were still experiencing the devastating effects of vilification and hate crimes and more needed to be done to address these insidious problems in our society. As such, the recommendations of the committee included recommendations for legislative change which broadened the rubric of both criminal and civil law to capture these behaviours and impose sanctions in respect of same. The committee also recognised that what is sometimes needed for healing and a different tomorrow is restorative practices and to that end included a recommendation that the Queensland government develop a restorative justice strategy in consultation with affected communities. I am pleased that the work of the committee contributed to the passing of legislation aimed at reducing vilification and hate crimes.

Through the work of several inquiries, the previous government shone a light on the criminal justice system's failure to meet the needs of victims. In July 2024 the first Victims' Commissioner for Queensland was appointed. The commission is working to identify unintentional barriers within the justice and support system responses, while recognising the complexities and long-term nature of this work.

I would now like to speak about some of the developments that are close to my heart in my electorate. The first is the QEII expansion project. The QEII is an important asset for our community and the car park and expansion project are invaluable investments that will benefit both the health of our community and our hardworking health heroes at the QEII. I know that finding a car park is a big frustration for patients, visitors and staff, but the lack of parking on the QEII grounds is also creating a great deal of angst in the community with people parking on the roads around the hospital. My office fields a number of phone calls and emails each week around this issue. The new eight-level car park will deliver 1,379 car parks and is critical for the major expansion that is currently underway to deliver a new five-level building and 112 beds. The expansion project will also deliver 1,120 construction jobs during the building phase. The multi-level car park is expected to be completed in early 2027 and will include sustainable features, including solar panels and a water tank as well as bike spaces, showers and lockers.

Then there is the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital. This facility, with its state-of-the-art equipment, is taking the pressure off emergency departments, including the PA, QE11 and Logan hospitals. This allows these hospital emergency departments to deal with major illnesses and injuries. The more than 100 healthcare workers recruited to staff the hospital has been a great boost to local jobs and provides benefits to the local area. The hospital provides an alternative healthcare model for managing emergency care and chronic disease in a community setting closer to home. This facility offers kidney dialysis and related services, a cancer day unit, outpatient medical services and nursing and allied health services.

The minor injury and illness clinic provides treatment for unplanned, non-life-threatening conditions such as simple fractures, simple infections and minor burns. Minor injury and illness clinics are open seven days a week, do not require an appointment and are free for Medicare card holders. Between opening and September 2024, the satellite hospital had 6,076 patient arrivals, completing care for 98.8 per cent of patients within four hours, with an average length of stay of 79 minutes, and handled 3,218 outpatient appointments. I have heard great reports from constituents, and even my own staff who have attended the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital, about how quickly they have been seen and the great care they have been given. For example, I was told of an incident where a small child fell and hit their chin on a table at 7pm at night. What started with a small cut under the chin soon widened when it began swelling. Rather than a 35-minute trip to the hospital, trying to find a car park, the walk

to the ED and a long wait to be seen, they took a five-minute trip to the Eight Mile Plains Satellite Hospital, parked out front, were immediately seen by a nurse and, after treatment by a doctor, were on their way home within less than an hour. Being able to seek treatment closer to home is very important to the community, especially for parents.

Turning now to the Coopers Plains crossing, in my maiden speech that I made to the 55th Parliament on 5 May 2015, I spoke about issues that were important to the former electorate of Sunnybank and now electorate of Toohey. One of these was the Coopers Plains crossing. The crossing has been a big issue for not only Coopers Plains but also the south side for more than 40 years. I am particularly proud to be able to stand up today and say that we have achieved the funding to remove the Boundary Road level crossing and build a new overpass and that work is due to start in mid-2025.

The new Boundary Road rail crossing will include an overpass over the existing rail line at Boundary Road and elevated three-way intersection connecting Boundary Road and Orange Grove Road to improve safety and reduce congestion; new active transport facilities, including on- and off-road bike riding connections and dedicated and accessible pedestrian paths to improve connectivity for pedestrians and people riding their bikes; and improved local access, including new traffic connections.

The new overpass will mean no more stopping during busy peak travel times. New paths for pedestrians and bikes will mean more options for active travel, taking more cars off our busy streets. This overpass will deliver a safer, faster commute, rail reliability, reduce congestion and, as I have already mentioned, a pedestrian overpass and dedicated cycle lanes. This project will not only assist the local community of Toohey but also reduce the travel time for all of those who travel east or west on Boundary Road without having to wait for the trains to go past. The total investment of the project will be \$399 million with the federal and state governments contributing equal funding and the Brisbane City Council contributing \$40 million.


I am proud of the things we were able to achieve in our time in government and I look forward to continuing to achieve for my community. Mahatma Gandhi, an anti-colonial nationalist who employed non-violent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world, said strength does not come from physical capacity; it comes from an indomitable will to be better than yesterday. I can assure the people of my electorate that every day of this 58th Parliament I will strive to be better than yesterday.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Crisafulli government made a lot of promises to Queenslanders. They promised that crime would be fixed by Christmas, there would be fewer victims every year, they would fix housing affordability in our state, they would fix the cost of living and they would end ramping at Queensland hospitals. It is to those commitments that the opposition will hold them to account. That is our job. However, they have already begun letting down Queenslanders.

They have tried to weasel their way out of their promise to fix crime by Christmas. They have said, 'Oh, we didn't mean all crime.' They have said, 'We didn't mean fewer victims in total,' and we learned at the committee hearing that they intend to make up their own new measure. However, the commitment they made was very clear: fewer victims as measured by the ABS in their crime victimisation data—that is, fewer victims year on year. They have cancelled new housing projects that would address affordability and rushed through new legislation to give themselves the power to cancel even more. They have ruled out continuing energy rebates, which were the most important cost-of-living initiative. They have started cutting the number of transfer nurses in our hospitals and axed the workforce retention scheme, both of which will make ramping worse and not better.

The Premier said that his word would mean something—and it does mean something; it just does not mean the same thing that he says. What Queenslanders know about me is that I say what I mean and I mean what I say. Not 100 days into the job, the Premier and his government have trashed democracy in this chamber. After spending four years talking about integrity and respect for the parliament, they have shown that they have neither. During the last sitting, the LNP rammed through

legislation to silence our First Nations people. Today, the Premier has moved to censor a topic he does not want to talk about in a gutless attempt to gag his own backbench.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Leader of the Opposition, you have just used some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw. It is gutter politics and weak leadership.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I do not need your assistance.

**Mr MILES:** Labor will always be on the side of Queenslanders, and we know that it is Queenslanders who will suffer the consequences of this LNP government, which has already shown that it is true to form. It is every day Queenslanders who will be left behind by Premier Crisafulli's cuts.

It is no surprise that the first cuts to the front line are in health. Their first target was pill testing, which is a life-saving service that the Minister for Youth himself advocated for. Next up were the nurse-led walk-in clinics. Free walk-in care clinics have been opened in Brisbane city and Mount Gravatt and were planned for Gympie and Gladstone. They were specifically designed based on feedback received during consultation on the women and girls health strategy. Those clinics are literally what Queensland women told us that they wanted and needed. It was planned that each clinic would be open from 8 am to 10 pm, seven days a week. Whistleblowers have told Labor that the Gladstone clinic will be open from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, six days a week. That is a 45 per cent cut in services to regional Queensland.


This morning the Premier said that every single dollar from the budget would be spent, yet services will be cut back in the regions—regions where the LNP say they are passionate about representing Queenslanders, regions such as Gladstone. We are told that a review is underway, with similar cuts expected at the Mount Gravatt, Brisbane and Gympie locations. In Brisbane, those services are already up and running. Nurses tell us how much they value the facilities, particularly in the CBD. It is free health care that is available and accessible to all Queenslanders. It is clear that the LNP do not value providing affordable and accessible health care when they stand ready to scrap those important services.

If members thought that was bad, today we learned that the cuts just keep coming. Whistleblowers have confirmed that the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme has been scrapped. That scheme had attracted over 1,500 doctors and nurses to Queensland, particularly to the regions, and 1,500 hundred doctors and nurses may leave Queensland Health because of that. The scheme was to be available until 2026, but today we found out that it has been cut two years early. How many more doctors and nurses could have been attracted to our state to deliver the health care that Queenslanders so desperately need? Instead, they will be scooped up by interstate and international health services. At a time when we need more health workers and not fewer, how can the Crisafulli government, in good conscience, rip the rug out from under programs that support health in our regions? The regions were promised that an LNP government would 'reinstatement health services when you need them'. It turns out that when they say something it means something else, because what they meant was 'so long as you don't need them after 5.30 pm or on a Sunday'.

It has also been revealed that funding for transfer nurses has been cut. Those nurses work in our emergency departments and help with the flow of patients from the ambulance ramp to the hospital. Those nurses get ambos back on the road sooner. That is what they have cut. It just does not make sense.

The Crisafulli government is showing that a leopard never really changes its spots. The LNP have always believed in cuts, and they did not wait even a month before they dusted off their scissors. When last in government the health minister was the architect of mass public sector sackings, and he just could not help himself: he is back at it again. The Premier promised Queenslanders a fresh start, but judging by that start it does not look very fresh to me.

### ALP Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.07 pm): I was taken aback because I thought that for the opposition leader's first 10-minute speech he would go the distance, but he cut short his speech by two minutes. The opposition leader says, 'Queenslanders know me.' You bet they do! That is why they rejected him on 26 October. They rejected the Labor Party policies. They rejected the Labor Party blowouts. They rejected the Labor Party mistruths. More importantly, they rejected the

Labor Party scare campaigns that were waged on every front. Queenslanders saw through every mistruth told by Labor Party ministers who sat on this side of the chamber at that time and they voted against their scare campaigns, which we spoke about a little earlier today.

The opposition leader also says Labor will always be on the side of Queenslanders. Wrong! They have not been. They were not on the side of victims. They were not on the side of police. They were not on the side of the frontline health workers. They were not on the side of teachers who are continually being assaulted and bullied by students, including primary school students, in schools. No, the Labor Party are not on the side of Queenslanders.

For 10 years, the Labor Party became so arrogant and so focussed on their own jobs and ruling the state that they lost focus on what matters to Queenslanders—health, housing and the cost of living. They are the issues that Queenslanders voted for a fresh start on, and they did it in droves. The opposition leader talks about regional Queensland. Regional Queensland is now represented in this House by members from regional Queensland in Liberal National Party-held seats.

I spoke earlier about fixing the chaos of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I launched the website [gamesreview.com.au](http://gamesreview.com.au) so all Queenslanders can finally have a say. The Labor Party did not allow Queenslanders to have a say, particularly—

**Mr Dick:** Why isn't it a government website?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I would not interject. I will get to the former treasurer in a minute.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, members! Deputy Premier, you have the call.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am just easing my way through the veggie patch, getting past the different types of lettuce until I get to the cos lettuce at the end, which is the former treasurer of the state.

**Mr Dick:** You mean cosplay?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Keep going! Let's go to him now—he was the treasurer who presided over the biggest blowout in Olympic infrastructure and Paralympic infrastructure and refused to tell any Queenslanders. He was in charge of CBRC. He was in charge of the money. He was in charge of the Queensland budget, yet he let there be blowout after blowout. He did not hold the ministers responsible, nor accountable, for their blowouts.

We are going to fix it. We are going to get the games back on track, and that is why we have set up the panel. Talking of the former treasurer, when we announced the eminent seven-member panel last week—the best of the best—the former treasurer was quoted in the newspaper as saying it was 'soft corruption'. Soft corruption!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The level of interjections is too high. Deputy Premier, you have the call.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** This is a panel that will do a job and the former Labor government could not even decide on a panel. They had no panel. They had no board.

**Ms Grace:** Ridiculous!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will take the interjection from the former minister. Former minister Grace came in here and set up GVLDA—the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority—and forgot to appoint a board to the authority. Genius! When I went into the old GVLDA and met the public servants, they said, 'Minister, we are just so happy we can get on with the job and we have a board that can direct us to get this games review done.' I am excited about it. They are excited about it. GIICA is excited about it and so much more. I encourage all Queenslanders to have a say.

This is the former minister, of course, who has come in here for the past 10 years and waxed lyrical and defended the CFMEU every time I have raised issues about it. For instance, former minister Grace said—


They embarked on one of the most disgusting union bashing, continually broken-record talking about one particular union—the CFMEU—using very derogatory language about officials who are elected by their members ...

She then went on to say—

... here they are bemoaning the CFMEU. Once again they are bereft of any ideas. Here we are in the parliament—and, Mr Speaker, I have to apologise—once again debating the CFMEU.

There is a reason I debated the CFMEU for 10 years and there is a reason the Labor Party did not want to debate the CFMEU—they are in the pockets of the CFMEU. If the former treasurer wants to talk about corruption or soft corruption, let's talk hard corruption: the CFMEU and the Labor Party.

### Premier and Minister for Veterans, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.13 pm): Premier Crisafulli in his own boastful way promised a fresh start for Queensland but, in 40 days of his new LNP government, David Crisafulli has taken Queensland back 40 years. We saw it in the first week on the first sitting day of the first full year of the Crisafulli government when, at midnight, they rammed through their Olympics bill. They rammed through their Olympics bill without any consultation, without any consideration or concern and without providing an opportunity for any discussion or proper debate. The Premier tacked on—

**Mr Crisafulli:** No 'We're sorry, we got it wrong.'

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection. This is the man who would not allow Queenslanders' voices to be heard. We had all those fake promises during the election and all of that rubbish talk about listening to Queenslanders and about transparency and accountability and what did he do in that bill? What did the Premier do? He tacked on to the Olympics bill his disgraceful amendments to repeal the Path to Treaty Act and, in doing so, absolutely and gleefully destroyed the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. We know the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is a lost cause. The minister spent weeks in hiding, hiding from First Nations leaders. She would not front them and speak to them personally about the government's decision. We saw the same thing from the Premier as well but that is for her eternal shame. She spent weeks in hiding.

As for the minister responsible for the Olympics bill, instead of spending his time dressing up for the LNP party members, instead of prancing around in his Elvis cosplay outfit, instead of wallowing in the glitz and glamour of the big-dollar LNP donors, the Deputy Premier could have consulted with First Nations Queenslanders about a decision that had a profound impact on their lives. The damage that Premier Crisafulli has done by destroying the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry without having the decency to speak to the chair is immeasurable. It will be Premier Crisafulli's lingering and lasting legacy. The Premier tried to silence the voices of elders, the old people who are left who have been waiting to tell their stories, the stories of Queensland. Those of us on this side know they will not be silenced and Queenslanders of goodwill will find a way for their stories to be told and heard, unlike this Premier.

We saw the same thing again today. We saw the Premier at it again today, like his idol Bjelke-Petersen and like his mentor Campbell Newman, using the parliament as his personal plaything, ramming through a motion to gag all members of this House from exercising their rights, from exercising the rights all members of this place should be able to exercise without trammel or interference. He did so because the Premier was weak and frightened—frightened of the crossbench and frightened of LNP members expressing their own consciences.

The members for Oodgeroo and Rockhampton, were crestfallen. Two people who did not speak on the motion were the members for Chatsworth and Clayfield. We did not hear from them because we know how they voted. What about the Olympic dream of the LNP turning into another LNP Olympic mess? Where was the proper process? There was no process whatsoever. Nothing. Hand-picked. There he was, hand-picked by the Deputy Premier.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Not one 'Sorry, we got it wrong.' Here they are, the guilty party.

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection from the Premier. He would not answer one question from a journalist. He would not answer any questions and there was the Deputy Premier, with all of his fake arrogance—look at him yelling out today. There was the Deputy Premier at the Property Council lunch saying it was me, the great man, he did it all without process, without criteria, that is the Premier's man.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I do not suppose that the Deputy Premier needs my protection but I would say that when you take interjections more will probably follow. I give a general warning to the House that the level of interjections is too high and they are disorderly. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

**Mr DICK:** You know you have the Premier when he cannot close his mouth and continues to interject. You know you are right on the target and the glass jaw is shattered. He is a man with a glass jaw. He cannot take criticism. He cannot hear other voices. He will be disrespectful to anyone who has a different view, including his own party room, and we saw it today when he silenced opposition in this House, and that will be another one of his lingering legacies.

### Member for Woodridge



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.18 pm): The last five minutes have shown again what a very, very long 10 years it has been for Queensland without a Liberal National government. It has been a very long 10 years and that last five minutes told us everything about the former government—their pridefulness and their failure to admit everything that they had got wrong.

We have watched for the last 10 years as the previous speaker ran the Queensland budget into the ground. We have watched debt grow from \$72 billion to \$172 billion. We have seen the interest bill go to \$7.73 billion over the forwards. We have seen record debt, record revenue, record taxes, record borrowing and yet we have seen record numbers of people waiting on ramps, record numbers of homeless living in tents and on the streets and record numbers of victims of crime. This was all under the watch of the former treasurer, whom we just had to endure speaking.

When I read my incoming brief to government there were a number of clear messages from Treasury. It was very clear that, because of the fiscal vandalism and the disrespect that had been shown to Queenslanders' money, there is a heightened risk of a credit rating downgrade in Queensland. There is absolutely no risk to that. Treasury briefed me that there is a structural deficit. Standard & Poor's have been clear. Unlike the former treasurer, we will take the advice of Standard & Poor's seriously. They had talked about waning fiscal discipline in the state budget. They had talked about loosening fiscal discipline and a higher risk of a credit rating downgrade.

What we saw last week after that news was brought to light—the former treasurer always hid it from the Queensland people—was the former treasurer go out. We could not see the shadow Treasurer anywhere. She must have been in hiding somewhere. The former treasurer had to go out.

I am a big fan of the first decade of *The Simpsons*. I will tell younger members of the House more about it later. One of my favourite scenes in *The Simpsons*—

**A government member:** *The Flintstones*.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Not that old. One of my favourite scenes was when Chief Wiggum was in a very deep hole.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, members! The House will come to order. The level of interjection is too high.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Chief Wiggum said to the people down in this deep hole with him, 'No, no. Dig up, stupid.' I thought last week that that was the former treasurer. Last week the former treasurer was in a deep hole and he was trying to dig himself out of the biggest hole ever.

The shadow Treasurer was not going to come out because she knew it was indefensible. The shadow Treasurer knew that the former treasurer's argument was indefensible. Those on the backbench know. The record of the former treasurer is clear. The shadow Treasurer would not come out and defend it because she knew it was indefensible. Without doubt the former treasurer is the worst treasurer in Queensland's history.

**An honourable member** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Who was the last member to interject while I was on my feet?

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Inala, I warn you under the standing orders. Everyone is having a good go. I know that this is a bit contentious. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you particularly had a good go. The next time I have to refer to you it will be a warning.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The former treasurer is not just the worst treasurer in Queensland's history; he has been rejected by the people of Queensland. Last week the former treasurer talked about the budget being in good shape. Let us remember what the *Financial Review* said about the budget. This was before all the state owned servos, the state owned general practitioners, the state owned energy retailers and the state delivered school lunches. This is what the *Financial Review* said about the former treasurer and his budget. The *Financial Review* called the Queensland budget under the former treasurer a 'populist clown show'. No words have ever been more apt to describe him.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (2.24 pm): The LNP came into office telling Queenslanders they were going to be different. They said that they were going to listen and that they were going to consult. In the Premier's own words, they were going to show respect and decency. They said the government would be a fresh start.

It has not been long since the election—one sitting of parliament and only two days in—and we could be forgiven for thinking that it is 2014 and not 2024. They learned nothing in 10 years. Why would they have? Most of them sat around the Campbell Newman cabinet table when they were in government back in 2014. We saw the worst government lose one of the biggest majorities in the history of Queensland. It is sad that I stand here today and have to say that in 10 years they learned absolutely nothing.

We know they are in trouble when in the MPI debate the Treasurer cannot articulate one thing the government proposes to do. We know they are in trouble when all they are doing is talking about us. I know we are good topic. I know we are a great topic to talk about. All they are doing is talking about Labor and not what they intend to do in government.

They are still in opposition mode and they have not transitioned into government. They are, as Campbell Newman was, drunk on power. It has been evident that they are drunk on power. I had never seen a government in the history of Queensland more drunk on power than the Newman government, but here we are today seeing this mob and this Premier more drunk on power.


Who is in charge of this House? It is interesting that the Deputy Premier spoke about the Olympics. I join the former treasurer in saying that the manner in which the authority was appointed was absolutely disgusting. The independent authority was there. All the delivery partners were in place. The Commonwealth was there. Brisbane 2032 was there. They were all intact as part of the legislation that those opposite supported. It would not have cost them anything to run past who they determine to be the best of the best—whatever that means. I must confess that I have no idea what that means. It is as though there is nobody else in the world better than these people. I am not denigrating the people; I am denigrating that statement. Exactly what does it mean?

Who is actually in charge here? When they say that we did not appoint the board, I point out that we did the right thing. The independent panel were going through their processes. I received a letter co-signed by President Andrew Liveris and Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner saying, 'We are now getting close to caretaker. Can we look at this after the election rather than doing it now and whoever wins changing their mind? That would be bad for those people given the respect we have for those people.' We agreed to wait until after the election.

The other day it all came out. The Premier was asked: how were they appointed? He could not answer the question. He did not want to answer the question. He did not want to go there. It is just like he would not give straight answers to any questions when it came to the issue of abortion law during the election campaign. It was his inability to answer those questions that raised the issues during the election campaign. That was the only reason he could not be honest.

The other day at the Property Council Christmas lunch we had the Deputy Premier as arrogant and as hubristic as you could get. He came out strong and said, 'We have taken on the CFMEU.' Can I remind him that they are actually in administration because of a Labor government. He gets up and brags about all that he is doing. The Premier would not answer the question about how they were appointed, but the Deputy Premier could not help himself. Who is in charge? This is what he said. He let it out of the bag. He said, 'I researched them. I headhunted them. I appointed them within 30 days of the new government taking office'—I, I, I. They did not have the decency to tell the Commonwealth. The Lord Mayor was told. The Premier could not answer the question. The Deputy Premier stood up and said that he did it all himself. Who is in charge?

### ALP Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.29 pm): What a litany of excuses from the former failed Harvard scholar. We all remember the member for McConnel's claims to be a Harvard scholar and her rewriting of the history books. That did not take long. We remember the member for McConnel, who told us back in 2016 that youth unemployment will always be with us. Now she makes excuse after excuse for her failure to act over three years to do something reasonable and rational like appoint the Olympic authority they legislated. There has been a litany of excuses. We heard them from the doctor, who is only good at cooking the books; we heard from the treasurer, who cannot do anything except fail to explain why Standard & Poor's is now looking at a downgrade. They cannot explain how a fiscal deficit came about. They cannot explain how they



ramped up taxes when they said 26 times after the last election there were going to be no new taxes or increases. Is it no wonder the people of Queensland spoke so loudly on 26 October.

Here is a message for the Labor Party: you lost. You do not have the right to come in here and say that the people of Queensland got it wrong, which is what those opposite are trying to say. They are trying to say that the people of Queensland got it wrong on 26 October. Nothing could be further from the truth. Queenslanders are paying for Labor's failures in the health portfolio nearly every day with the worst ambulance ramping numbers in Australia, greater than 40 per cent. We remember when the member for Waterford said it would be down to 28 per cent within a year of her appointment.

**Mr Minnikin:** How did that go?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** She got an extra six months, a 50 per cent period of grace, and it just went up. It kept going up. In fact, we have three of the four worst health ministers in Queensland's history sitting in this House right across the way. We would have four of them except the member for Redcliffe was moved out of the position by the former premier, who was moved out of the position by Gary Bullock, who put the current opposition leader in his position. That is the arcane world of the Labor Party. There was a record waitlist for elective surgery of over 64,000 Queenslanders, nearly 300,000 Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist and capital blowouts. Capital blowouts are a significant issue, and I have already announced and provided information on Labor's \$6 billion in blowouts across the program.

Imagine my surprise when the member for Miller wrote to me and asked whether he could visit some hospitals. I am a very reasonable person, so I thought 'why not?' and I said, 'Yes, please go and visit hospitals.' Lo and behold, I found that he had posted a picture of himself—he is wearing a very trendy shiny shirt and unbranded hardhat—at the Toowoomba Hospital. He says, 'I'm happy to be in Toowoomba today inspecting the new \$1.3 billion hospital built by the Miles government.' The only problem is that it is \$1.98 billion. I am happy to table a slightly modified article as a bit of fun.


*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Fentiman's blowouts up to Bailey's standards'.

I wondered why he would be there. Why would the member for Miller post that when he knows it is wrong after I had already announced it? I had already said it by that stage of the proceedings. I thought, 'Let's just think back a bit on history.' What is the member for Miller responsible for that might have blown out over time? The minister had a lot of fun with him. He used to call him 'Blowout Bailey'. I would not do such a thing. I wondered if he was considering what tips he could pick up from the former minister for health, who presided over the biggest blowout, \$6 billion, in the capital expansion program. Of that \$6 billion, \$1.3 billion is for projects that are already underway where they left things out. They left things out such as a cardiac catheterisation laboratory and birthing suite at Toowoomba Hospital.

**A government member:** Who needs those?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Who needs those, exactly! The member for Waterford said, 'They're not missing; they just now need expanding.' We describe a hospital pharmacy as a critical function, not an expansion.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance**

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.34 pm): Doesn't it say a lot that the member for Clayfield, the now Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, had five minutes on his feet and could not explain why he has cut the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme which has brought hundreds and hundreds of doctors and nurses to regional Queensland, could not explain why they are sacking nurses from emergency departments and could not explain why they are cutting the services at nurse-led clinics that women and girls in Queensland told us they wanted. That tells you everything you need to know about the member for Clayfield. As of today, we are 45 days into this new government.

What a ride it has been! In 45 days we have seen this new government make leaps and bounds in tarnishing their own word, diminishing the rights of Queenslanders, gagging their own members—in fact, gagging the entire Queensland parliament—from discussing things in the future and banning the entire parliament from even discussing a woman's right to choose. You could just tell how much he wanted to gag those journalists in the election campaign. Day after day he could not answer the questions. He just wanted to gag those journalists. What did he do instead? Because he could not do that, he comes in here and, in an unprecedented move, gags every member of the Queensland parliament. This will make it really difficult for us to advance women's rights in this state when it comes to advances in health care and making sure that all health professionals continue to grow their scope of practice to provide what is lawful health care for women and girls in this state.

This new government made a vow to Queenslanders that there would be no cuts. Day after day the Premier said there would be no cuts. We were told this would not be a repeat of Campbell Newman's leadership. In just 45 days that has been completely rubbished by them. They have cut pill testing. We know this is something that will save lives and doctors have said we should keep. Of course we have the cut to the truth-telling inquiry. The Premier could not even pick up the phone to the chair of the inquiry to tell him it would be no longer, rushing and ramming legislation through in a day. They have also now cut the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. They have cut the operating hours of nurse-led clinics. Who is surprised? They never supported those nurse-led clinics in the first place. It is absolutely shocking.


We know there is more to come. How do we know there are more cuts on the way? Because the Treasurer has spent the past week sounding the alarm about a potential credit rating downgrade. Let's be very clear: the threat of a downgrade was non-existent before the election. We know that because the ratings agencies put us on a stable outlook in September. What has changed since September? The election of the LNP government. Who remembers that train wreck of an interview? The now Treasurer only did one interview during the whole campaign. They had him hidden away. He finally made an appearance and did a shocker of a press conference where he could not explain how they are going to return back to surplus, lower debt and front all of their election promises. Now the ratings agencies have cottoned on and they have gone, 'This is bad news. How are you going to pay for all of this?' It is outrageous, but we know he is doing it because they are laying the groundwork for more cuts.

It has only been 45 days. I have already listed off all of these cuts they are making but there are definitely more to come. What has been really obvious in the past 45 days is that the now Premier, David Crisafulli, does not mean what he says. He said so many things during the election about how they would be a different kind of government. There would be no shadows of Campbell Newman. There would be no cuts. They would be responsible. They would listen to experts. It was going to be a utopia of a government. They have trashed it in 45 days.

If the actions of this Premier and the LNP government have shown us anything it is that they have flagrant disregard for anyone who might have a different opinion from theirs. This will absolutely send Queensland backwards. The Premier spent a lot of time in the campaign talking about values and talking about respect, and what we have seen in the past 45 days is the opposite. This is not Newman 2.0—

*(Time expired)*

### Japan and South Korea, Trade Mission

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.39 pm): I am proud to be the Minister for Trade in the Crisafulli LNP government—a government that is delivering a fresh start for Queensland. I am pleased to inform the House that I have just returned from the first trade mission of this Crisafulli government during which I travelled to our key trading partners of Japan and South Korea and held 25 meetings in five days in two countries with a broad range of key international stakeholders.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** I gave two key messages to our international stakeholders: first, Queensland is open for business; and, second, in a Crisafulli LNP government our international customers have a government that will be a reliable and stable trading partner.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order! I am sorry to interrupt you, Minister. I cannot hear the minister, and the clerks at the table are telling me that they cannot hear the minister. The interjections are not being taken. I will be warning members if this persists.

**Ms BATES:** The second message was that, in a Crisafulli LNP government, our international customers have a government that will be a reliable and stable trading partner. These were very important messages to relay because, under the previous Labor government, our trading partners had dealt with a government that was anything but reliable and stable. Stakeholders told me that members of the previous government were afraid to say the word 'coal' or talk about LNG—two of our largest export commodities. The loss of goodwill towards the previous government and its actions was, sadly, on full display. In contrast, we are a government that is not ashamed of our coal, our gas, our beef and our mineral exports.

In the year ending September 2024, Japan was Queensland's second largest goods export market, valued at \$16.9 billion, while the Republic of Korea was our fourth largest export market, valued at \$14.6 billion. The importance of these export markets cannot be underestimated. Queensland's exports support one in five jobs in this state. Without reliable trading partners, Queensland jobs are put at risk. Shamefully, the previous Labor government's actions jeopardised our international relationships, and our top exports to both Japan and the Republic of Korea are coal, LNG, meat and metals—the lifeblood of the Queensland economy.


During my five-day mission in Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul I met with key partners in the Japanese and South Korean energy, metals, coal, gas and beef industries to help drive jobs for Queenslanders. I heard from a range of industry and government representatives in both countries across the resources, renewables, bio and health sectors. My engagements with key investors in Japan included meetings with Nippon Steel—Japan's largest steelmaking corporation—as well as with JFE Steel and Japanese oil company Eneos, which are making a \$200 million investment at Bulwer Island here in Brisbane.

I was also very pleased to have hosted, with the support of Trade and Investment Queensland, a Tastes of Queensland reception in Tokyo, which had 196 stakeholders in attendance, and I had the opportunity to meet with the Governor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. My meetings with investors in the Republic of Korea included meetings with divisions of Posco Holdings, which are a key customer of both our metallurgical coal and our LNG, as well as Korea Zinc, Hyundai Rotem and Samsung C&T.

I also took the opportunity to view the World Expo 2025 Osaka site, where Queensland will be showcased from April next year in the Australia Pavilion. This will provide a powerful platform for the government and Queensland businesses alike to further grow relationships and promote Queensland as Australia's most globally connected state. Japan and the Republic of Korea are also both important contributors to Queensland's international education sector, with Japan the seventh and the Republic of Korea the ninth largest sources of international student enrolments.

What was very clear during this trade mission was the demand for Queensland products and the services that we offer. This government is committed to making sure our regions can reap the benefits of our trade successes. Japanese and Korean investment in our state creates jobs for Queensland and guarantees the long-term success of the Queensland economy. I am confident that there will be more investment outcomes and ultimately more jobs following these meetings. My many thanks go to Mr Tak Adachi, senior trade commissioner for North Asia, and Mr Luke Shim, trade commissioner for South Korea, and to their teams in Japan and South Korea for the excellent work they are doing as part of our state's trade and investment arm. I look forward to further strengthening relationships with our overseas export markets and continuing to reiterate that, under a Crisafulli LNP government, Queensland is open for business. Only the LNP has the right plan for Queensland's future.

### Affordable Housing

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.44 pm): It is great to follow the new Minister for Trade to talk about broken promises. It did not take long for the LNP government to go full 'mask off' and reveal their true colours on their housing agenda. It was no more obvious than when the Premier decided to ditch the member for Everton, who of course sent social housing in this state backwards, who axed 1,600 jobs and who axed support for renters. The Premier found someone who actually dislikes housing even more than the member for Everton—that is, the member for Bonney, who campaigned almost primarily against affordable housing in his own electorate.

The housing minister barely got his feet under the table before he and the Deputy Premier decided to scrap and cancel hundreds of homes in his electorate, a portion of which needed to be affordable housing, on a privately owned, disused golf course. Adding insult to injury was the contribution from the member for Bonney in debate of the Olympics bill, which was rammed through this parliament in the last sitting week. The member for Bonney talked about a surf and golf resort on a golf course in Parkwood. Interestingly, he is okay with resort style housing and wave pools but not affordable housing on golf courses. We know what that contribution was all about. It was because the member for Bonney does not have the intestinal fortitude to make clear to the community—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Gaven, I am going to take some advice on that last expression. I will not ask you to withdraw that but I caution you and all members about the use of unparliamentary language. I will be very quick to jump on that if it happens.

**Ms SCANLON:** The member for Bonney did not have the ticker to come in here and say what his government's position was—which was to turn their back on First Nations Queenslanders. It is hard to

fix housing affordability if you cancel projects with affordable housing. This short-sighted nimbyism which we see from those opposite is just the first example of many. Not satisfied with axing that particular project, the LNP came into this House on their first real day of parliament and rushed through a law that basically says, 'We're not going to listen to the Public Service. We don't think the chief executive should make decisions about affordable housing.' They have given the Deputy Premier the power to scrap and amend affordable housing projects that our government gave the green light to.

This was a process that housing stakeholders called for, that Q Shelter called for: 20 per cent of those projects needed to have affordable housing and those opposite do not want them. We had 11 projects in the pipeline. We had a situation where the candidate for Noosa was actively campaigning against the project in her community. We then heard what this was really about when the member for Chatsworth said he did not support the project in his community, either. This was interesting, given the LNP have been talking about working with faith-based organisations. That project is working with the Roman Catholic archdiocese.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Woodridge. Those opposite are not supportive of affordable housing if it is in their own electorate. That is evident.

What we also saw was total disrespect for specialist homelessness services. Those opposite went to the election, claiming they were going to match Labor's 20 per cent uplift in funding for those hardworking organisations.

**Mr Mander:** To match Labor's? The other way around; we are the only ones who put it in the forwards.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the former housing minister who axed social housing in this state. The LNP, on the eve of the election, disclosed that, in fact, it was not a 20 per cent increase; they were cutting funding to organisations like Micah, Vinnie's and Mission Australia who rely on state government funding.

**Mr Mander:** What world does this person live in?

**An honourable member:** It is baked in.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member's interjection who said it is baked in. Why was it not in the costings?

**Mr O'Connor:** It is a 20 per cent uplift. Take the 20 per cent uplift interjection. That is what we are doing.

**Ms SCANLON:** Why was it not in the costings?

**Mr O'Connor:** The 20 per cent uplift.

**Ms SCANLON:** Member for Bonney, it is disrespectful to those hardworking specialist homelessness organisations.

**Mr Mander:** Who explained it to you? Did they—

**Ms SCANLON:** Member for Everton—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister):** Order! As I said earlier, when a member on their feet takes interjections and invites further interjections, that does not necessarily make them right. The minister for housing and the minister for Olympics, you have had a good go. If I have to refer to you again, it will be a warning, and that is a general warning to everyone from now on.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member for Everton's interjection. We all remember that interview when he was the shadow Treasurer and talked about the costings. I would not be lecturing us on costings, member for Everton. Breaking promises, cutting services and axing homes—that is what the LNP has already done, and it has only been just over a month.

### Rockhampton Electorate



**Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.50 pm):** I am thrilled to have been appointed as the assistant minister for mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, families and seniors, and Central Queensland. I am excited to not only represent my electorate of Rockhampton but also to represent all Central Queenslanders in this important portfolio. I also know how critical mental health is for all Queenslanders, particularly those in remote and regional areas who often have to travel further and wait longer to access services. Indeed, in my electorate of Rockhampton, constituents have shared

with me their challenges accessing mental health services that they need; families separated whilst children requiring services are forced to travel to Brisbane for care that they should be able to access locally. I have hit the ground running to understand the challenges and opportunities ahead of the mental health sector across the state, and I am aware that the sector is supported not only by clinicians and health workers but also by stakeholders and community groups, and I have started engaging with these stakeholders.


I have met with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to hear about the opportunities to enhance psychiatric services for Queenslanders. I also met with Arafmi, a not-for-profit organisation that supports the carers of people living in mental ill health, an organisation that does critical work for Queenslanders. I was pleased to speak with Arafmi about the Crisafulli LNP government's \$50 million Step Up Step Down youth mental health program, including one facility in Rockhampton. The Step Up Step Down facility will support young people who have recently experienced or who are at increased risk of experiencing an acute episode of mental illness. These services offer stepped up care when more is needed that can be offered in patients' own homes, or stepped down care to help young people get back into the routine of everyday life after spending time in hospital due to their mental illness. This forms part of the Crisafulli government's investment into youth mental health services to be funded by the mental health levy.

This also delivers on our Easier Access to Health Services plan, to deliver health services when Queenslanders need them, and to reinvest every dollar from the mental health levy back into vital mental health services and facilities across the state.

I look forward to delivering on other commitments within the government's plan, like \$95 million for a new Queensland Academy of Health Sciences in Rockhampton. The Crisafulli government will build the state's first regionally based Queensland academy campus to help high-achieving local students follow their dreams of becoming doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals where they live. This commitment will help secure a pipeline of health workers for our hospitals into the future, connecting students with professionals in the health sciences, research science and academic industries, providing a pathway from high school to university and into frontline health work.

This is part of our government's plan to secure a home-grown health workforce for regional Queensland's future, and this is just the beginning. We are diagnosing the problems in the health system, treating the issues and curing the health crisis. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system they can rely on, no matter where they live, including Central Queensland, and that is what the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance**

 **Ms ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (2.55 pm): Charles Spurgeon, a 19th century preacher, famously said, 'Begin as you mean to go on and go on as you began.' If the very first day of the Crisafulli LNP government in the first sitting week of the 58th Parliament is anything to go by, Queenslanders should brace themselves. The way the Premier and this LNP government has begun in this place is straight the out of the Newman government's playbook. In fact, it is worse. After today's efforts, we are seeing an even worse outcome for Queenslanders. Of course, what we have seen already is an attack on the most vulnerable, trashing of conventions, and saying one thing and doing another. That is already their hallmark. The Premier said, for instance, that he would approach the repeal of the Path to Treaty Act with decency and respect, but when it came down to it, he demonstrated that those words meant absolutely nothing. In fact, they meant the absolute opposite. Instead, we saw from his government a complete trashing of any kind of sense of decency and respect and a going back on his word. He decided to rush through changes with little to no notice and allocated just four hours on the same day for the House to debate. There was no opportunity for a committee to interrogate the legislation, as is the usual convention, no opportunity for any Queenslanders to have their say, and then they passed the legislation using their majority, under the cloak of darkness at close to midnight, a complete trashing of the standard conventions of this place.

When you look at all of that, you think to yourself that he did not need to do that. He could have used some decency and respect. He could have actually brought in other legislation to repeal the Path to Treaty Act if that is what he intended to do, and he could have saved the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry—a very cost effective way to tell the stories of the people of this state and tell the true history of our Queensland so that every single Queenslanders could be privy to that information.

We are seeing our elders passing away, taking the stories with them. In one of the hearings of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, one elder told their story and within days had a stroke and was in

hospital. That is what is going to be happening right across this state, where we lose those opportunities to hear the true lived experienced of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The fallout of that has already had an impact. I see members opposite shaking their heads. The fallout is already making an impact. It really is. Who is that member, the one shaking his head? I do not know what seat he is in.

**An opposition member:** Member for Mackay.

**Ms ENOCH:** The member for Mackay is currently shaking his head at my comments about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dying before they have a chance to tell their story. I find that quite upsetting. The true and real lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is that we are dying at early ages, not being able to tell these stories in their fulsome way. The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry gave us a chance, in a very protected way, to be able to tell these stories along with, of course, the records that are kept by governments.

Not only did we see the Premier show his true colours, but we also saw an indication of how the member for Maroochydore, the minister who is responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, intends to go on. It was very telling.

The minister, who ignored her own charter letter requiring her to engage with stakeholders, refused to pay the most basic respect to members of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry by picking up the phone. Just pick up the phone turn up to a meeting. She scheduled a meeting and then backed out of the meeting and never rescheduled it—no respect whatsoever. She could not even bring herself to do the basic decent thing and face the people working in this space to explain her position. She could not even make a public statement to articulate her plans after supporting the axing of the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry.


The truth of the matter is that the member for Maroochydore and the LNP have no plans regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the commitment to closing the gap. The member has begun as she intends to go on: ignoring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and working against their interest. Today we saw this go even further when they gagged the whole parliament. Every single one of us have had our powers, our responsibilities, fettered by this Premier. All of our constituents are now silenced as a result of that motion. This is how the LNP have begun, and it seems to be how they intend to continue on.

*(Time expired)*

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 233.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I call the honourable member for Pumicestone, I remind the House that this is the member's first speech. As such, I ask that members receive the speech with the courtesies associated with this occasion.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.00 pm): I rise today with humility to address this chamber as a member of the 58th Parliament of Queensland. It is an extraordinary honour to represent my community. Pumicestone has given a young person the opportunity to serve them with a fresh perspective, and I am deeply committed to doing everyone back home proud every day that I have the privilege of being in this House.

My family and I have called the seaside town of Beachmere home for over a decade. In this time we have seen the impact of a youth crime, health, cost-of-living and housing crisis on our idyllic community. I put my hand up to serve because I understand that a good government can turn things around. I wanted to be part of the change the LNP was offering Queensland. I am thankful that the Liberal National Party believed that a 22-year-old who has never left home had an important contribution to make to this House, that the views of young Queenslanders like me matter and that I could bring a different and important perspective.

This is not the first time our party has broken new ground. We are the party of Sir Neville Bonner, the first Indigenous person elected to any parliament in our nation; we are the party of Irene Longman, the first female member of Queensland parliament; and we are the party of Lawrence Springborg, elected at 21—still the youngest ever elected to this House and our current party president. Although I was just a few months off beating Lawrence's record, I am honoured to be the youngest woman elected to the Queensland parliament and the first person to rise in this place born in the 21st century. The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the first Olympics that I will see held on Australian soil.

While these records make for nice trivia, what they represent actually means something. I may not have decades of professional experience, but what I do have is different: an important perspective. Some 18.2 per cent of Australians are generation Z; however, if I use the common definition of gen Z, I am the only member of this House from that generation. If I use a more generous definition, we may be able to sneak the members for Sandgate and Callide into gen Z. This is important because our generation faces, and will continue to face, pressures previous generations have not had to deal with. Our generation faces the daunting prospect of never being able to own our own home. Our generation is witnessing a decline in mental health, with increasing rates of anxiety and depression exacerbated by the impacts of social media. Our generation faces the rapid transformation of the job market, driven by automation and advancements in technology. Many of the jobs we are training for today may not exist tomorrow.

Being young is not my only perspective. The diverse upbringing I have had—like many others here—is something I also bring to this place. My family's story is a testament to the boundless opportunities that Australia offers to those who work hard. My grandparents, who fled South Africa during the apartheid era, chose Australia as their new home because of the promise of equal opportunity and reward for effort. With very little money in their pockets, my grandma, a teacher in South Africa, worked as a strawberry picker on Wyatt Roy's family farm before retraining as an early learning educator. My grandfather worked in a tool shop and eventually became a small business owner. He learned how to owner-build houses and built his family home. He passed on his skills to his children, leading to building impressive lives.

My father's side of the family has a rich history rooted in the hard work and determination that defined their lives on a dairy farm in Narangba. With eight children to raise, my grandparents dedicated themselves to building a life that could sustain and empower their family, despite many challenges. My grandmother balanced her role as a mother with work as a teacher, shaping young minds while also shaping the future of her own children. Her dedication to education and to her church community was a source of inspiration to everyone around her.

My parents grew up in households that had to struggle to make ends meet, but their families instilled in them the value of hard work and a determination to create a better future. High school teachers by profession, they held extra jobs on weekends and after school because they understood that success comes through dedicated effort. I have learned from them the value of resilience, hard work and the importance of strong families. Since I was nine months old, my childhood consisted of regularly travelling to South Africa with my mum and her tourism students where they would volunteer in orphanages. This was an almost yearly trip with my family until my last trip in 2015. The experience taught me the importance of compassion and the power of community and gave me a deep appreciation for the opportunities we have living here in Australia.

In 2012 my mum took a break from teaching and ventured into small business, buying a newsagency in Redcliffe. My experiences working alongside her highlighted the role small businesses play in our Moreton Bay community, particularly those that serve a broad section of society. This showed me, from an early age, how we must ease the burden of red tape and regulation on businesses and let those who work hard keep more of what they earn. Most of all, my family has instilled in me the importance of community, education, aspiration and, above all, hard work. In recent years I have balanced my studies with work as a teacher aide, being a reptile handler and more recently, working as a program coordinator at a not-for-profit where I was educating young people about energy efficiency. If there was any doubt about my gen Z credentials, I also had a supporting lead role in a Netflix TV series!

Inspired by my love for my community and the values of the Liberal National Party, I am here to contribute meaningfully in this place by advocating for practical, community focused policies which support education, environmental responsibility and opportunities for young people. My experiences have equipped me with the skills to engage with diverse groups of people and to get the balance right between progress and sustainability. That is how we will deliver a strong, prosperous future for Pumicestone.

All of these experiences have led me to being here. It was a campaign that asked a lot of me, my family, my friends and my supporters. Many of my political opponents accused me of not having enough experience but, ironically, their attacks became one very hard-earned life experience. I found resilience I did not know I had to survive and thrive during the campaign. I give this speech during a time at which bullying is in the national spotlight, with laws before the federal parliament to address bullying through social media. I know firsthand the devastating impacts of bullying. During my school years I was bullied relentlessly—an experience that ignited a determination in me to stand up for those

who could not stand up for themselves. That is not to say it did not leave scars, but those scars made me tough. So when I was on the receiving end of what the *Courier-Mail* described as an 'ageist and sexist union attack', I remained steadfast that I would not be silenced. These experiences only strengthened my resolve to represent the people of Pumicestone with integrity and to fight against any form of intimidation, whether it be in schools, at the polling booths or in the political arena. I am incredibly proud to be part of an LNP government, under the leadership of David Crisafulli, who has made a commitment to lead the nation in tackling this pressing issue.

The rise of social media has changed the landscape of bullying, making it inescapable for young people. Bullying is no longer confined to the schoolyard; it follows young people into their homes, affecting their mental health. We cannot turn a blind eye to this crisis and we will implement a comprehensive strategy to address this issue head-on. I have already had conversations with local parents who have told me about their children being bullied and the devastating impact it has had on their families. These stories are stark reminders of the urgency of this issue and the need for decisive action. As someone who understands the challenges young people face today, I am committed to ensuring our schools are safe, supportive environments where every student can thrive. The battle of the campaign was worth it. It was worth it to fight for what I believe in and for the people of Pumicestone.

Pumicestone is a wonderful electorate, and every minute I stand in this chamber the responsibility the people of Pumicestone have entrusted in me will not be forgotten. Our electorate is evolving, with more young families choosing to call Pumicestone home. We are proud to be a diverse community, yet we still have one of the highest median ages in Queensland. Pumicestone faces the same issues as the rest of the state, but there are some that are particularly relevant.

Our aging population comes with significant healthcare challenges, including limited local services and long commutes to Brisbane. That is why I will be taking up the fight to reduce ambulance ramping, improve emergency department triaging, streamline hospital discharges and cut surgery waitlists, delivering faster and better care. With investments in frontline staff, better diagnostic services and expanded mental health support, I am committed to providing Pumicestone with better health services. For Pumicestone, this means shorter waits and easier access to these vital services. Our on-demand bus service trial will also connect Bribie Island residents to the places they need to go for just 50 cents.

The people of Pumicestone have made it clear that better infrastructure is a priority. We live in a growing region and our current infrastructure is not keeping up with the needs of our community. Every day residents face long commutes and frustrating traffic bottlenecks. It is time we finally deliver on expanding Bribie Island road and delivering a new Bribie Island bridge. These projects are not just about easing congestion; they are about getting people home quicker and safer and boosting our local economy. Bribie Island is the heart of our electorate, and we can unlock its full potential as an ecotourism destination, creating jobs and new opportunities for our community.

I also look forward to working with our environmental group BIEPA to protect our endangered loggerhead and green sea turtles. Hardworking turtle tracker volunteers have already identified over 15 nests in the national park this season. I am committed to ensuring we do all we can to protect these beautiful little reptiles while making sure the next generation can enjoy our beaches for years to come.

Pumicestone, like all communities across Queensland, is dealing with the challenge of domestic, family and sexual violence. I am pleased that our Safer Families, Safer Communities plan will introduce GPS trackers for high-risk offenders to deter breaches and protect victims along with safety devices for those at risk. These measures are about ensuring every family can feel safe in their own home and know that their government is standing with them.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible work being done in our community by Mark and Claire from the Good People, who are rescuing women every day from dangerous DV situations across our community. Their dedication to supporting vulnerable women is nothing short of inspiring. I also commend Greg Rollason the President of Sandstone Point Lions, who has been instrumental in helping women escape these situations by finding them accommodation and ensuring they have the essentials they need to rebuild their lives.

I am proud to represent many wonderful community organisations—too many to name here—that make our community a better place. That is why I am involved with so many, like the Toorbul District Community Association, which fosters strong community connections and addresses local needs, while Bribie Island U3A offers lifelong learning opportunities. From French lessons to oil painting, Bribie Island U3A has it all. I occasionally enjoy dancing along with the members of the rock-and-roll class, the Bribie Rockers. If anyone knows a good Elvis impersonator, please do get in touch! We would love to see



Elvis on Bribie. Voices, our vibrant choral group led by the talented Jenda Jacobs, is spreading the joy of music throughout the community this Christmas time. Jenda's incredible contributions extend to Bribie Island Lions and many other associations, showcasing the spirit of service that defines our region. Our veteran groups are a cornerstone of our community, providing essential support for those who have served. Their dedication ensures that the sacrifices of our service men and women are honoured and remembered, inspiring all of us with their resilience and commitment.

I also want to highlight the remarkable work of Vicki Wood, the President of BPW, Business and Professional Women Moreton Bay. BPW offers personal and professional development opportunities for women, empowering them to increase their confidence and standing in both the workplace and the community. The organisation passionately advocates for women locally, nationally, and globally. BPW Moreton Bay is made up of a diverse and dedicated group of women who support one another and volunteer their time and energy to create meaningful change. I have thoroughly enjoyed attending BPW's breakfast networking sessions, which bring together inspiring women committed to making a difference.

As a proud member of the Sandstone Point Lions, I had the privilege of organising the Green Canopy Project this year, a fantastic initiative that brought together Lions members and the wider community to plant trees in Caboolture. It was a rewarding experience that showcased the power of teamwork and community spirit as well as our shared commitment to local environmental action.

Our sporting clubs are another vital part of our community. Pickleball is a new favourite my dad and I have started to play. The Bribie Island Surf Club, established in 1922, is one of the oldest surf lifesaving clubs in Australia. While the original building was lost to fire in 1979, the clubhouse has been looking to upgrade its existing facilities for some time. I am proud to be part of a government that has committed to supporting this club's renovation.

I am especially excited about the upcoming resurfacing of the Bribie Island netball courts, which will provide a safer and more enjoyable environment for players. Netball has always held a special place in my heart, as it was my favourite sport growing up. I played it passionately throughout primary school and well into middle school.

In Beachmere the Rugby League club will also benefit from our commitment to upgrade their field lighting. This club had to turn players away because playing games at night was too risky without proper lighting. The Bribie Island Movement and Strength Club will also finally be getting a home. They have proudly produced Australian champions in weightlifting and they deserve to have adequate training facilities. By investing in these incredible groups and facilities today, we will ensure that our electorate continues to thrive and inspire younger generations to follow their passion.

There are also specific issues that I am passionate about given the perspective I bring to this House. One of the most critical areas where we can enable real change is in education. Having relatively recently finished school, I feel qualified to say that education is not preparing students for the real world. While important, testing dominates the school experience and students are missing out on other opportunities to learn. Our teachers are under immense pressure, having to deal with a cluttered curriculum and behaviour management issues. We must look for innovative models, rather than a one size fits all. We need to prepare students to be active, contributing Queenslanders, not just in the jobs they might have in the future, but in the communities they live in. I will work tirelessly alongside my team to advocate for an education system that prepares young people not just for exams but for life.

One of the dominant issues for generation Z is the prospect of not being able to own a home like generations before us have. House prices have outpaced incomes and it is now almost impossible to buy your own home without the bank of mum and dad. I am no different to many young people in Pumicestone; this dream has been out of reach for me. I am proud to now be in a position to deliver the change young Queenslanders want to see: to unlock the dream of home ownership. We need big, bold solutions to this big challenge. State government will not be able to do it on our own, but our LNP team will do more than has been done to date. We will abolish stamp duty for first home builds so that owning a home is a reality for young people, not just a pipe dream.


The people in Pumicestone believed we needed a fresh start for Queensland and they supported the plan put forward by the LNP and Premier David Crisafulli. I am acutely aware that I would not be here today without the support of the LNP. Many people living in the communities that make up Pumicestone voted for change because of the crises we were all experiencing in youth crime, health, housing and cost of living. Our plan for Queensland is focused on practical solutions to turn Queensland around, tackling the cost of living and energy prices, fixing our hospitals and schools, and enshrining

consequences for actions within our youth justice system. Once more we will be the government that builds our state for the years ahead, just like we have in the decades before.

There are many people I need to thank. To my mum and dad: you have been my biggest supporters and without your guidance I would not be where I am today. To the rest of the family: thank you for your patience, support and belief in me. To the honourable member for Glass House, Andrew Powell, and Joy Leishman, the former mayor of Caboolture shire: you gave your time to mentor me to ensure I was ready to take on my responsibilities as the member for Pumicestone. I will forever be grateful for your generosity. Thank you to the member for Bonney, our youth minister, for your guidance and for first giving me this crazy but brilliant idea to run for parliament. To my entire campaign team, who spent hours roadsiding, doorknocking, phone canvassing, putting up signs and standing at the pre-poll: I could not have done this without you and will forever be grateful.

I will be a strong voice for my community and will represent their concerns with integrity, compassion and unwavering commitment, ensuring that every voice is heard and every issue is addressed with the care and urgency it deserves. I thank my other colleagues in parliament for their support during our campaign and wish them all of the success for the years ahead. I would also like to thank the previous members for Pumicestone of all political colours. I have only just started but know that this job requires everything of a person, so for your service I place my thanks and that of our electorate on the record. As I said at the beginning, I come to this place with a different perspective. I also come energised and looking to a long and bright future for Queensland. I am honoured to help build that future here in this House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I congratulate the member for Pumicestone on her first speech.

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (3.21 pm): I rise today to contribute to the address-in-reply for the 58th Parliament. In doing so, I would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay tribute to their elders past and present for their enduring care and stewardship of this land. There is much to be learned from the experience of others. The responsibility of representation is laden with the responsibility to listen and to hear the stories and truth of those we represent. This responsibility should never be ignored, yet the LNP, in an indecent act of disrespect, has taken away the opportunity to hear the truth of our First Nations people, all before its own new members had completed their maiden speeches. I look to this side of the chamber for better news. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the member for Sandgate, whose maiden speech was inspiring and who has made history as the first person of Muslim faith to be elected to this House. Her story is much like those of many in my community who have crossed the seas as migrants or refugees to find a safe place for their families.

As the member for Inala, I am incredibly proud to represent a community that is diverse and vibrant and one that welcomes and supports those who are new, who are in need or who are doing it tough. It is a generous and giving community. I am humbled that the people of Inala have entrusted me with their vote for a second time in only a matter of months and I am deeply grateful for their continued support. It is an honour to serve a community that holds such a special place in my heart. I have loved meeting so many locals—thousands over the course of the two elections—and I have had the privilege of listening to my constituents. Polling booths, train stations and shopping centres have been the backdrop for many greetings, from a quick hello to in-depth conversations.

I thank those who took the time to share their messages of support. It was a truly humbling experience to hear from individuals and community groups who expressed their faith in me as their representative and their desire for me to continue. I was also touched by those who made the effort to share their hopes and concerns and differing values and opinions. I take my responsibility to represent you all very seriously, and I want to thank everyone who engaged in our democracy. Your voices matter and I will continue to listen.

It is a privilege to stand here as one of the many women in this chamber, and I congratulate the member for Ipswich West on being the 100th woman elected to parliament in Queensland. We have the responsibility to ensure that the rights and opportunities for women continue to be progressed. Although I am new to this place, in my short time here I have seen just this under a Labor government and I witnessed democracy in action. I have seen all kinds of motions brought before this House and have valued each member's rights to represent their electorates. Though we may disagree, sometimes in dramatic style, we here in this place are afforded the opportunity to engage in debate and to put our values on display—that was, until today. Today we have witnessed the Premier, in an attempt to manage his own weakness, fear and lack of trust in those he leads, gag each and every one of us in

an unprecedented act. In so doing, he has damaged the democracy of Queensland. Only seven months have passed since I delivered my maiden speech here in this place. I spoke of those in my electorate who have come in search of freedom and democracy: people who have sacrificed much to escape tyrants and dictators, to have the right to have their voices heard—rights that have been stripped away from their representative in this place on matters that the LNP just does not want us to talk about. I firmly believe in our democracy and the rights of Queenslanders to have their voices heard, and this abuse of the parliament is a disgrace. The silencing of Queenslanders will forever be this Premier's shameful legacy.

Although my opportunities to represent my community have been diminished in this place today, I remain honoured to represent my community. As the member for Inala, I have been delighted to deliver funding to a range of community and sporting groups and to schools like Glenala State High School, which will soon have a fantastic new facility for its netball academy. Keep an eye on these great youngsters; these young people may well be winning gold one day. I have also had the challenge of racing sponsors of the Forest Lake State High School Esports program in the Bridgestone Cup. Suffice it to say, I have limited skills as a video game race car driver and was pleasantly surprised when I did not come last.

Engaging with schools and community groups is one of my biggest joys, and I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received and the close working relationships we have developed together that have enabled us to achieve outcomes for the betterment of our community. However, there is more that I must do and that we as the Labor Party must do. Throughout this election cycle the people of Queensland have made it clear that they expect more from their government. I acknowledge that there are areas where we must do better. We have heard Queenslanders' concerns about crime and we are committed to fighting for solutions that work. As a party we have heard that message loud and clear, and we are committed to reflecting, learning and regaining the trust of the people. At the same time, we must hold the new LNP government to account. Its mandate is limited and its victory does not absolve it of the responsibility to deliver on its promises across every electorate and every portfolio.

The LNP has promised much. Promises are easy, but what matters now is whether these promises are backed by real action. Queenslanders deserve results, not rhetoric. Over the past months as the member for Inala I have heard firsthand of the positive impact that Labor's cost-of-living relief package had on many families. I am proud of what we achieved. This was made possible by making international coal companies pay their fair share, because that fair share belongs to Queensland. I heard from many in my community during the election that there are fears about what the LNP government will do, about what promises it may break and whether it will come clean with the people of Queensland about the details of its plans and whether it will put people before profits. I am proud that as part of a Labor government we took action and did just that. The 50-cent fares—a great legacy of the former premier and member for Murrumba—are a lifeline for many in my community, and I know how much they help to ease the financial strain on working families.

I also recognise there is much more to be done. Public transport, while improved, still needs to be better in Inala. The LNP has promised a transport system with improved public transport services. In Inala, public transport is a lifeline for many of my constituents, especially for those who do not have access to a reliable vehicle. Improvements to services could mean the difference between a job and unemployment, between attending a medical appointment and missing it, between a young person engaging with education and staying at home. I look to the new LNP government to honour its commitment to improving services in our outer suburbs and I will hold them accountable to ensure that Inala receives its fair share of resources.

The LNP promised to build 53,000 new social homes across Queensland. This is a promise that must not be buried in budget details or forgotten as time passes. For far too many Queenslanders, including many in Inala, affordable housing remains a daily struggle. Labor understands that providing affordable housing is not just an investment in bricks and mortar, but an investment in people and communities. A roof over your head is not just a basic need, it is fundamental to dignity and security. I call on the LNP to deliver on this promise, not just in the cities, but in the regional areas and suburbs like Inala where the need is greatest and to ensure that infrastructure needs keep up with increased housing stock.

The LNP has also promised targeted support for women returning to work after having children or performing unpaid work. They committed to providing \$5,000 grants to help remove barriers to employment. I know firsthand how challenging it can be for women in my electorate, as across Queensland, to balance family responsibilities and return to the workforce with limited support. While this promise has the potential to make a real difference, we need to see the detail. I do not want to see

a situation in which this new government has given women hope only to strip it away with a rollout that fails to meet expectations.

The LNP has also promised to provide new and upgraded community sports infrastructure. Inala has a proud community spirit, a love of sport and our young people deserve access to quality sports facilities. We understand that sport is about more than just exercise; it is about community, opportunity and breaking down barriers. Youth participation in sport helps build social connections and provides a pathway to education and employment. I call on the LNP to honour its promise and ensure that every Queensland community, including Inala, has access to modern, inclusive and well-maintained sports facilities.

There is an increasing need for youth focused initiatives in my community, especially in areas like Forest Lake where young families have now grown to young adults, all in need of targeted infrastructure and community supports. Investment in our children and young people is essential. From early intervention to targeted supports, areas like Inala must not be overlooked. The LNP's promise to create new youth supported accommodation services will receive my strong attention and scrutiny. I will always advocate for the needs of our youth. This is a generation of so many wonderful and exceptional young people. I urge the LNP to make informed decisions based on evidence to ensure that we are giving our young people the best opportunities to succeed and to create safe communities for everyone.

I ask the LNP to prioritise expansion and improvement of services in outer suburbs like Inala. We need to see investment in infrastructure that reflects the needs of the community. I welcome the LNP's commitment to building 10 new and replacing existing domestic and family violence services. This is a much needed investment, especially in communities like Inala where this is a pressing concern, but I call on the LNP to do more. Domestic and family violence is a complex and challenging issue that impacts the safety and wellbeing of our communities. It impacts our criminal justice system, our health system, housing, child safety, employment and educational outcomes. This impacts us all. None more so than those who have lost loved ones and those whose lives continue to be affected by violence, instability and lack of support. We must ensure that the right supports are available where and when they are needed the most.

I know firsthand the importance of this. As a young girl I, with my two brothers and mother, needed to escape our household due to domestic violence. On one occasion we found an opportunity to sneak out of the house in the middle of the night. We quickly hopped into the Valiant station wagon, keeping the doors open as we quietly rolled down the driveway, pushing it down the street until we were far enough away to start the car and drive to the nearest phone box. It was here that my mother called the local DV shelter. I will always remember the look on her face when they told her there was no space. So we drove home, knowing that we could not push the car back up the driveway, terrified that our escape would be discovered—and it was. Reaching out for help in this instance only made things worse. I tell this story in an effort to encourage the government to make good on its promises to ensure that vulnerable Queenslanders are protected and supported. We must ensure that there is always help available when needed and until help is no longer needed in our society. I thank those organisations and individuals in my electorate and across Queensland for your work in this space.

The LNP has also promised to invest in more dedicated mental health facilities. This is a welcome shift from the previous LNP's actions that tragically saw cuts to mental health services and facilities. My focus will be on holding this government to its word. In Inala, as in so many other communities, we see the impact of poor mental health on our children, young people and families and I have seen the devastating effects of bad decisions and a lack of adequate mental health support. The LNP must ensure that these promised investments are real, sustained and accessible to those who need them the most. They must listen to those who have the expertise and skills to help them to make informed decisions.

While we are now in opposition, we will be an active and engaged opposition. We will continue to fight for the issues that matter most to the people we represent. The people of Queensland deserve more than just words. They deserve real action and a government that delivers on its promises. Inala, like many communities across Queensland, faces significant challenges and it is my job to advocate for the needs of my constituents. I will never stop fighting for better services, for affordable housing, for improved public transport, for health services and for support for the most vulnerable members of our society. I will fight for investment in education and training and for early intervention for our young children and young people. I will advocate for reasoned responses that are informed by evidence and expertise. I will continue to hold the LNP accountable and ensure that they deliver on the promises they have made to Inala and to all Queenslanders. I will work tirelessly to ensure that the people of Inala are

not forgotten and that their voices continue to be heard loud and clear in this House. It is a community that will feel the ramifications of poor government decisions most heavily and which felt those ramifications in the past so heavily when the cuts from the previous LNP significantly affected my community.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the many people who supported me through my election campaign, many of whom stepped up again after only a short break after the by-election. Some were new to the campaign, or to any campaign for that matter: locals who approached me out in the community and at pre poll offering to help because they feared what would happen if we lost Inala to the LNP. Then there were those rusted-on Labor branch members who were right behind me every step of the way. Thank you. Thanks also to those who supported me from party office: Isabella Scattini, Meredith Newman, Chris Hancock, Zac Beers, to name a few. To my staff who are not only my angels, but also angels to our community, serving my constituents with care, compassion and dedication. Thank you to Felicity Crompton, my EO, who has been an amazing support helping me with the difficult task of establishing an office during what was a very busy time. To Aaron Bui, my campaign manager, who, despite being at the pointy end of a PhD, took leave to be by my side every day at pre poll. Thank you. Thank you also to Tiffany, Tom, Zeph and Diane, staff who have helped me in my office. A big thanks to Milton Dick who will always be an inspiration to me, and to Councillor Charles Strunk and to Les Bryant for your enduring support.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members on my right, could you keep the noise down, please.

**Mrs NIGHTINGALE:** Thanks also to Riley Williamson, Jon Persley and Archer Skinner, my field organiser, who worked so very hard for me. Thanks are also due to those who are not political players—those friendly people from the community who step up to lend a hand. They are people such as Peter Rundle, who was there for me every day at pre-poll and who now volunteers as a JP in my electorate. Thank you to my friends from the Vietnamese community, especially Phuong Nguyen and Tuan Le. You have welcomed me so warmly into your community. It is my delight and pleasure to represent you all in this place.

I am deeply grateful to my volunteers but even more grateful to my family. My husband, Jason, and my daughters, Lavender and Lily, sacrifice so much so that I can serve. They inspire me every day to continue to fight in this place for the rights of our young people and our women.

The people of Queensland deserve nothing less than a government that puts people before profits and delivers on its promises. The people of Queensland deserve a government that listens and that understands. They deserve a government that does not silence its First Nations people or members of this place whose job it is to debate ideas and to represent the people of their electorates and communities who absolutely—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members to my right, I will start warning if this continues.


**Mrs NIGHTINGALE:** Members in this place should be afforded the right to debate ideas but today, in an unprecedented attack, they lost the right to speak on some issues that I know are of grave importance and will continue to be into the future. As the member for Inala I will continue to fight for my community. I will continue to fight against those opposite who, through fear—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs NIGHTINGALE:** It hurts, doesn't it? Through fear they have caused—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Before calling the member for Gregory, I remind members that this is the member's maiden speech. I ask you to observe the protocols.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.41 pm): Today I rise to speak for the first time in this place, humbled and grateful for the opportunity afforded to me by the people of Gregory to represent them in the 58th Parliament. I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker Kempton, on your return to this place and on the office and role that you now fill. I ask that you convey my gratitude and congratulations to the member for Condamine on his election to the high office of Speaker.

A little over a week ago, I came to this place late at night when the chamber was empty. Peace and serenity abounded. The silence lay heavy—even deafening—yet the symbolism and poignancy of a room steeped in history still shone through. What struck me then, even more so than now as I utter

my first official words in this hallowed place, was the awesomeness and responsibility that comes with the honour of being elected to serve Queenslanders in this place.

Of course, being here is not a birthright. Effort, listening and loyalty along with a dedicated support crew are integral. My first and most immediate thanks need to be extended to my wife, Sarah, and to Ryan, Tia and Kacee, the most loveable rascal children we could have been blessed with. They are a strong and tough yet loving team. While I am off around the traps, Sarah has to shoulder the burden of day-to-day family life as well as run our cattle station alongside my mother, Elsie. Terrifically competent and capable young adults in Ryan and Tia now arise, ready to make their own mark in agriculture and in life. Our baby, Kacee, is embarking on her new journey as the recently elected 2025 Emerald campus school captain for Capricornia School of Distance Education. Whilst we share common interests and values, I could not be more humbled by any other group or responsibility than to receive the endorsement and opportunity you have afforded me in pursuing this. Thanks for being a leveller and a promoter, for keeping me grounded and for ensuring there are not any free rides.

To my dear mother, Elsie: this special time comes with such honour yet huge sadness as a great man who is no longer with us has left a huge hole in both of our lives. Whilst he would have been amongst the proudest bushmen in Queensland today, I would give it all away to have him back. Thanks, Mum and thanks, Dad. To my sister, Teneille, and family: thanks for being the enablers along the way. Together we have shared some bumpy roads, but the support of your family in pursuit of this opportunity has been rock solid. To my family's official political commentator and self-appointed minister for everything, Mick: I appreciate all you did for me in the years since the passing of my dad. You continue to provide advice and support to this very day in not only politics but also life in general.

My immediate predecessors in this role have ensured I have a tough act to follow. I am the 12th elected member for Gregory and the fifth consecutive National or Liberal National representative. They are men whose passion for the people and places in Gregory is real and obvious. They are men of tremendous loyalty and honour. To the late Vaughan Johnson and the recently retired Lachlan Millar: thank you for your service and exemplar. I will strive every day to work and continue your support for the greater electorate of Gregory.

As leaders of our party, the members for Broadwater and Kawana, the Premier and Deputy Premier, demonstrated the patience, discipline and foresight that not only convinced Queenslanders to support them and the LNP but also attracted those who are new to this place. I congratulate the Premier and wish him every success as the government sets about implementing the reforms and changes outlined during the past four years and for which we received a strong mandate on 26 October.

No campaign matters without a strong leader and mine was no different. Sonia Burton was and is a terrific stalwart, astute administrator and uber organised SEC chair. The remainder of the campaign team provided terrific support and advice. To Lane, Ross, Lenore, Joe, John, Katrina and Jacquetta, amongst so many volunteers: words cannot express my gratitude but, put simply, thank you. To Ben Michael, Steve, Nathan and the team within the LNP administration: special thanks for your professionalism and ability in facilitating my campaign in a manner that reflected not only the values of the party but also the needs of people in regional and remote Queensland. I thank the grandfather of our political movement, the ever honourable Lawrence Springborg. The government's result is due in no small part to his calming influence and support.

I need also to extend my gratitude to those party members who have been a consistent and clear support for me during my time in various volunteer roles. To Cam, Andrew and David: thank you. I thank the Queensland Senate team and my local members for reminding Australians that remote and regional Queensland does exist. To David, Susan, Matt, James and Colin: thanks for the assistance. To my close mates—you know who you are: thanks for your friendship and support on this journey. I am sure you will not be strangers and the advice will flow constantly.

I guess that leads me to the crux of what this dialogue is all about. Some here, others outside and perhaps someone in the future may want to understand what drove me to want to be a member of parliament. I am a beef, sheep and wool grower's son. I am a relatively uneducated—at least in the formal tertiary sense—former mayor and now a state parliamentarian. Let me tell you, here, now and forevermore, that, despite contrary opinions, it was a tough call. With a successful grazing business, a loving family and 23 years experience in elected roles across industry, politics and sporting bodies, the case to leave it to others was pretty compelling. My perspective and the approach that I bring to this place have been forged through old-school values and life experience.

I was educated in the bush. I did primary school through the Longreach School of Distance Education and secondary school at Mount Carmel College and Columba Catholic College at Charters

Towers. I was fortunate to have several very positive role models throughout my education. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional abilities and efforts of Gillian Haslam, Susan Buchanan, Althea Norton, Ian Dietrich and Andrew Butler. To me, you were titans amongst giants in the education system. To this day I recall your guidance with clarity and I feel privileged to have learned from you.

My parents set a sterling example of community engagement that I am proud to continue, with massive contributions of time, money and equipment—things they often had in short supply—to the local show, race committee, rodeos and campdrafts. The decades of experience this has given me since with the work of voluntary committees has provided a clear view of the needs of community groups and the massively important role they play in Queensland's, especially regional Queensland's, social and economic fabric.

Coupled with this is the critical role events are playing in helping combat the scourge of mental health disease, never more obvious than in regional settings. The ability to share experiences, or not, or to discuss the football or cricket are all things that social outings provide as an important step and tool in identifying and helping people through tough times. These events are run almost exclusively in rural and remote areas by volunteers and not-for-profits.

As an example, I have been tremendously impressed with the Alpha community's ability to field senior rugby league sides, both male and female, in recent years. My home town of Alpha is a very small community of only around 450 people. As the Rugby League Club president, I have witnessed firsthand the transformation of young men and women and the massive changes in both community and individual emotional and physical wellbeing. I do admit, though, at times my refereeing of fixtures whilst being the club president has been somewhat taxing on my emotional wellbeing!

One of the significant bodies that has shaped the way I approach public life has been the Australian Campdraft Association. Formed to provide guidance, rules and recognition for the uniquely Australian sport of campdraft, the ACA has been the pre-eminent body here in Queensland since 1972. I have had the honour of serving on the management committee since 2000 and as either the president or vice-president from 2008 until today, but I have now tendered my resignation. Representing the sport to government on matters ranging from the introduction of the National Livestock Identification System to full cost recovery ambulance services, along with ensuring common sense could sometimes prevail in interpretations, has provided me with an insight into the workings of government as well as the pitfalls of bad policy or bad advocacy.

Local government was the first, I guess, official level of public service. Having served on a local advisory committee to the Barcaldine Regional Council post the disastrous council amalgamations of 2008, I viewed my election to the role as a councillor in 2016 as a huge honour and one that continued in my father's and grandfather's footsteps of serving and representing my community, with both men serving for long periods of time on the Jericho Shire Council, one of the predecessors to the Barcaldine council. However, unlike them, I served at a time when councillors were being asked to fulfil a different role, one with infinitely more public scrutiny and expectation yet considerably less power or ability to effect change.

Not one to simply just collect the considerable pay cheque and go around again, I formed the opinion late in my first term as a councillor that I would have to stand for the mayoralty, content that, even if I lost, I would be satisfied that I offered an alternative approach. I stood on policy and process, not personality. After a clean and open election, I was fortunate to emerge with the job and enjoyed four challenging years as mayor, working with many current and former members of this place to deliver a better outcome for the Barcaldine region.

I was so fortunate to have also been exposed to many other excellent community leaders around the state from all walks of life at this time. The patience, politeness and respect that is required to lead and to serve and to be an honest broker, even in situations which give rise to parochial requests, is displayed every single day throughout the local government sector. To those people who continue to serve in these roles, know that you will always receive a hearing from me. Government at all levels is not something where everyone gets what they want all the time but, with genuine inclusion and collaboration, generally the community wins.

Outside of politics and community groups, I have been involved at all levels of agricultural production and surrounded by some of the biggest and best quality coalmines in Australia. This is where the biggest shaping of my personal political beliefs began and continues. Gregory is home to some of Australia's best natural and improved grazing land. Secure water supply, albeit in places with varying degrees of rainfall reliability or annual totals, further enhances agricultural productivity. The eastern part of the electorate produces dryland and irrigated broad acre crops, along with citrus, viticulture and

macadamia nuts. The Fairbairn Dam, when completed, ensured that our region could boost massively and sustainably its contribution to GDP and provide for huge employment opportunities for generations to come. Water is an area that this government has identified as requiring substantial focus moving forward for both security and economic growth, and I look forward to assisting in this regard.

Coal in Central Queensland was, and certainly in my mind at least still is, a jewel in the crown, opening up not only our region but also the whole state and, indeed, the nation to economic investment. The world's highest quality coking coal provides the material for the production of steel for everything from high-rise buildings to footpaths, from cattle yards to rail lines. Funding the construction of entire communities and the essential assets in many others, expanding the population in the regions and, with it, essential infrastructure, resource companies have literally built and sustained parts of Queensland yet those sectors—mining and agriculture—have come under sustained pressure. No, they have come under sustained threat. I am here today as a strong and fierce advocate for both industries. The demonisation from certain quarters, based on ideology and from a position of detached involvement, was and is driving these industries to the brink of extinction. Perspectives across the spectrum all deserve an opportunity to be heard but the future of these industries has been called into question from people with no personal investment or experience in either.

People ideologically discuss from a position of wealth somewhere a long way from Gregory a future without either industry. Those of us living in the present, though, face daily the struggle to exist either financially or socially. Change in and of itself is not a bad thing but it needs justification, reason and fairness. No greater environmentalist exists than someone who is reliant on the environment for a living, yet the ideologically driven Green movement would have us believe that all miners and agricultural producers are vandals or thieves. I stand here today in this hallowed place to play my role in countering that claim and in restoring the services and support that those industries need to survive, thrive and grow our economy. New industries and technologies will certainly be prominent in our future but that will be to complement, not counter, mining and agriculture.

I also wish to speak to my knowledge of the value of small business in rural and remote Australia. In no industry is this more relevant, though, than coal or agriculture as well as tourism. Mechanical repairs, hose fittings, shutdown repairs, tyre fitting services, cleaning, catering, hospitality—I could go on—all require and are integral to, and are almost totally dependent on, those sectors in Gregory and so many other areas of rural and remote Queensland.

Transport and logistics as a holistic sector is no different, yet the continued challenges faced by this sector impacts as significantly as any other, if not more, the cost of living for individuals and the viability of businesses in Gregory. A strong, safe and successful transport sector, especially road freight, is essential to see vibrant and growing communities in the regions. Livestock transport operators like Steve Oppermann from Rolleston and Gerard Johnson from Tambo relay to me constantly the almost daily occurrences of road surface incidents, overregulation, escalating costs and accessibility issues.

I also came to the decision to stand in this place because of the decline in quality, safe infrastructure in Gregory. State road maintenance is a distant memory. A proficient and fully functioning rail system in regional Queensland for freight other than coal is a thing of the past. When you represent the largest electorate by area in this place, you are only too acutely aware of the need for effective and efficient transportation.

I can report to the House in my first offering that Gregory has neither effective nor efficient transportation access. Degraded rail services and road surfaces which are downright dangerous and of a poor, Third World standard are the norm. Capacity constraints such as poor or degraded quality roads are restraining the local economy, way of life and general community wellbeing. I look forward to working hard with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to identify strategies for improved road safety and to kickstart the delivery of the beef road corridors program that I championed so hard as mayor. This will see the sealing of roads that are vital to agriculture, tourism and mining.

The delivery of a key funding commitment to the Blackall Woollscour will result in the delivery of the final business case to hopefully see the development of the domestic wool-scouring capacity—something almost unheard of in recent times. I thank the Minister for Primary Industries for his recent visit to the electorate in this regard.

All of this is possible thanks to Queenslanders who voted for a fresh start for Queensland, not just in Gregory but right around the state. I have stated in many forums that all levels of government serve the community better when they find ways to help and improve rather than develop institutional roadblocks. Innovation is fundamental to any success—individuals, community and business all do it better than government. A hand up, not a handout, achieves substantially better long-term benefits. No




better indicator of this is our government's commitment to deliver renal dialysis services to the Emerald community—something held up for so long by bureaucratic inertia.

Connectivity and telecommunications across the state are not reflective of a modern country. In an era that is fast being consumed by digitalisation and the cloud, we have so many levels of government, industry and society generally in the dark as to how to fully harness and access available technology and communication methods. When coupled with Telstra's blasé approach to regional communications, solutions and maintenance, we are seeing the general retardation of our economy and way of life by stealth, along with the waste of hundreds of millions of dollars on misdirected or blanket-approach solutions instead of place-based and need-driven solutions. I intend to be a voice and a vehicle for improved understanding and delivery of connectivity related issues and solutions, including futureproofing and delivering in real time to ensure remote Queensland is not left behind.

Along with the honour of being the member for Gregory, I have the additional responsibility of being the Assistant Minister for Primary Industry Development, Water and Western Queensland. I thank the Premier for the trust he has shown in offering me this role and reaffirm my commitment to undertake this role and support the ministry to the best of my ability.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my thanks to Sarah and my family for supporting me in this endeavour. The enormity of the task is only outstripped by the knowledge that, if successful, my contributions may assist in securing a future for the regions, industry and families of rural Queensland. In doing so, I will continue a history of my family's contribution to our community and industry groups.

Mr Deputy Speaker Kempton and honourable members, I look forward to embracing this new role and working hard to help the Crisafulli LNP government deliver better, fairer and stronger outcomes through Queensland's fresh start.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.02 pm): I am proud to be here today representing the Kurwongbah electorate for a third term in the Queensland parliament. Many of my constituents have known me for even longer as I originally represented residents in Petrie, Kurwongbah, Whiteside and parts of Lawnton and Narangba as the member for Kallangur from 2015 until the redistribution and re-creation of the Kurwongbah electorate in 2017. Before I go any further, I want to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the parliament meets and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

I thank my electorate for putting their trust in me again at the 2024 state election. I will recap some of the achievements that have brought us here and outline my hopes and plans for our community's future later in this speech. I want to thank my family and friends—especially my wife, Angie, and my son, Ben, and his family—my campaign volunteers and my electorate office team. My team not only kept the office going through what is an exceptionally busy time but also used their own time to knock on doors and work on pre-poll and election day booths. Everyone went above and beyond and I am grateful to have had, and continue to have, such an awesome team around me. Thanks to Katie, Leanne, Cody, Bobbi-Jo, Lorraine, Kerri and Rosemary Hume as well as your families for particularly being so understanding of the extraordinary time taken from family life during an election campaign. I could not have done it without the support of Angie at home.

To the mighty team of volunteers in Kurwongbah: my sincerest appreciation and thanks. Special shout-outs go to Ronnie Coleman, Lyn Waugh, Pam Fielding, Ray Mogridge, Bonny Barry and her team and, once again, my wife, Angie, who worked on pre-poll every other day or pretty close to it. Thanks to the other key members of Team Kurwongbah: Shayne Kummerfeld and the RTBU crew, Mick and Maree Gillam and Linda Lavarch. Handing out how-to-vote cards every time with Linda—an esteemed former Queensland attorney-general and previous member for Kurwongbah—is always a standout moment.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr KING:** Yes, she is a legend. I take that interjection. I am proud to call Linda my friend. I thank my election day team leaders Lee Porter, Kev, Dave, Louise Watts and Stuart. A special shout-out to Lee for his market stalls. They always attract a huge crowd and it is much appreciated.

Thanks to my ETU union comrades who are fighting to save our Energy and Jobs Plan—another revolutionary vision lost to the LNP. Thanks to Alex Scott and the Together union, the AMWU and the plumbers union for their support this year. Thanks to Kate Flanders in party office for her support and friendship. Thanks also to Rhiannyn Douglas, doorknocking extraordinaire, for her help, friendship and hard work. I know that constituents in the federal seat of Longman can expect to see a lot more of

Rhiannyn in the lead-up to next year's election. A shout-out goes to Finn, who joined the campaign at its height and was a remarkable support to us in the final days.

Election campaigns are tough. It was disappointing to see the LNP get personal during this one, attacking me—I have feelings—rather than debating policies. We also saw a new and disturbing tactic.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr KING:** As I said, I have feelings. We also saw a new and disturbing tactic in Kurwongbah this time around: the LNP candidate's announcement of funding for parking at the Narangba train station—the same \$6 million in funding that I had secured in a previous state budget. Considering the LNP's keen interest and the fact the money is already there—the very same taxpayers' money the LNP has promised to respect—I look forward to seeing some concrete poured for this project in the very near future. I take this opportunity to let the new Minister for Transport know that I will be seeking regular updates on this project. There are other local projects that I want to talk about, but I will come back to those.

It is an absolute honour to be back in this place. I want to briefly commiserate with our colleagues who, sadly, will not be coming back, at least not in this term. I will miss catching up with the former members for Redlands, Caloundra, Redcliffe, Thuringowa and many others who were our friends as well as workmates.

I want to congratulate my neighbours across the city of Moreton Bay: opposition leader the member for Murrumba, Steven Miles; the member for Morayfield, Mark Ryan; the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting; and the member for Pine Rivers, Nikki Boyd. I believe these results reflect our team spirit and our ability to put politics aside to work with all levels of government to get the outcomes our constituents need and deserve. These are outcomes like: the new ambulance stations in Morayfield and Lawnton; satellite hospitals in Kallangur and Caboolture; billions of dollars for improvements to our local hospitals; better disability access, solar panels, air conditioning and better NBN bandwidth in all our state schools; upgraded train stations; and improvements to local roads and upgraded Bruce Highway interchanges. I pause to remark on the new Premier's determination to enforce the traditional 80-20 federal-state cost-sharing arrangements for highways under the new government. It is funny: I do not recall the state LNP lobbying Scott Morrison for that when he was in power federally. I do not remember that.

In addition to our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, investing billions in renewable energy and retraining workers for the jobs of the future, the state Labor government delivered a number of rebate programs for households installing energy-efficient appliances, batteries for solar power, environmentally friendly e-car purchases, as well as energy rebates for both homes and businesses. It is with sadness that I acknowledge that I am not standing here as part of a Miles Labor government. Despite delivering landmark 50-cent fares, free kindy, free TAFE, 20 per cent off car registration, tool rebates for tradies, record cost-of-living relief and \$200 FairPlay sport vouchers, which many families still have the benefit of using until June next year, a Labor government was not returned. In the labour movement we believe in compassion and lending a helping hand, especially to households doing it tough. That will continue.

I want to put on the record my disappointment in the LNP's disingenuousness through their Adult Crime, Adult Time campaign. The new Premier was happy to refer to rising crime figures in complete isolation of population growth, until it was his job on the line.

While a four-word slogan might play well in the media, the complexities that underlie youth offending remain regardless of who is in power. It is great that the LNP want to recruit more police, child safety officers and foster carers to tackle some of those complexities, but I wonder where those workers will come from, particularly if they cut workers' wages and conditions like they are doing with construction workers.

It is great to hear that the LNP wants to build a million new homes, but I wonder how they will get the materials and tradies more quickly and cheaper than we could. How will they help the City of Moreton Bay, for example, increase development approvals so dramatically without taking on the duties and expenses traditionally borne at the local government level? Furthermore, in housing we have not heard a commitment that the LNP will keep the assistance products we introduced, including the rental security subsidy, expanded bond loan options and rental grants. Nor have we heard whether they will follow through on our legislated reforms to protect renters with, for example, rental codes for real estate agents, a portable bond scheme and more options for the payment of rent. Hopefully the new minister for housing can provide with us with some assurance on these matters and the future of our trial that provides up to \$10,000 in funding for seniors to install security measures in their homes.

Speaking of assurances, I would like to hear whether the new Premier will follow through on his election commitment to build a wildlife hospital in Dakabin. This morning I was pleased to hear about the new manufacturing TAFE campus in Petrie. I was questioning whether that would go ahead. I am supportive of both of those projects because, as a tradie myself, I respect the value of TAFE immensely. That is why I was so proud to be part of a government offering free TAFE places for Queenslanders. Locating a TAFE next door to the Sunshine Coast university campus is a positive development. It underlines the importance of the opportunities brought by both forms of tertiary education in terms of skilling our future generations and opening up access to TAFE education for locals, who currently must travel to Caboolture or Bracken Ridge for their classes. I know there will be many disappointed parties if these commitments are not upheld. I think we all have a right to know what is on the chopping block.

In the Kurwongbah electorate the LNP also promised money for upgrades at the Burpengary Jets Junior Rugby League Club and Meals on Wheels, and I wonder whether those commitments still stand. My own election commitments include \$3 million for upgrades at the Harris Avenue sports precinct in Narangba. The new Premier knows this precinct because it was the location of his announcement on the crackdown of metal theft in Queensland. He promised to implement most of the recommendations of the committee proceedings, which I chaired. We were already doing it, but I am glad to hear he is continuing with that because it is a scourge in our neighbourhoods. I promised \$1 million for upgrades at the Narangba Bowls Club for shade to help our elderly bowlers avoid skin cancer and heat issues—and they really need it—as well as \$500,000 for upgrades at the home of the Narangba Crows. These commitments were all to be delivered in partnership with council and would benefit so many locals. I implore the new sports minister to pay a visit to the sporting clubs in question to hear firsthand why these projects are a good investment for the state regardless of who is in power. I also encourage the LNP federal member for Longman, who so readily lent his staff to the state campaign against me, to take an interest here and consider committing some federal funds to these worthwhile community sports projects.

A re-elected state Labor government would have also helped deliver a million dollars to finish the security fencing we started at Narangba State School. In line with the LNP's promise for safer schools, I hope the new education minister will consider this project a priority. I will be writing to him formally about this. Fencing at Narangba State School would serve two security purposes: protecting the school from theft and vandalism; and ensuring the safety of students who are inclined to run out onto busy surrounding roads. It has happened before. It would mean the world to the school community to have this project delivered.

I will return to the issue of parking at Narangba train station. If the LNP would like to commit an extra \$6 million on top of what I already secured, I am happy to work with them. We could talk about a multilevel solution or something else. Just down the line, our newly upgraded Burpengary station will need more parking to accommodate commuters moving into new developments at Kinma Valley, Affinity Estate Morayfield and Sage Estate Burpengary. I know that the member for Glass House and his family will back me up on that. We have discussed it often. They let me know they love upgrades at Burpengary station. As the population of Petrie grows, hopefully Petrie Mill is on the list for state-funded infrastructure to unlock significant development potential. The need for more parking at Petrie station will also increase. This station is a major interchange since we delivered the Moreton Bay Rail Link. We also recently announced that a jointly funded indoor sports centre—a federal, state and council partnership—would be built at Petrie Mill. The sports centre will host boxing events for the 2032 Olympics, and it would be wonderful to see a refresh of Petrie station ahead of that milestone.

There is one more issue I will raise in the transport and main roads portfolio today, and that is the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, also known as the Moreton Motorway. The former Labor ministers for transport and main roads know that I have been dissatisfied with the options put forward by departmental staff for stages 2 and 3 of this project. I have put forward my views numerous times; that is, if the road proceeds it should utilise powerline corridors further west than the routes favoured by the department to date. It is my opinion, shared by many locals, that building over the considered scorched earth that is a powerline corridor would minimise impacts on wildlife and the ability of impacted property owners to continue to use the majority of their land and remain in their homes should they wish to. I would be happy to meet with the minister and take him for a tour around the area to see my proposal. It is not a new one.


**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr KING:** Much appreciated. Working with my community under successive Labor governments, I am exceptionally proud of the projects and initiatives we have delivered. I hope we will not see our progress slowed down under the new LNP government. I have said many times before that it is

important to put politics aside to achieve outcomes for locals, and I am willing to do that in this 58th Parliament. I look forward to keeping my electorate updated on the priorities we have put forward and I hope the news will be positive.

I would like to conclude by extending my congratulations to the new Speaker, whom I have known for a long time—I think he is a great man for the job—as well as everyone stepping up into deputy roles. I would also like to welcome new members. I think I have made it clear that we probably will not agree on everything, but I acknowledge that most people who put their hands up to be here today genuinely want the best for our state. I am also proud to be back in this place representing residents of the Kurwongbah electorate. Among the many places and things we have in the Kurwongbah electorate my favourite places include: Lakeside Raceway, the Mill, the university precinct and Old Petrie Town as well as some great community sporting clubs. We are all very proud of it. It is great to be back here, albeit this time in opposition, but it is an honour and privilege to do this job—I think we should all agree on that—the responsibilities and rewards of which I will never take for granted. I hope those opposite will not either.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): I remind members that this is the member's maiden speech and I would ask you to observe the conventions.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.16 pm): It is such a privilege to serve in this place and to carry with me the hopes and ambitions of the people of Cleveland, Ormiston, Wellington Point, North Stradbroke Island and parts of Thornlands and Birkdale. The electorate might be called Oodgeroo, but we tend to think of ourselves as Redlanders. It is such a special thing to be welcomed into their homes, entrusted with their problems and anxieties and asked to represent their hopes for a better life.

It is also an honour to stand in this place to thank the former member, Dr Mark Robinson, for his service. It is nice to do it not from the opposition benches but from the side of the House where we as a government can deliver more than ever. I endeavour to approach it with an ethic of service and heart always for the people of my community.

I am so pleased to be part of a government that represents a fresh start for Queensland. It is my hope and belief that it will be a values-led, commonsense government committed to some fundamental truths: that a smaller government makes people freer and more prosperous; that the initiative of the individual is something to foster and grow and that individuals must take responsibility for their actions; that freedom to speak, worship, think and associate are vital to human flourishing because they are what equip a society to solve its problems; that enterprise is something to be encouraged because it is what provides a path to prosperity for people from all walks of life; that family is where the magic happens as we grow and age in good times and in bad and a place where the hard problems of life are solved; that human dignity matters at every age and stage; that the measure of a society is how it treats those who cannot advocate for themselves; that our best days are ahead of us; and that we can make Queensland again be a state where anyone can, with hard work, make a great life, a place where things get built and stuff gets done again. These values are the thread that is woven through everything I hope to do in this place, and they are the reason why I am so confident this LNP government will make life better for you.

I have had the honour of serving as a representative of Queensland in the Senate, so in a sense I have already had a maiden speech. Rather than tell my story again, I would prefer to use this opportunity to address the most pressing problems facing Redlanders and Queenslanders: the rising cost of living and the erosion of their standard of living and quality of life. There is nothing more iconic than an ice cream on Cylinder Beach on beautiful Straddie. For over 40 years, parents and grandparents have made it a ritual to buy one for their kids as they sit on the sand after a day of swimming and sandcastles, perhaps whilst watching a pod of whales arch past. For Deb and her family, selling that ice cream was their livelihood, without incident, but now it is not allowed. It seems like a joke—and I wish it was—that safety concerns were cited as the reason. You might be wondering whether you have missed the media coverage of the dangers of selling or indeed eating ice cream on the beach, but there have been no safety incidents—only incidents of bureaucratic creep. The only casualty at the beach has been this family's livelihood and fun times for Straddie kids. This kind of madness is playing out in ways big and small right across Queensland and it is costing us more than lost good times.

I will give you another example. A few weeks ago I got a call from the owner of the seafood store on Straddie. His practice for decades has been to occasionally collect a bucket of sea water from the ocean in which to defrost prawns on the days when the catch is light. There is no better way to do it and it has never before been a problem, but now rangers tell him that taking sea water in any quantity,

however small and whatever the purpose in doing so, requires an application form and a decision to grant him a permit because it is taking a natural resource and doing so without a permit will result in an on-the-spot fine of \$806—for a bucket of saltwater from the ocean. There is zero environmental harm. By this logic, every toddler who takes home a little bucket of sand would need a permit for their fun.

Maybe it is just one public servant overreaching, but the cost is real and that cost either gets passed onto the person who wants to buy their seafood or erodes the already slim margins of the small business owner until there is nothing left but to close the doors. I will be working to address these issues as a member of the LNP Crisafulli team—cutting the burden of regulation that is impeding businesses and costing consumers every day.

Right now as I look across my community I see much work to do. The LNP team have a mandate to make a difference in the areas that are causing Queenslanders pain, and I am confident that the steps we are taking will make a difference. We are delivering a safer community, taking action to end the housing crisis and ensuring health services that can be relied upon, including at Redland Hospital. It is the need for a stronger economy and action on the cost of living that is often hidden in the complexity of people's daily struggles which I am determined to work on with our very capable Treasurer to make a difference.

Since 2019 we have had the sharpest decline in purchasing power in the OECD. Ours went backwards by two per cent, while the rest of the OECD went forwards by 7.7 per cent. That is despite the fact that the percentage of working people with the right to collectively bargain is almost double the OECD average and the highest of any English-speaking country. Productivity is not just a catchphrase from people who want you to work harder; rather, it is the key to making our society prosperous again, dragging it out of the malaise caused by ill-disciplined governments' inflationary policies and misplaced priorities, restoring your purchasing power and the sense that you have a real chance to get ahead.

Productivity is allowing people to flourish using their skills to their highest and greatest purpose. For example, when a police officer is recruited from interstate, Labor policies would have a detective with 15 to 20 years of experience go back almost to the very beginning—their skills benched and a community unable to be fully protected by them. The failure of Labor to tackle this decline is the reason for so much of the pain I see across my electorate. National productivity is down to 2016 levels and real disposable incomes are down by more than 10 per cent. If you feel like things are hard, you are not imagining it. It shows up as families who feel maxed out by their mortgages because the combined impact of high property prices and substantial interest rates is a double whammy, but being a renter does not feel like a more viable option when there are so few properties on offer.

It is not helped when governments have done all they can to disincentivise mum-and-dad property investors and treat them as though they are some sort of greedy landlords. In truth, they are being squeezed by heavy regulation, rampant inflation and rising taxes too. People are being smashed by the failure of the former government to plan for supply, the imposition of public procurement policies designed to push up prices across the market and the imposition of every imaginable reason to stop work and ever-higher standards of construction decimating productivity that Labor would again dress up as some form of protection for the community. It has made the cost of building a home rise by \$100,000 in just four years.

Instead of working with the property industry to get the homes people need into the market, those opposite chose to demonise it as corrupt. I think of the impact on people like Caroline from Cleveland. At the age of 80 she has been forced to take in roommates. Even though the behaviour of these strangers makes her feel unsafe in her home, rent on her townhouse is \$740 a week and her pension just does not stretch that far. She applied for public housing but was told that she faces a 10-year wait. If she lives to a life of the average age, she simply will not live to see it. She is a capable woman, driven to despair by the indignity of the prospect of homelessness and fear for her safety now even in her own home.

Productivity does not just mean getting the government to build more public housing—though more is needed. It means clearing the blocks to private enterprise being able to do it in greater number and scale and for a better price than any centrally controlled government program ever could. I grew up around the construction industry. I am proudly a plumber's daughter. My sister and I spent a lot of our childhood building things out of the boxes and timber around the site while Dad would do a rough-in. However, at present, businesses in trades—and across the industries of the Redlands—simply cannot get the staff they need. Based on current policies, it is estimated that the working population of the Redlands is currently at the highest level it will be for the next 30 years, and there is already a skills shortage. It presents an existential problem for our community. They cannot get staff to move to work

in the Redlands largely due to the unaffordability of housing. Businesses tell me that they advertise for staff but when they make an offer it ends up being declined because the person either could not find a home in which to live or could not afford those that were available.

For there to be more and ever-better jobs in our region, and the democratic diversity needed for the long term, we need our businesses to thrive and that means that staff need places to live. It will also take a committed program of matching Queensland's training offering to the needs of industry, fast-tracking that wherever possible using both public and private education providers, and in doing so offering secure and well-paying jobs to young people and indeed all people from all walks of life. I am very much looking forward to assisting Minister Ros Bates to do just that.

In many ways though the challenges faced by the Redlands are reflected right across the state. The failures of the previous government in places far and wide have a direct impact on the quality of life and living standards experienced by people living in Oodgeroo. Their energy bills are too high, driven up by incompetence in the management at places like the Callide power plant. When those opposite demanded dividends from this publicly owned corporation to the tune of 80 per cent of its operating profit to prop up the failing state budget, it stripped the company of its ability to afford a proper maintenance schedule. Is it any wonder that it exploded? Labor has been more concerned with mastering media spin than mastering the job of good governance, but now the absence of that base load supply in the energy market means we all pay more. I am so delighted to see the LNP introduce a maintenance guarantee. Labor's incompetence raises the cost of production, making us less competitive, making us less desirable as a place to invest, and making all goods more expensive.

I wish I could say it were an isolated case. The Gladstone Port Corporation has, in the last 12 months, gone from having the best reputation with the coal industry on the east coast of this nation to having the very worst. Between July and December 2023, the uncommercial approach of those who run the Gladstone Port has had a catastrophic impact on Queensland's reputation as a place worth investing. It is a publicly owned port, so what goes on there is something for which the former Labor government must be held responsible. As the major mining industry port for Queensland, it should be working 24 hours a day, but during this period, because of a failure to staff it properly, it was lucky to have one eight-hour shift running a day. Management were not working the assets hard, and the ships were queuing at sea waiting to load Queensland coal, each of them incurring demurrage for the delay. Mines had to slow down their operations because they were becoming gridlocked by the blockage at the port.

The port's take-or-pay contracts meant miners had to pay up whether the port held up its end of the deal or not. In short, the port got the same fee whether it moved one million tonnes through the port or, say, six. Labor might think, 'Big deal. The people of Queensland got paid,' and maybe in the short term that is how it looked, but here is the kicker. An independent report commissioned by the port revealed that 4.4 million tonnes of loading opportunity was lost and that cost Queenslanders some \$200 million in royalties it did not earn as mines were forced to slow down their operations because goods could not get through the port. This is lost productivity not through the failure of works but through a failure of leadership. It reduces investment and means high-paying jobs go elsewhere. \$200 million in royalties gets you a lot of doctors, a lot of nurses or police officers. It is roads and bridges we will not get. It is debt that is not repaid. And all because the Queensland government owned enterprise was not running with an eye to being productive for us. They were not hungry to deliver for Queenslanders. In fact, they turned business away.

Let's call it what it is: it is incompetent and it costs Queenslanders—in the services we should be getting in the Redlands and across the state, in the debt we should not have to be paying and in the inflation in the cost of everything. Productivity matters, and an LNP government that respects your money will drive for it.

I could keep going about the reduced efficiency in getting our agricultural, manufacturing and mining product to market because of the chronic neglect of roads, about the crumbling state of too many bridges that are critical to getting produce to where it needs to be, but that is just the beginning. We must seize the opportunity that comes from competitive federalism to attract businesses from across the nation to a state that is open for business and hungry to thrive. We need a competitive market where the government is not sticking in its nose and playing favourites in the energy space or anywhere else, but instead lets the needs of buyers in the market do the talking. History shows us that governments are not very good at it. We must offer the stability, consistency and commonsense that makes Queensland a safe place to invest and a great place to live and work, where the emphasis moves away from social engineering to engineering for bridges and buildings, where merit is recognised and people are valued by the content of their character rather than merely on external attributes, where

we focus less on the grievance industry and more on growing the unique gifts and talents we each possess. After a decade of extreme identity politics and economic destruction hypocritically wrapped in the language of compassion and equity, there is much work to do.

You can see I am determined to do my bit to rebuild the economy of Queensland, providing a pathway to prosperity for people from all walks of life and making this state a place where things get done again—the budget balanced by projects going ahead, where things get built; a state that, after a decade of no is prepared to give the projects that offer a rising standard of living a responsible yes.

The benefits of a stronger economy across the state manifest in better opportunities and services locally as well as in every town across Queensland. It shows us a higher standard of living in a better quality of life, especially for those on the margins, and I am confident this LNP government can deliver it.


I would not be here without the kindness and hard work of many. I cannot possibly acknowledge them all, but I am thankful for everyone who contributed to the campaign in ways big and small. My campaign committee, so ably led by Chris Reeves, truly is the dream team. In all the years I have been helping on campaigns, I have not ever once worked with a better crew than this one. Robin, Josh, Vicki, Cheryl, Greg, Michael, Jack, Bob and our federal member, Henry Pike, and his wife, Kate—I am so thankful for you all.

I have had great mentors in my life without whom I am sure I would not have reached my potential. There are two in particular I wish to honour—Wendy Armstrong and Ian Callinan. I am thankful to my mum and dad, and to Narelle and Warren, my in-laws. To my family, you are my everything and I am so grateful for you. Adam, you are the best. There is nothing quite like having children, though, to motivate you to leave things better than when you found them. My family has sacrificed a lot for me to be here and I do not take it lightly.

Already in this place I have been advocating for things that matter to Oodgeroo—for the residents of Straddie to have fairness in the way their public transport is priced, the connectivity they crave, and for Redland Hospital to be resourced to become reliable, trusted and a great place to work. I will be strong and consistent in my advocacy until our nurses and orderlies have safe and affordable parking, until our schools have the long overdue investment needed to create an environment in which every child is ready to learn, until our police have the tools they need to keep us safe, and our sporting clubs have the facilities they need to turn at-risk kids into valued members of our community.

Together, we will build a Queensland that is prosperous and free, liberating each individual to pursue their unique goals and gifts and unleashing them for the common good, where communities are safe and families are strong, where every Queenslander can learn, grow and invest with the confidence of a responsible and stable government, and the knowledge that our best days are well and truly ahead of us. We will be a state that gets stuff done again, and it will show in the high standard of living and quality of life experienced by each and every one of us.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): On behalf of the House, I would like to acknowledge the former member for Oodgeroo, Mark Robinson, who is in the gallery.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.37 pm): Firstly, I acknowledge the Governor's address to parliament at the last session and especially her role in protecting Queenslanders in her previous role as Chief Health Officer. Her Excellency is a great Queenslander and is always welcome here in our state parliament. It is certainly an honour to be re-elected to this chamber in the seat of Miller, and I thank the constituents of Miller for their faith placed in me at the election. Certainly we campaigned on a very strong local record: many station upgrades—Yeerongpilly, Dutton Park, Yeronga, Graceville, Fairfield, Moorooka to come—the Cross River Rail and the construction of the Veloway. We saw a lot of school upgrades, like the conversion of the dental hospital to new classrooms—a thankyou to former minister Grace who was instrumental in funding that; the new fences at Yeronga State School and Yeronga High. At the Yeronga mixed-use precinct, we are building more than 100 new homes—a mixture of 37 private homes, 45 social homes and 30 homes for local-income workers.

We saw the Yeronga Community Centre fully funded. I thank the member for Algester for her support in getting that funded and built. It is important for the vulnerable in my community to have that centre. Junction Park State School has seen a lot of upgrades, whether it be the restoration of the pool or the historic block. I made a commitment to build a new purpose-built prep block there. I will certainly be advocating for security fences at Sherwood State School, Junction Park State School and Wellers Hill State School because all of those schools need them and are requesting them and it is important for that to occur. As a state school kid myself—I went to Broadbeach primary, Holland Park primary and Cavendish Road—I have always taken a lot of interest in the schools in my electorate to make sure

every child in my electorate gets every opportunity to have the most full life they can, with good education and good, hard work.

I would like to acknowledge the Sherwood AFL club in Chelmer, where we committed to new dressing sheds and lighting. Since the state election, the federal government has stepped in and awarded grant money for both of those things. I congratulate the Albanese federal Labor government on their support of Sherwood Magpies AFL. I particularly thank federal member Graham Perrett and Julie-Ann Campbell, the Labor candidate in Moreton, who have delivered that in my community. We are also in need of master planning at Milperra school and Graceville State School—I will continue to advocate for that—as well as at Yeronga Devils AFL and the Yeronga Eagles Football Club.

Any campaign is a team effort, and I had a fantastic team supporting me in Miller. I would like to say a huge thankyou to my campaign director, Felix, and field director, Karleigh. I had a huge team and I would like to thank a range of them here. I thank my EO team of Nick, Cara and John. To Tim, Marg and Lesley, Ken, Matt, Michelle, Isabella, Tristram, Marcia, Owen, Andrew, Mitch, Noel, Sasha, Harry, Shane Warren, Gianni and many others: thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your support for our campaign in Miller. It was a formidable campaign—the biggest ever campaign—and the result, in a challenging election for our side, was very pleasing.

It did not take long for the new Premier to start breaking promises, just like his mentor Campbell Newman, did it? Queenslanders thought they were voting for one thing and they are getting something totally different from what was promised by the Crisafulli government. We are not even five weeks into the term. In fact, the Premier and the member for Kawana one-upped Campbell Newman by breaking election promises before the full cabinet was actually sworn in. That has to be a record. They promised the same cabinet, the same portfolios, and they broke their promise before the cabinet was actually sworn in. That is a record. Since then we have seen four health cuts in a row. They have made it very clear that they have reservations about pill testing. I will talk about that more a little later. They have also said that they will rename the satellite hospitals. I will come to that.

Today we have had the revelation that the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme will be gone by 1 January next year. It will be cut by Premier Crisafulli. There will be a range of members who have no idea what this is. It is an attraction scheme to get health staff into regional and rural health facilities, where recruitment is difficult. Good luck getting health staff in regional areas by cutting that program. The members for electorates like Callide, Warrego, Mirani, Mulgrave, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Keppel might take a particular interest in the cut to this program, which the Premier refused to answer questions on today. This is essential in getting staff into those areas. The government says that it stands for the regions but we see that the first cuts are to the regions.

If you want health staff, you need to attract them. This is a scheme that we worked on with stakeholders. I acknowledge the work of the member for Waterford, former minister Fentiman, who worked very strongly with stakeholders like the AMA to ensure this scheme got health staff into health facilities across regional and rural Queensland. I will be very interested to see if the rural and regional new members of this House actually stand up for their areas when it comes to health staff or whether they just toe the party line. I think I know what they will be doing, and it will not be very courageous.

It was also revealed today that the transfer nurses initiative will be cut by this Crisafulli government. These nurses have been allocated to ensure paramedics can get back out into the field quickly by taking over patients. This makes sure our Ambulance Service is as effective as possible. This model is being cut by the Crisafulli government. It will have a detrimental impact on nurses within our workforce and in our emergency departments. Once you are elected, you have to keep your promises. What we are seeing from the Crisafulli government is not keeping promises but breaking them. We have seen four cuts in the health area and we are not even two months in.

Today we had the extraordinary example of the Premier gagging the government's own backbench with an unprecedented motion to stop us from considering the issue of abortion and the act governing it throughout the entire term—only because the Premier himself botched the issue and had no answers throughout the election campaign. It was one of the most amateur performances in a campaign you will come across. The lack of confidence in his own government backbench is clear in that motion. The new members in this place have been gagged. They will not be able to do what they want to do. More importantly, there may well be issues of medical evolution over the next four years which we will now no longer be able to debate. That is outrageous. Reproductive rights and medical policy in this state will not be able to be debated over the next four years. That is a Bjelke-Petersen, Newman style way of governing. It is very clear that once they have been elected that is what they will do.



We have the Newman style cabinet duo of the Premier and the member for Kawana, who overturned that solemn promise in terms of the cabinet. Of course, the first person to be sacked in this place was actually the member for Moggill. Do members remember the Premier saying, 'Oh, yes, we will have the same people in cabinet and they will have the same portfolios'? The member for Moggill was the first sacking by the Premier. He has been given a bit of a sop, but he has been sacked from having a cabinet portfolio—the first promise broken by the Premier.

The Premier has so much confidence in the member for Moggill that he has put the former manager of opposition business right behind him—literally over his shoulder—to keep an eye on him. It is a very interesting choice of seating arrangements over there. The member for Moggill has a right to be furious at this treatment by the duplicitous duo of the Premier and the member for Kawana. They said they would do one thing and they did something totally different. It was a devious act from both of them.

The question is: why did the Premier and the member for Kawana strip portfolios from 11 different LNP frontbenchers? That is right: 11 changes after the election. He told Queenslanders there would be none. It certainly cannot be because he had any profound confidence in their abilities and skills; otherwise he would have kept them there. That is self-evident. The lack of confidence by the Premier in his own frontbench is clear-cut and obvious. We also see a bevy of assistant ministers to keep an eye on those ministers and to watch them very closely. It is interesting to see how many of those assistant ministers are new members who have bypassed longstanding members of the LNP party room. The members for Coomera, Scenic Rim, Lockyer, Burnett, Southport, Southern Downs, Mermaid Beach or Theodore can forget about any promotion in the future, for the rest of their careers. They have been judged by the Premier—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I can tell by the amount of volume that those opposite are not happy about their treatment by the Premier. They have been bypassed by a whole lot of new members with no experience in this place at all. We saw the member for Kawana, in an attempt to pump himself up, in his first speech actually deride members of his own side. We saw him mention the member for Mermaid Beach missing out on the Speakership. I know that he derides members on this side, but he is starting to deride members on his own side. The arrogance and the hubris have been very clear.

Health is a crucial portfolio for any government and I am honoured to be recalled to the Labor front bench by the opposition leader and the team, and I thank them and my colleagues for their confidence. I will be applying all the rigour and commitment I have to holding the government and the member for Clayfield to account in terms of developing effective health policy. I will also be pressing the government to make the right decisions that protect the health of Queenslanders in myriad ways and that does not leave them exposed. We have already seen that occur in the first six weeks of this government. Already there has been a range of missteps.

As was well predicted long before the election and strenuously denied by the Premier, he did not have any confidence in the member for Mudgeeraba to handle the health portfolio and he took it off her. He hid his real intentions from the Queensland public. He shunted the member for Mudgeeraba off to a newly created portfolio called finance, employment and training to keep her happy. He then added trade to it so she could fit in a bit of travelling. As if South Korea was not in enough trouble it then had the member for Mudgeeraba visit! I wonder if she met with the president before the trouble started. Has there ever been a more lightweight gaggle of small portfolios for a fourth ranked minister in a Queensland government? I do not think so. It is an embarrassment not just to the member for Mudgeeraba but also to the Premier, who is responsible for it. No doubt he reassured her she would be a troubleshooter. You can just hear it right now. Despite these three—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members to my right, the member is not taking your interjections. Could you keep the noise down, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:** Despite these three small portfolios being assigned to the fourth ranked member of the government, apparently the member for Mudgeeraba needs an assistant minister to help her and look over her shoulder. I am sure she will be ecstatic to have the former federal senator and member for Oodgeroo looking after her and keeping a close eye on her! I am sure it will be a real partnership.

As the new Premier, who would you put in health? If you have taken it off the member for Mudgeeraba and you have limited options, who would you put in there? I guess you would put in a veteran, you would put in an opposition specialist. It is someone who is the master of meltdowns, who

has failed at everything he has done in politics and has spent most of it in opposition over 24 years, the member for Clayfield. It sounds a lot like a hospital pass. The member for Clayfield was a failure as an opposition city councillor. I know because I had the misfortune of witnessing his first term. He was a failure in the state opposition where he infamously lunged for the Liberal leadership which was deadlocked three votes all in his attempt to replace the dynamic and inspirational Bruce Flegg. He could not count and he only had six votes to count. I remember and if those new members Google those two names, 'Bruce Flegg, Tim Nicholls, leadership' they will be very entertained.

The member for Clayfield was an abject failure as the treasurer in the Newman government. They had the largest political majority in Australian history and they squandered it and they did not even get to the full term. You will never hear the LNP mention Strong Choices in this place and for good reason, because the member for Clayfield botched it. We remember his record.

He finally got to the leadership of the LNP party room after they came to the realisation that running Lawrence Springborg a 15th time was probably not the best idea. Fortunately for him, few people could remember him and, of course, in the last week of the 2017 election campaign he melted down on three separate occasions in the biggest capitulation of a leader, particularly in a tight election, with Karl Stefanovic, on FM radio and on *Sunrise*. I remember his performances. He melted like ice cream on the concrete in a heatwave. New LNP members should look it up.

He is a chronic long-term non-performer with well-known less than committed work habits. That is who has the health portfolio. I can assure members that I will be working hard to ensure he is held to account. The first announcement was not a new health service; it was not even a cut—we have seen cuts since then—but it was actually the renaming of the satellite hospitals, seven hospitals that were built by Labor. His first priority was to rename something that has already been built by Labor and then to cut four different things.

What I say to the government and the member for Clayfield on pill testing is this: pill testing is a really important health initiative. It is not just about illicit drug use; it is also increasingly being used by people to check legal drugs they have ordered themselves as a cost-of-living measure. We are seeing young people with illicit drugs but also all kinds of people using them to see whether they have what they think they have ordered, and often they will then throw it away. Pill testing is really important.

I acknowledge that the Premier backed down from the initial position and said he would look at the independent report. I urge the Premier and the member for Clayfield to genuinely consider that report. Pill testing has become an accepted preventative health measure in Europe, in a lot of different countries, and it has been very effective in reducing drug use and also a very effective preventative health measure. If you want to keep people out of hospitals, you have to give as much health preventative health policy as you can. I say to the government that they should have a genuine look at that because we are very clear in supporting it. We want to see less harm, fewer people in hospitals and fewer people in trouble. People will make mistakes, so let's make sure they make as few mistakes as possible.

What we are hearing from overseas is that there is a rise in synthetic narcotics, which are very strong. They are higher in strength than morphine and can lead to unintended overdoses and hospitalisations, adding pressure to the healthcare system. That is the AMA speaking. So we have to take into account these measures when we look at health policy to prevent harm. That is what the profession is saying. That is something we will be watching very closely.

I urge the government to have courage and listen to some of its own members. I acknowledge the previous contributions in this space made by the member for Condamine. I know there are voices on the other side who know this is good policy. Let's look at harm minimisation and have the courage to make decisions that are effective. That is very important. I acknowledge the adjustment in position. I say to the government that they should genuinely look at that report. We want to save the lives of Queenslanders. We have seen 350 Queenslanders die from illicit drug taking in 2021 and there have been many hundreds since then, so this is not a small issue. That is tantamount to the road toll in terms of the number of people who have died. We want to see that reduced significantly. It is a modest investment across a \$20-plus billion portfolio, but it is a smart investment in preventative health. Others on the government side, particularly those with a medical background, understand what I am talking about here.

Broken promises and cuts to health care are what we have seen from this government and we are only two months in. They would not answer the questions this morning. The questions that were put on the cuts, which I have already outlined, to the transfer nurses in emergency departments and to the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme were not even attempted to be answered. If the minister or

the Premier do not know the answer, they should take it on notice and come back to the chamber at a later time. The Labor side when in power did that often because we treated this chamber with respect. We came to this chamber and we would answer questions. We all know there is a bit of argy-bargy, but there was not one attempt by the Premier or any minister to actually answer any question about the health cuts today and that is outrageous. If they do not know the answer, they should take it on notice and come back to the chamber. They should have some respect for this chamber.

The last thing I would say is what happened to the member for Chatsworth to end up being stripped of nine-tenths of his portfolio? He is down to No. 19. What did he do to the Premier? What did he do to offend the Premier? There he is—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** They cut it up, but 80 per cent of customer service is in TMR. The member for Buderim is smiling. He is having a great time—he is not now; he has buckled up. He has most of the member for Chatsworth's portfolio, so something has happened for him to go from No. 7 down to No. 19 and to lose virtually all of his responsibilities. What happened to the member for Chatsworth? We will be watching this government very closely.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

## FISHERIES (STRUCTURAL REFORM STAGE 2) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



**Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.58 pm): I move—

That the Fisheries (Structural Reform Stage 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, Subordinate Legislation No. 52 of 2024, tabled in the House on 21 May 2024, be disallowed.

This debate is about much more than just the regulations that this motion seeks to disallow; this motion is about food security, protection of agriculture and sovereignty for our country. The KAP is giving the government a prime opportunity to right the wrongs of the former Labor government with regard to the commercial fishing industry and the former Labor government's ideologically-based policy which was lacking in evidence—it was not evidence based or evidence driven—and driven by ideology.

This new government made a comment that we have a chance to set policy based on evidence and science, not ideology, and to lead Queenslanders from this House, not from a UNESCO office overseas. Members might remember that there was a comment made by the federal environment minister during the last parliament which created scrutiny over the east coast fishery, presumably just to smash the commercial industry on the east coast, and almost as an afterthought they said, 'We're pretty interested in the interaction that fish have with the gulf as well.' They were worried about the fish that swim all of the way from the east coast of Queensland and into the gulf and back down towards the Northern Territory border. It was like they said, 'There's nothing to back it up. We've got no science at all to back that up, but we're worried about it so we might throw that into the mix as well and ban commercial fishing through the gulf. We haven't really done any testing to see if the fishery is secure or if it's healthy, but let's just ban that as well while we're at it.'

That is pretty bad news for those who live in Karumba, the area that I represent, Weipa and the member for Hinchinbrook's area on the east coast. Karumba is a fishing mecca. Yes, there are a lot of recreational fishermen who go up there and there are a lot of recreational fishermen who do not like commercial fishermen, but the big fuel depots, the food supplies, the grocery stores, the trucking industry with the trucks, the prawns and the commercial seafood out of there have a symbiotic relationship. All of those industries rely heavily on that commercial industry and the grunt that it gives, and to see that one only has to take a trip around there. I went out there with a committee with the member for Lockyer and saw David Wren's place. A tiny little town like Karumba, where the base population is 500 or 600, is a powerhouse because of that industry and that is being smashed on the head. The government needs to talk to David Wren now with his \$10 million investment that he is getting smashed on.

This regulation has halved the area that people can fish up there—cut that in half—and bought out a lot of the licences. Some of these regulations are about paying out that compensation, so most of those cases are closed and people cannot apply for them anymore, as I understand it, and most of them have been paid out. Members might say that we cannot undo that, but when can we not undo

anything? What is more important? I would argue again that food security and the protection of agriculture are so important that we should find a way. It might be hard but not impossible. We need to send a signal to the rest of Queensland that we do care about these issues and that we care about agriculture and having the fishing industry. This must be wound back. There can be no other way.

Some 20 licences have been taken away in the gulf, but most of those licences were latents. There was not much effort associated with them, so these regulations have now effectively compressed all of that effort into that one area. Tensions among fishermen have already started in those areas. Many of these regulations were predicated on threatened and endangered species, but now this has only exacerbated that same issue. If we cared about threatened and endangered species we would not have compressed all of that fishing effort into 50 per cent of the area in the gulf, but that is exactly what has happened.

We can stand here and say, 'It's pretty hard and it's all done,' but this is our last chance to try to at least stop this and turn it around. I will be the first to admit that it will be tough and it will be difficult, but it must start. These regulations lock in ceding that sovereignty over our food production to the likes of UNESCO. How many times do we hear the media in Canberra saying, 'We've got to do this. UNESCO will give us a downgrade or they will say nasty things about us'? In that last election no-one voted for UNESCO; they voted for us in this parliament and for us to make decisions for Queenslanders, and that is what we are trying to demonstrate by moving this disallowance motion tonight.

In terms of what we are talking about in the gulf—I will concentrate on that area because I do not know the east coast as well—the regulations have not reduced any effort, they have increased the conflict between fishermen and they have compressed the fishery. The fishermen who are still left there know that there is a target on their backs, but they are the ones who really want to be there, so it is going to be a tough fight trying to get rid of any more out of that area. However, we need to bear in mind that a commercial fisherman in the gulf or Karumba may try to get a loan from the bank for their next boat motor or their next vehicle. They will say, 'I'm in commercial fishing and I need to get a loan to buy a house,' or 'I need to extend my loan to get through the next season to get the upgrades on my diesel motor.' They will try to do that, but we have sent the signal. Until we turn that around, which is going to be tough, we are still in exactly the same position in terms of a decline in fishing.

We have to understand what this means. Some 34 out of 84 have handed in their licence and 50 remain. Of the 34 licence holders who are out, all were highly unproductive licences. This goes back to what I was saying about the compression of the fishery. The NX cameras have proven to be the bad idea that we said they probably would be. We in the KAP were dead against those and all they have done is proven that the interaction rates with those threatened and endangered species were much less than anticipated by the—

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Mr KATTER:** Yes, if at all; I take the interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. As I was saying, they were much lower than the anticipated exaggerations there were put out by the environmental groups or environmental activists who were rallying against this industry in the first place. Therefore, the electronic monitoring has really worked in our favour in that the evidence is showing that the industry has not been doing the damage that it was accused of.

We are rapidly losing the ability to feed ourselves. Australia consumed 350,000 tonnes of seafood in 2021-22, yet 65 per cent of it was imported. We have become a net importer of seafood. Some say that farmed fish is the only way, but barely a third of Australian consumption is farmed species. We do not—let me repeat: we do not—have the capacity to fill this gap with farmed seafood. If this disallowance motion fails, together with all of the other structural reforms in fishing, we are guaranteeing that the people of Queensland will not be eating fresh, sustainably caught fish into the future. Rather, we will be importing it from those countries that we do not have control over and that often have bad track records in terms of the environment and sustainability. They will be sending their cheap fish through to Coles and Woolies. That is what we will be forcing Queenslanders to eat and denying the right of people in places like Karumba, Weipa, Townsville and Lucinda a job, an industry and meaningful work to help their country feed themselves with freshly caught and sustainably caught seafood—all in the name of ideology. Gone now from our dinner tables are species such as fresh-caught barra, wild-caught barra, king salmon, grunter, jewelfish, blue salmon and jewfish. Queenslanders will now be faced with Taiwanese or Malaysian barra and poorly managed overseas farmed fish.

The evidence does not stack up on all of this. One of the big song and dances made about king salmon was that it was claimed it was as low as five per cent. A heap of the take was done out of the

Mitchell River and none of that was studied, apparently, because it would throw out the metrics when they were trying to show the argument that king salmon was under threat. It was said that it was as low as five per cent and now they are saying 24 per cent. I will say that that is still not healthy, but that is a hell of a lot higher than five per cent. If it was not for us kicking up a stink in this place, it would have been accepted that it was five per cent when people from Mount Isa were going up to Karumba and catching king salmon off the beach. I can assure members that you do not catch multiple king salmon off the beach if the fishery is at five per cent. It made an absolute mockery of the Fisheries advice that was being repeated in this House and being used as evidence to drive this home.


We have been sold a lie, as we have with so many things that affect agriculture and industry in remote areas. It is killing towns like Karumba. Many people in these towns have lost hope and say no-one is ever going to help them. They cannot argue with the rubbish that is coming from these ideologically-driven groups. Last year we were talking about Spanish mackerel. People were saying you could just about walk across them in the water and yet we were in here talking about them being a threatened species. The science does not reconcile with what we hear from people out on the water, either recreational or commercial fishers. We had the strange and rare occurrence where the recreational fishers were agreeing with the commercial fishers on the state of the Spanish mackerel fishery. There was that much rubbish associated with it that these groups were agreeing on the fact that we were being fed a dud.

Whilst on this topic, it is important to recognise that a lot of recreational fishers will be patting themselves on the back and saying it is brilliant that it is end of the commercial fishing industry, they are no longer competing with them, but do not think that the environmental activists will not be after them next. Do not think they will not be fighting for a licence for recreational fishing in a few years time. There will be bag limits on everything. There will be many more restrictions than there are now. They should not think they are safe because commercial fishing has been the whipping dog. There is no finish line for the environmental activists, UNESCO or the plethora of politicians who like waving around their environmental credentials in the city at election time and beating up on smaller remote communities like Karumba and making them pay just to win the favour of these environmental activists that prey on the ignorance of young people who fall for this garbage they keep getting fed.

Tonight we are here to say no. We are here to say there is still someone in here who will stand up for agriculture, food security and our sovereignty as a state and as a nation. We will be brave enough to challenge the science that keeps getting fed to us through these government departments that think they can bulldoze their way through with dubious findings, as we found they have done with mackerel and king salmon. I think it is time that we all stood up. It cannot be us all the time. We have a lot of newbies who need to think about a time when they stand up. I have been here for 12 years and it is not getting better. It is getting worse. These are very serious problems.

Let me remind members that there will be people from this year on not eating fresh fish. They will be forced to eat imported fish because of decisions like the one we make tonight. We must turn it around. It is difficult. I accept that when compensation is paid out it is tricky to go back and open up that effort. I do not even mention all the regulation. There is stuff in it that is hard to turn around, but we have to start somewhere. This is the start of many things that need to be turned around in this place where there has been a direct assault on food security and agriculture in this state, usually involving those small remote areas and industries that we represent.

I implore all members of parliament to think for themselves; think about those families who have made a living off fresh seafood and who want to continue to be producers for our nation. Over the last 20 years their practices and standards have got a hell of a lot better. There is a sustainable fishery to be had. We are not studying the fishery in the gulf to tell whether it is sustainable or not, but for the last couple of years the fishing has been fantastic. We do have good fisheries out there. We should celebrate them, not punish them. Tonight is our opportunity to turn it around. The KAP is proud to be standing behind this industry and these people.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak on the motion to disallow the Fisheries (Structural Reforms Stage 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024. This disallowance motion is one of the rare occasions where a motion moved in the last parliament is debated in the next. It was moved in the 57th Parliament against an issue that was created by the former government. I respond to this motion because it will have significant unintended consequences. I am dealing with the hand we have been dealt. If this motion passes it will do far more than end the gillnet free areas in the gulf. It will end the financial assistance scheme to compensate commercial fishers in the gulf. It will unwind amendments to the Rural and Regional Adjustment

Regulation. Moreover, those commercial fishers operating outside the gulf will also be impacted because it will repeal minor provisions in the regulation related to stage 1 of the structural reforms.


You cannot unscramble the egg, which is what this motion seeks to do. I am fully aware of the significant concerns that have been raised regarding the ban on gillnet fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria. I heard it loud and clear. As shadow minister I raised it in the parliament, in the media and with my colleagues. I discussed it with fishermen and I listened to them. The former government did not consult fishers about the sweeping changes to gillnet fishing zones. Fishers learned about it in news reports and were given no opportunity to provide feedback. The former Labor government, with the support of the federal environment minister, did the bidding of the international keeper of all knowledge, UNESCO, and imposed unnecessary closures on the Gulf of Carpentaria fishery. An RTI application revealed there was, in fact, no science-based evidence for the gillnet closure in the gulf.

The Crisafulli government has made it a top priority for the newly established Department of Primary Industries to support both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors in Queensland. Our approach to fisheries management in Queensland will be firmly rooted in the principle of enacting legislative changes to regulations only when they have been backed by robust scientific evidence and only once they have been appropriately consulted on. We have committed to ensuring that any significant changes are considered through regulatory impact statements. We are committed to ensuring fair and transparent compensation is provided to affected commercial fishers. We will work with the industry and not inhibit industry.

Given our commitment to fully and genuinely consult and to base decisions on fully informed science, I am mindful that if SL No. 52 remains that it can be amended or partially amended at any time. This motion seeks to disallow the regulation relating to the whole of stage 2 of the structural reforms—that is, to the entirety of stage 2 as well as the amendments to stage 1 of the structural reforms. It is just not feasible. As well as dealing with the gillnet free zones in the gulf, this subordinate legislation includes several changes which have compensated commercial fishers in the Great Barrier Reef. Most of the non-gulf provisions provide for either financial assistance to fishers or to decrease the regulatory burden on them by correcting unintentional restrictions from stage 1 of the structural reforms. If this disallowance is passed it will remove those measures.

Under stage 2 of the adjustment package, 130 out of the 175 applications for compensation were approved and almost \$10.25 million has already been paid out in compensation. Given there is no legal ability for government to recoup those payments, it would be reckless for a government to throw that away. Passing this disallowance will not return our commercial fishers to the state they were in before the former government passed these laws. Thirty-four out of the 84 Gulf of Carpentaria inshore gillnet fishing—N3—licences have been surrendered and nine primary commercial fishing licences have been surrendered. The Crisafulli government will not compound one poor decision with another. The challenge we face as a government is to ensure the fishery remains sustainable in the long term, that fishers can earn a living and that Australian consumers can enjoy high-quality fresh barramundi. This will take an extensive consultation with fishers. It will take science-based research and a transparent management process, all measures which were non-existent when the gillnet fishing was banned by the previous Labor government.

Our intention is to foster stability within Queensland's fishing industry. As we committed, I have instructed my department to conduct a thorough review of the reef structural adjustment packages. Any modifications we implement will be grounded in solid evidence and will be comprehensively consulted on. It is time our recreational and commercial fishers had certainty and stability through a bold vision and clarity of purpose. The Crisafulli government will deliver that vision.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.19 pm): It is good to be back. As this is the first time on my feet in the 58th Parliament, I welcome everyone back. We will all be such good friends and the memories that we share will go on forever and ever. I thank those friends of mine on the opposite side who came up to help me out on the pre-poll booths. That was wonderful. I am looking at you, Minister for Transport.

It is very important that we reflect on what we are doing because there are new members of the House on both sides and they will be wondering what a disallowance motion is. They will be wondering what is going on here and it is important to know what is happening. We are having a debate on policy. Three members of this parliament, who have been elected by their constituents, are putting forward for debate their views on policy. The government is responding to the motion and the opposition will put forward our objection to the motion. As the minister noted, notice of this motion was given on 10 September 2024. It has been known. It has been ready for debate.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Callide, you can keep your comments to yourself.

**Mr SMITH:** They love me, Mr Deputy Speaker. Whilst we do not support the disallowance motion put forward by the KAP, we will always support their right to come into the House and speak on behalf of their constituents. They will never be gagged by the opposition. We will never be scared of what the KAP have to say. We will ensure they can always put forward their position, even if it is contentious. We will make sure they can be heard. However, the LNP have been wedged. Earlier today we saw a gag placed on particular motions that had been put forward because they are terrified of what the Katter's Australian Party will do to them across the term.

I will provide a little background as to why our side will not be supporting the disallowance motion, which we will be doing with conviction. We will not, as the minister just did, say, 'We can't unscramble the egg,' and 'It's not our fault.' For two sitting days, from those opposite we have heard nothing but trashing of the achievements of the previous government. On legislation and other motions they say, 'We can wind back the clock,' but on this one—when they are wedged, and they know they are wedged—they say, 'We can't unscramble the egg.' Unfortunately for the LNP, they have been wedged by the KAP. Maybe they will move more gag motions in the future.

On 28 November 2022, UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature released a report on the reactive monitoring mission to the Great Barrier Reef. The report recommended that the Great Barrier Reef be listed as 'in danger' on the World Heritage List. That could affect many electorates along the east coast. Of course, we know that Bundaberg is where the Great Barrier Reef starts. We need to ensure we protect not only the Great Barrier Reef but also its status. That is vitally important.

**Mr Healy:** Sixty thousand jobs.

**Mr SMITH:** Sixty thousand jobs; I take that interjection from the member for Cairns. The report includes 18 recommendations. A priority recommendation is to phase out destructive gillnet fishing through appropriate mechanisms, including purchasing and/or retiring all remaining industrial gillnet licences, the retiring of other gillnet fisheries and the establishment of net-free subzones in areas of high conservation value for protected species.

Whilst we note that this is about gillnets being taken out of the Great Barrier Reef by mid 2027, it is very important that the report outlines a commitment to establish gillnet-free areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Marine life move from the Great Barrier Reef into the gulf and it is important that we make sure we are protecting that marine life where necessary. We know that gillnets are destructive to marine life. We know that gillnets capture bycatch, which is an unintended consequence but still a consequence.


On 17 July 2023, our government announced the establishment of the independent Future Fishing Taskforce to ensure we had consultation with stakeholders. We put forward a structural adjustment package for the Great Barrier Reef. The terms of reference considered the interconnected fisheries off the Gulf of Carpentaria, which is important. The taskforce recommended financial assistance for authority holders that depended on the market value of the authority. It recommended that the approach to paying structural adjustment for implementing gillnet-free zones in the Gulf of Carpentaria was consistent with those of the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Sandy regions. It recommended undertaking consultation on potential gillnet-free areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

On the issue of consultation, I note that in the previous parliament members of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee went to Karumba. I thank the member for Traeger for setting up a meeting with Mr David Wren from Wren Fishing. It was good to hear from him. That showed that, whilst we may have conflicting views, we on this side do listen and we will tell stakeholders when we have opposing views. We will not say, 'It's not our fault; don't talk to us.' Of course, we will not try to hide the opposition of a backbencher. In 2022, when speaking about commercial fishing in the Great Sandy Strait, the member for Hervey Bay said, 'It seems the commercial fishing industry has been thrown under a bus.' He argued that it was a predetermined outcome and said that he was very concerned by these measures. I give the member for Hervey Bay credit for at least standing by his convictions then. I wondered whether he was on the speaking list, but no. He has been gagged as well. What a shame. He gave such a stellar speech during the address-in-reply that I was looking forward to his speech today, but that is okay.

At the time of the decision taken by the very good minister of the time—no bias at all, Mr Deputy Speaker—there were 84 N3 commercial fishing licences in the gulf, with 59 of those being used by fishers. As a result, five gillnet-free zones were implemented in the Gulf of Carpentaria to protect threatened, endangered and protected marine species whilst supporting a sustainable commercial and recreational fishing industry. The gillnet-free areas represented less than 10 per cent of the commercial fishing take from N3 symbols in the gulf. The Miles Labor government implemented a \$12 million adjustment and support package for commercial fishers impacted by the changes which took effect from 17 May. Doing what responsible governments do, we took a position and we stood by that position. We told stakeholders, ‘Whilst we understand that you may not support or agree with us, we will make sure that we do the responsible thing by your industry.’

It is important that we recognise the marine species that can become bycatch caught in gillnets. The Bundaberg region relies heavily on tourism, and a critical component of that tourism is turtles. The member for Burnett knows how important the turtles are to the economy and to small businesses, such as cafes and restaurants, in and around his electorate. The report recognised that three species of turtle migrate from the gulf to the Great Barrier Reef region. Two of those species come to Mon Repos and the beaches of the Bundaberg region: the green turtle and the loggerhead turtle. The green turtle is listed as a vulnerable species and the loggerhead turtle is listed as an endangered species. We on this side do give careful consideration to what marine life can become bycatch because that can affect the economies of regions right across Queensland, which is important. The member for Cairns is here. He knows that if marine life were destroyed in his part of the world then his local economy could be destroyed. If the status of the Great Barrier Reef is downgraded by UNESCO then we will see fewer international tourists visiting the Great Barrier Reef, which contributes roughly \$6.4 billion to the Australian economy, about \$5.7 billion of which is from tourism.

In his first opportunity to actually defend the position of the new government, the minister has instead decided to walk away, put up his hands, wave the white flag to the commercial fishos and say, ‘It’s not our fault. We’ll try to do the best that we can.’ The KAP moved this motion because they do have conviction. They have moved the disallowance motion and here the government are walking away. We know that their own backbench have been gagged not just on abortion but also on fisheries and they have failed their first test. They have no conviction. They say, ‘No, we can’t unscramble things. We can only put our hands up in the air.’ The minister has failed his first test, and I look forward to his failing many more times in the future.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.29 pm): I rise to support the member for Traeger’s disallowance motion against the Fisheries (Structural Reform Stage 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024. This disallowance motion gives the new government the opportunity to show that it stands with the local Queensland fishing industry against reforms driven entirely by international organisations, such as UNESCO, and radical environmentalists.


The member for Traeger said that this legislation smashes remote communities and was an absolute stitch-up by the previous government, which it was. I heard the member for Bundaberg praising the previous government on the wonderful job that they had done, while at the same time they were destroying the Queensland fishing industry. This ban had zero to do with science or what is good for the fisheries, with the previous minister admitting that there was no scientific evidence backing the bans in the gulf whatsoever.

The previous government made deals behind closed doors with UNESCO then misled the public by stating they care about the fishing industry. One minute they hammered the east coast fisheries then they were targeting the gulf fisheries. In one very public example, the previous minister for agriculture named a fisher and a fish and chip shop owner in North Queensland as supporting the gillnet fishing bans but was then embarrassed when both angrily denied this and said they were against gillnet fishing bans as it was highly destructive to the industry. This is what we also heard from the member for Bundaberg—how all these fishers supported it. This was not the case, though; they were blackmailed into this.

I sincerely hope that it is not going to be the same with the new government. It is evident and common knowledge that, if you remove the fishers, there will be fewer fish provided to our restaurants, fish and chip stores and retail outlets, which means sourcing fish from overseas where many fisheries are unregulated and you do not know what you are getting. This ban comes on the back of the devastation to the Spanish mackerel fishing industry along the east coast, even though fishers know the fish are in abundance. The federal and state government traded the closure of the Spanish mackerel fisheries in return for UNESCO’s giving the Great Barrier Reef a free pass. The member for Traeger



has pointed out publicly that this disallowance motion gives the new government the opportunity to prove they support Queensland's fishing industry ahead of the environmental extremists and UNESCO. I fully support the member for Traeger's disallowance motion.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.32 pm): I rise to oppose this disallowance motion. The regulations that it seeks to repeal are good, sound and the product of consultation and scientific evidence and, what is more, they are working. Labor will always act to protect Queensland's environment and our wildlife, including the Great Barrier Reef, fish stocks and endangered species. At the same time, we also support sensible regulation that protects fish stocks to ensure our fishing stock remains sustainable so that future generations of Queenslanders and Australians can also benefit from this exceptional natural resource.

Whilst I understand where the KAP are coming from, advocating for the fishing boats and fishing jobs that might be affected, I do not agree that we can just bin scientific limitations that were put in place to ensure that the industry sticks around for the long haul and that jobs last into the future, not just until the fish run out. After all, there might be fewer jobs if we put in rules to keep fish stocks sustainable but there will be zero jobs if all the fish are gone.

In contrast, I do not really understand the position of the LNP—the scrambled eggs approach. I am not sure what they are up to. For years in opposition they railed against, opposed and voted against our reforms on sustainable fisheries. However, since being elected, it seems it is yet another thing they have backflipped on. Just today, we heard weasel words from the LNP in response to whistleblowers' revelations that nursing numbers were being cut, along with the health workforce attraction scheme. Like the weasel words used by the Premier, they say one thing before the election and something else right after. It looks like it is the same again with this motion—lots of talk before the election making all kinds of promises to commercial fishers and a different story the day after the election.

As a new member of the primary industries committee, I look forward to contributing in support of Queensland's fantastic primary industries. Whilst Stretton certainly is not a farming or fishing community, I do feel like my community has a lot of experience, especially when it comes to consuming seafood. In Stretton, we all know our seafood. We know good quality seafood. I have spoken in this place before about our fantastic restaurants in Stretton. Do not worry Clerks—I will not be tabling any menus today, although it is always very tempting.

In Stretton, we have so many places where you can get fresh or even live fish. In our supermarkets, you can purchase live seafood. There is the highest quality seafood in our restaurants. We have famous dishes like the prawn bao buns from Sushi Honke, the Angamaly fish mango curry at Lemon Chillies and deep fried salt and pepper soft shell crab at 9 Seafood, just to name a few. There is a lot of competition amongst restaurants and chefs to give discerning customers what they want. To do this, they need access to good quality seafood that is sustainable and does not destroy our environment.

The issue here—and I hope it has been highlighted by all this talk about delicious seafood—is that demand is strong but, if left unchecked, with indiscriminate overfishing in the gulf or Great Barrier Reef chasing supply to feed this demand we will lose this precious resource, we will lose future jobs in the industry and, essentially, we will take away seafood from future generations. Furthermore, we have seen this play out in countries around the world, and I mentioned in my address-in-reply in the last sitting that people come from all around the world to settle in Stretton. If you do get chatting to them about fishing, it is always quite interesting. They come from countries like China, the Philippines or Indonesia and they will often comment that the fish there have gone. If you want to go recreational fishing, it is nowhere near as easy as it is in Australia, and the ability to go fishing is something that they really enjoy when they settle in Stretton.

With overfishing and unsustainable practices, commercial fishing fleets from other countries have had to go further and further afield to catch seafood, and we cannot let that happen here so we have to support sustainable fishing, and that is what this regulation does. It aims to phase out destructive fishing practices in the gulf like gillnet fishing, which disproportionately harms vulnerable species such as hammerhead sharks, sawfish and marine turtles. While individual fisher practices can limit the risk of entanglement and improve post-entanglement survival, the potential to catch and harm non-target species with gillnets cannot be avoided. It also protects species like hammerhead sharks, which are particularly vulnerable to being caught in gillnets, and loggerhead turtles, which are listed as endangered, with an estimate suggesting a decline of over 50 per cent in the past several decades. Green sea turtles are also classified as vulnerable. Sawfish are highly endangered, and it is primarily


due to habitat destruction, overfishing and the loss of mangrove and seagrass ecosystems which are essential for their young. In Australia, up to five species of sawfish can be found and three of these—the largetooth sawfish, the green sawfish and the dwarf Queensland sawfish—are all currently listed as vulnerable. Sawfish have lost over half their habitat worldwide and Northern Australia represents one of the last viable populations, thanks mostly to its remoteness and relatively untouched coastline.

The gulf contains the world's last remaining viable populations and threatened populations of hawksbill and green turtles that migrate between the Great Barrier Reef and the Gulf of Carpentaria, and these animals, which are protected in these zones, are not only iconic but also held in high cultural significance to many tradition owners. The regulations also reduce bycatch, which helps to preserve endangered species and maintains ecological balance, which is important in such critical habitats like the gulf. The new gillnet-free zones improve the sustainability of fish stocks by minimising overfishing and protecting nursery grounds. This helps to ensure the long-term viability of the ecosystem there.

Supporting this motion could reintroduce harmful practices, negating the progress that has been made in protecting endangered species and sustainable fisheries. It would essentially be backtracking which could also lead to the Great Barrier Reef being listed as 'in danger', potentially harming tourism and international support for conservation efforts. Furthermore, if restrictions are weakened, displaced fishing efforts might intensify in nearby areas, risking overfishing, harming the surrounding ecosystem.

Altering plans after implementing financial assistance schemes could create economic instability and uncertainty for stakeholders who have already adapted to the reforms. What about the people who have already taken cash for these buyouts? Will they go out fishing in competition with those remaining? That would certainly not be fair.

In conclusion, I urge members not to support the disallowance motion and instead support scientific evidence, sustainability, ongoing jobs and ongoing fish stocks.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.40 pm): I rise in support of the disallowance motion moved by the member for Traeger. It is said that Queensland was built on the back of the agriculture and fisheries industries. I would say that these days the agriculture and fisheries industries are carried on the back of the KAP. We are thankful to those voters who supported us at the last election and entrusted us to take the voices of regional Queensland to this parliament. Those voices may be lost without the KAP's representation in this place.

We have an opportunity tonight to try to wind back the clock. I take the minister's point that we cannot unscramble the egg, but we can clean up the mess, throw out the rubbish and start again. There may be mistakes and things that need to be cleaned up and there may be financial discrepancies that may need to be sorted out, but we can do that. The House has the power to do that. Without an upper house in this state, the government has the power to do whatever it likes. We have seen that over the last couple of days with the government using extraordinary powers to push their policy objective.

I wish the government would support this disallowance motion tonight and use its extraordinary powers to help those who are asking for their help the most: the commercial fishers that have been downtrodden, spoken down to and vilified by the previous Labor government. They are willing for representation. They are looking for a lifeline. They are looking for support from this government.

We went to the last election supporting the industry. For the last four years we have battled for the industry. It does not matter whether it was the Spanish mackerel quota cuts, the east coast fishery being shut down, the introduction of the NX licences or the potential shutdown of the gulf, which we are talking about tonight, those commercial fishermen had our support from day one. They were saying to us, 'If we get a change of government, do you think you will be able to convince the LNP to support us?' Some of those commercial fishermen were saying coming into the election that the LNP government was using all the right language and telling them that there would be a commercial industry moving forward. Here is an opportunity for those in government to support the industry by supporting the disallowance motion moved by the member for Traeger.

On 28 November 2022, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN, released a report on a reactive monitoring mission to the Great Barrier Reef. The purpose of that mission was to send a clear message to the federal government at the time saying, 'We are going to fire a shot over your bow because we are not happy about a few things you are doing. We are going to use the Great Barrier Reef as the stick to make you do things. We will put an "in danger" listing on the Great Barrier Reef, which is World Heritage listed, if you do not something.'

It was the Hon. Tanya Plibersek and the previous state government that released information saying they were going to ban net fishing along the east coast. The gulf was not even talked about then. Now we have moved into the gulf, with stage 2 of the reforms. The fact is that if members do not support the disallowance motion tonight they agree that UNESCO is right, they agree that IUCN is right, they agree that the federal Labor government and Tanya Plibersek are right and they agree that the previous minister for agriculture and fisheries, Mark Furner, was right in what they did to the commercial industry in Queensland.

We need those in government now to look at what is being attempted to be done tonight. The fact is that we can unscramble the egg. We can do things better. Even if members do not support the disallowance motion tonight, please take note of it. I would love another person opposite to stand in support of the commercial fishing industry.

I welcome the commentary from the minister that they want to make sure there is a fishing industry moving forward. Here is a chance to save it tonight. Here is a chance to send a strong message to those who are hanging on by a thread. Members need to hear some of the stories. There are people who are contemplating suicide. The mental strain put on them by the previous government through this process has almost killed people. We have an opportunity now to show a glimmer of hope to those people who were waiting for a change of government.

If members do not support this disallowance motion tonight, I hope the Minister for Primary Industries makes a ministerial statement tomorrow about how they are going to support the industry going forward. Those people who entrusted those opposite with their vote deserve a little bit more than, 'Well, we are not going to be as bad as Labor,' or 'We are not going to go any further after Labor has done some damage or destroyed your industry.' They want more than that.

I know that some people on the east coast struggling to work with the NX licence are hoping for that. The NX licence has been a disaster. People back home like the Greens from the Burdekin, Lucas and Steph Dansie from North Shore Seafood Co. and Darcy Fazio, a young commercial fisherman in the Hinchinbrook electorate, are looking for a glimmer of hope and a future for their industry. I accept that there have been buyouts in the industry. Older commercial fishermen looking for an exit plan have received that—perfect. Let us galvanise what we have left and solidify their opportunity to keep fishing.

Let us continue to give Queenslanders the fresh, local, wild caught seafood they deserve. Let us restore fish and chips on a Friday or Saturday night to an affordable price for families. Let us stop the 65 per cent importation of seafood into this country when we are sitting on a massive resource that can be managed. Let us please not turn this into a fight between commercial and recreational fishers. There is enough fish out there for everyone.


If one asks those recreational fishers who did not have a position against the commercial fishermen they will say, 'There is plenty of fish out there. There is plenty of biomass.' Even when the previous Labor government moved this regulation they said it was not about biomass—there are plenty of fish out there; it was about continuing to appease UNESCO and overseas entities. That was what it was all about. It was about keeping them happy and keeping the Great Barrier Reef off the 'in danger' list.

That is wrong. We should be protecting the sovereignty of this country and fishing in the gulf. Let us protect those family businesses and other people who have invested in the industry. Let us give them an opportunity to get a return on their investment, not continue to add to the stranded assets out there. The number of trawlers in the commercial fishing industry going for a pittance compared to what they were worth is a travesty. We see old trawlers going around as houseboats.

We should be building more boats. We should be building the industry. Karumba should be pumping right now. Those people who have invested in coldrooms, the supply chain and refrigerated trucks should be supported. The LNP should be hugely supportive of young families trying to become small- to medium-sized businesses. We need to get out and support these business owners. We need to strike a balance between these interests and making sure we have good environmental outcomes for everyone. Most of the commercial fishermen left in the industry are young, enthusiastic people who want to see the industry going forward, not only for themselves but also for their kids. They are trying to build intergenerational wealth.

At the moment, there is no signal from this government saying that is going to happen other than, 'We're going to be better than Labor,' and 'We can do better moving forward.' This motion cannot be supported by those opposite tonight. I would implore the minister for agriculture and fisheries to please

come out with something strong tomorrow. Here is your opportunity to throw a lifeline to those commercial fishers who trusted you with their vote.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise this evening to make a contribution to the disallowance motion moved by Katter's Australian Party. I firstly want to put on record that you cannot deny the KAP's commitment to their constituents, particularly the member for Traeger. He and I have had many discussions around this particular aspect of the motion, including last year after the policies of the previous government—sustainable fisheries practice and the formation of the fisheries taskforce—were put in place. Yes, the initial approach was to consider banning gillnet fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef; however, based on the information provided by experts, science and consultation, the government made the decision to look at areas within the gulf.

I want to clearly put on record the impacts of this. It represents 20 per cent of the gulf in total. The gulf is a huge area. The relevant areas include: the net-free north area; northern gulf waters; Pormpuraaw waters; Topsy Creek, Norman River and western gulf waters. I have been in many of those places not only in my portfolio of agriculture and fisheries but also in my time in local government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. I have visited all of those discrete, remote Indigenous communities. I have visited and fished on many of those rivers, including the Ducie and the Wenlock. Some of those areas are not so far down into the gulf but they are certainly on the western side of the cape. They are unique, beautiful areas. They are areas that need to be protected and considered for the value they contain in terms of the fisheries sector. That is why as a government we consulted time and time again.

I refute the suggestion by the member for Gympie that there was no consultation. He was misleading the House when he made those comments earlier this evening. The fact is that as a government we were not initially happy with the assessment of the gulf in particular, and that is why we went back. I am pleased that the member for Nudgee is in the chamber this evening as well. We engaged with First Nations people in that area and determined that there needed to be further consultation, which we did. On the basis of that we came back with a revised consideration of the areas for protection. Areas that are unique areas will protect those TEPS—threatened, endangered and protected species—such as sawfish. The member for Stretton spoke about sawfish this evening. I have seen some of those sawfish in the wild. I have seen the remains of the blade of a sawfish after it has been caught up in nets or caught by people who may have been doing the right thing or may not have. Nevertheless, it is a species that needs protection.

We do rely on science and consultation. I want to reflect on the good people of Fisheries Queensland, in particular the scientific monitoring group. While on K'gari I saw them collect the frames of tailor, one of my favourite eating fish. Around August each year they collect frames and assess them. They cut between the nose and eyes of the fish and take out a little part called the otolith. The otolith tells you the age of the fish. They sex the frame of the fish and work out an assessment of bycatch. That is just one example.

I do note that someone—it might have been the member for Traeger—commented on king threadfin. Yes, the information provided to us was the stock assessment was around five per cent. You take on balance what is provided to you by our hardworking public servants. The trigger for taking action in the nation is 20 per cent, so naturally there had to be consideration given to taking action on king threadfin. That is why we took that action.

In terms of the fisheries taskforce, following recommendations moved to introduce the closure of gillnets structural adjustment payments were made in many cases. There were 4,000 submissions to the taskforce just for the gulf alone and we acted on those. In my previous boardroom we engaged with some of those commercial fishers and the member for Traeger at one stage to consider changes, which we did later on. Those payments were made through QRIDA. I had the opportunity to talk to some of the people who have taken on board the new licence that has been provided to make sure there is a reduction in the catch of biomass of TEPS in terms of that type of fishery. That is why science and consultation are important.

I do note that the member for Gympie spoke about a review of the sustainable fisheries policy. I look forward to hearing that review, because the last time the LNP was in government they sacked hundreds of fisheries staff. They closed the Gladstone depot. I would hope this is not another example of terminating more public servants, in particular in fisheries, and closing more depots. Is that the type of review they are going to conduct? Will we see more public servants terminated by this Crisafulli government? I am sure that is on their agenda. We have seen people being muzzled here this evening.


On the very first sitting day we saw their lack of consideration for our First Nations people. You will never replicate the consideration and consultation we did when we were in government in terms of engagement with our First Nations people. We respect our First Nations people. We consult with them and we take on board their concerns. That is why in particular—

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** I am not taking your interjections, you fool. That is why we considered—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr FURNER:** I withdraw. That is why we consulted with the people from Pormpuraaw when they came to visit us about TEPS. These are species they have engaged with over the years. That is why government needs to consult with our First Nations people, fisheries and communities on the policy changes you are about to make and take into consideration the balance between science and making sure it is fair and just. That is why I am looking forward to hearing contributions from anyone else who wishes to speak on this disallowance motion. We have heard one person from the LNP speak on it tonight. I am pleased that every member of the KAP spoke on it. I accept their passion. Nevertheless, on the balance of what we have seen and what we have been provided with I will not accept this disallowance motion this evening.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion moved by the member for Traeger. This subordinate legislation allows for crucial reforms which establish gillnet-free areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria as well as allowing for the equitable transition of licensing and compensation for commercial fishers impacted by these changes. Preventing the use of gillnets in the gulf and the Great Barrier Reef is deeply important for the survival of the threatened species which call those waters home. Gillnets are placed across river mouths and indiscriminately catch a range of fish and other species, commonly resulting in significant non-target bycatch. Endangered and threatened species such as dugong, snubfin dolphin, turtles, hammerhead sharks and sawfish get trapped in the nets and, because the nets are unattended, drown before fishers are able to free them. The population of all of these species is declining and some, including sawfish and hammerhead sharks, are at risk of extinction if appropriate management measures are not allowed to continue. The ecological risk assessment prepared for the east coast inshore fishery listed gillnets as a key driver of risk to these species.

This is why our government took the strong action last term to introduce these reforms—reforms that were guided by current data and advice from respected scientists and industry stakeholders. Of course, concern regarding the interactions of gillnet fishing with threatened and endangered species is not a new conversation with the fishing industry. Implementing a system of more stringent controls over netting practices to protect dugongs was first announced by the federal and Queensland governments in 1997. The 2003 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan also reflects restrictions for gillnet fishing in the reef. Assessment of the Queensland East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery in 2019 indicated intermediate to high risk ratings for dugongs and turtles. This is again reported in the assessment in 2021, with a high risk rating for dugongs and some turtle species, leading to publication of the *Protected species management strategy for the east coast inshore fishery* in 2021.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland department of agriculture and fisheries database shows that more than 1,000 sawfish and 119 dugong have been caught in gillnets since 2002. GBRMPA data shows at least 61 dugongs have been killed in gillnets within the Great Barrier Reef since 2010. GBRMPA data also indicates at least 13 of these were in dugong protection areas. These numbers only account for the deaths that we are aware of, that have been reported. Over 90 per cent of sawfish interactions were reported post 2017, coinciding with the introduction of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy.

Fisheries and threatened species experts, like Professor Col Limpus, chief scientific officer of the QPWS threatened species unit, tell us that there is an under-reporting of species caught in gillnets. Recent studies have demonstrated that populations of critically endangered species, including snubfin dolphins, dugong and sawfish, cannot sustain further human related deaths. Through these reforms, Queensland joined New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory as well as Canada, the United States and the European Union, among others, which have banned gillnets from ecologically significant waters to protect threatened and endangered species. Any comments in respect of the science not being there are another excuse to try to put the blinkers on in respect of the fact that the evidence is there, it is proven and it is international.

These protections are in place in these jurisdictions and ours because they are important, because they are backed by science and evidence and because they work. The reforms allowed in this subordinate legislation are part of a larger package which include working towards a net-free Great Barrier Reef. Removing gillnets from the reef addressed key recommendations from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee to prevent an 'in danger' listing, and it works towards protecting the reef for generations to come. The action we took paid dividends for all of the communities that depend upon the reef and the affected areas of the gulf, for the state and for the country as a whole—all of which depend on retaining the confidence of domestic and international communities that this World Heritage area is being appropriately managed and protected.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee announced in September 2023 that it would not list the reef as being in danger as a direct result of these reforms and others which both the Commonwealth and the state party in Queensland committed to and delivered. The resulting decision not to list the reef was welcomed by both parties. I know that the Katter party members at the federal level and state level think this is some secret New World Order conspiracy theory and that international organisations like UNESCO—

**Mr Knuth:** No, we don't.

**Ms LINARD:** Well, I am quoting your media release. They think that organisations like UNESCO are breaching the Magna Carta. That is according to your comments in your media release and your stand up—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member, please address your remarks through the chair.

**Ms LINARD:** Sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker. Both of those ideas are straight out of the QAnon cooker playbook, but the reality is that Australia is part of an international community. This international community works together to protect the environment we all share and we are all caretakers of for future generations.

While protecting the Great Barrier Reef, it was equally important that protections were introduced for the gulf to avoid displaced fishing effort to this ecologically sensitive area. The gulf does not enjoy protections in the form of legislated marine park zoning, making the reforms all the more important to balance economic and ecological interests in these waters. It is not just the ENGOs, the tourism sector and communities that want to see these protections. The recreational fishing sector have also called for sustainable protections—a sector and their calls to remove gillnets that the Katter party once supported. In fact, it was an election policy. It was in your election campaign flyer that you also previously supported as a party the removal of gillnets.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Again, member for Nudgee, please address your remarks through the chair.

**Ms LINARD:** I also note the recent reference by the Katter party to a recent James Cook University report which has labelled dugong populations as 'thriving'. In my view, that is a misrepresentative characterisation of what is contained in that report, which from my recollection says that some populations are 'good' in the northern part of the GBR. These are areas where dugong populations have had the benefit of gillnet restrictions for some time, which further supports the effect of gillnet restrictions like those we are talking about here today.

The Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery consultation on gillnet-free areas and fishery reforms discussion paper, which was released last year, recorded 93 per cent support from respondents for the implementation of the proposed gillnet-free zones. I acknowledge and thank submitters and the experts and stakeholders who sat on the independent Future Fishing Taskforce who recommended fair payments to eligible employees who were impacted by the removal of gillnet licences and ensured an approach for paying structural adjustment consistent with that of the Great Barrier Reef and also Great Sandy regions. These protections have been called for by traditional owners, recreational fishers, scientists and the community for the economic and ecological protections they bring to a critical inshore fishery along our Queensland coastline.

I, like my colleague the member for Ferny Grove, do respect the passion that the Katter party members bring in this chamber for the interests of those they serve, but equally it is not true to say that the science is not clear and the evidence is not clear and available with respect to the impact this is having on TEP. These threatened and endangered species are important to not only Queensland's

reputation and Australia's reputation but also across the world. These species are ours to ensure they are not pushed over the brink to extinction.

**Mr Dametto:** Extinction?

**Ms LINARD:** To extinction, because that is where the science is going. These are evidence-based regulations and they must remain to protect Queensland's reputation and precious environment.

**Mr Dametto** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** I will not be goaded into talking about salties, my colleague. We are not talking about salties here. That is why we must support these regulations remaining and that is why I do not support the disallowance motion.

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

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

## TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (MARINE SAFETY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



**Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.12 pm): I move—

That Sections 4, 7, 12 and 13 of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, Subordinate Legislation No. 188 of 2024, tabled in the House on 10 September 2024, be disallowed.

In Queensland we have enjoyed freedoms over the years. A lot of us have grown up in country Queensland, enjoying the spoils of camping, fishing and the outdoors. The KAP does its best in this House for those Queenslanders who want to continue enjoying the outdoors, enjoying some freedoms—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on, member for Hinchinbrook. There is way too much noise in the chamber. If you are leaving the chamber, please, members, could you do it quietly.

**Mr DAMETTO:** In Queensland we like our freedoms, especially in North Queensland. We like to live in an unrestricted way. A lot of times people say, 'Why do you live in North Queensland? You do not have the amenities of the South-East. You do not get to enjoy the things down on the Gold Coast or the spoils of the Sunny Coast.' North Queenslanders will say, 'We love being up there because we like to be left alone. We like to be able to go camping, fishing, motorbike riding—to get out there and enjoy ourselves.'

Over the years, we have had consecutive governments, but more recently the Labor Party, sneaking through regulation legislation making it more restrictive to live and enjoy the outdoors. People love going fishing. They love getting out there, spending time on the water with their family and friends. Boat ownership in Queensland is going through the roof. Post COVID, everybody is spending their COVID money and money they were saving to go overseas on brand new boats—small boats, big boats, boats to get out there and enjoy our waterways. There is increased visitation to places like the Great Barrier Reef, and in places in North Queensland—and even, I am sure, down here in the south-east corner—the boat ramps are full every time the weather is good. The thing is that those Queenslanders love being out on the water for one thing: it is really the last frontier where you get to be left alone.

In certain areas, if you are not in the gazetted signed area, you could go as far as your back pocket or your wallet will allow you. Where can you do that on the roads? You can get out there and have a good time on the waters still, and that is what we love about Queensland.

This regulatory change that I have moved as a disallowance motion tonight speaks to one of those freedoms that will be taken away from us. From 1 December 2024—that is, at the beginning of this month—people will now be required in this state, if alone in a boat under 4.8 metres, to wear a life jacket at all times. If you are accompanying children under the age of 12, you will also, if you are the only adult in the boat, have to wear a life jacket at all times. People might say, 'Well, is that not a good thing? It is increasing safety and marine safety.' However, I would argue that there is nothing stopping someone from making that safety choice already. People out there are educated. People are learning how to swim. People also want to make their own safety conscious decisions. This regulatory change

around life jackets is another encroachment. It is the state government coming in and telling us what to do in our spare time.

People will also be asked to wear a life jacket at all times in any craft when doing a coastal bar crossing. That is great for those living in South-East Queensland. That is a great regulatory change for those who are not really great at doing marine coastal bar crossings, but we do not have them in North Queensland. We do not have the surf. We have the Great Barrier Reef up there.

People will also be asked, if in a boat less than 4.8 metres, to wear a life jacket at all times between sunset and sunrise. There are plenty of people—I am one of them—who has grown up around boats, who have lived their whole life enjoying boating in a certain way. Now people in their 50s, 60s and 70s, who have enjoyed fishing or crabbing, and even some commercial fishermen that have operated their vessels on their own, will be asked to have to wear a life jacket all the time. Some people might say that life jackets are getting more compact and all those sorts of things. Yes, but they still create risk. That is why some of those people have complained to our office and said, 'This is ridiculous. I have been boating my whole life and now you are asking me, when I jump in my tinnie to go check the crab pots, to wear a life jacket.'

If you get the life jacket hung up while you are running an anchor out, or you end up getting it caught up in your crab pots and you end up tripping over in your boat, don't worry about the life jacket saving you in North Queensland; you are just bobbing up and down waiting for a crocodile to come and eat you. You are bloody croc bait, as far as I am concerned. Sorry, Mr Speaker, I withdraw that unparliamentary language before you have a chance to ask.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Mr Speaker, I am making your job easier; that is what I am trying to do in this House. I turn to children under the age of 12 having to wear a life jacket in an open boat or a boat of any length while underway. Once again, parents who have a boat and decide to take the children out should take parental responsibility in looking after those children. Some children might be unable to wear a life jacket. Some children might have a disability. There are all sorts of issues. There is now going to be a regulation which states that it is mandatory to wear a life jacket.

You might ask, 'What will the fine be?' This is ludicrous. The fine could be anywhere between one penalty unit all the way up to 500 penalty units. It will be a fine of \$161 at minimum if someone from Fisheries or MSQ spots you without your life jacket on for five seconds, or your kid decides to rip it off and you have an overzealous Fisheries inspector coming past at the wrong time. We have all seen them. We have all been on the water at Easter time when that has happened.

You might be an older gentleman who decided to do some fishing and you are about to throw your anchor out, but you have not quite got there yet and the life jacket has become caught up. Next minute—bang! There is a \$161 fine. I do not know who will be subject to the 500 penalty unit fine, but that is \$80,650. That is exorbitant! There are kids running around in stolen cars that you cannot even lock up at the moment, and you are going to impose 500 penalty units on someone. It is the Labor Party that brought this in. Here is an opportunity to say this is not going to work for Queenslanders. As for the maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, that is crazy. It is overzealous regulation.

I have talked to people in the industry. I have talked to people who are in the marine training area of the industry and they are saying that even the pressure being put on them is overzealous from those overseeing bodies, as well as MSQ. They have been told, 'Just go along with this stuff, otherwise we might even take your training licence off you.' There has been pushback from the industry. Those in the industry who were consulted gave feedback and actually said that in the report. There were a lot of people who were invited to give some feedback who said, 'No, we are not touching this stuff,' because they had already been warned off by people within government departments to, 'Just let this go through. Don't complain about it.' That is not right. That is not proper consultation. It was even in the publication that when the public was consulted on having to wear the life jacket at all times people were not happy. The general feeling from the public was pushback on that, and I can see why.

Another thing that is not being considered with this new regulation is that a lot of people—especially in little boats—do not use anchors anymore. Technology has moved forward faster than this regulation. The regulation says that if you are underway or not at anchor you must be wearing a life jacket. A lot of people are using spot-lock technology. There are a couple of different brands: Watersnake, Minn Kota. They sit on the front of a boat. You push the button and GPS coordinates lock you in that spot—it is fantastic; there is no more busting the back pulling an anchor up and down—but by definition, according to this regulation, you are still 'underway'. There will be people who think they



are at anchor because they are using their spot-lock, or their motorised anchor, and they will be potentially PIN-ed by an overzealous Fisheries inspector or someone from MSQ.

We are asking members to support this disallowance motion. We probably will not get a chance to vote on it tonight, but I ask the minister, who is sitting opposite, to look at what we are asking for here. This has probably been rushed through by the previous Labor government. It has been done by stealth. Most fishers did not know it was happening.

There is another aspect I want to speak to. From September 2025, there will be a requirement to use the new PFD style life jackets under the Australian Standard. Under the current guidelines on PFDs, you can use your existing, older style life jackets under the Australian Standard until they are unserviceable. There has not been a paper written about this; nor have there been mass deaths from the use of old life jackets that are still serviceable. Wouldn't it be better, during a cost-of-living crisis, to allow people to continue using the life jackets they have—especially if the foam is still good, the straps are still intact and the reflectors work? They might even still the whistle you can blow! Use the old life jackets. Do not ask people, in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, to throw those life jackets out. If some of those older life jackets are no good, they should not have them on board anyway. Let that natural attrition happen; do not force people to take on the new standard. That would be a ludicrous thing to do during this cost-of-living crisis.

We have a lot of people out there saying, 'Well, you know what? I'm going to just buy a new sticker and a piece of aluminium for my boat, because my 4.8-metre Quintrex is about to become 4.9 metres.' It is silly to bring this regulation in. It is overzealous legislation and regulation brought in by a previous government. Some may even say there were people within departments who needed to justify their position and who came up with new, crazy regulations to impose on people. We need less regulation in this state. I would hope the LNP government supports less regulation for the sake of regulation. Yes, last year we had a number of extra deaths out on the water—it went up about 10 per cent—but the fact is: there are more people out there using the waterways now. There are more people who are using boats, having bought boats after COVID. It has grown exponentially. There is little doubt that more people being on the water will equate to more people being hurt in water-based activity.

I had to laugh watching the Facebook commentary on this topic on everything from the Fisheries to the MSQ site. When we put it up on our Facebook page and when the *Townsville Bulletin* ran the story, there was some great commentary. One was particularly laughable. One person said, 'Well, I'm fishing in my boat and I'm on my own. It's under 4.8 metres. I've got to wear a life jacket at all times. If I decide to jump in the water for a swim, I have to wear a life jacket.' This person said, 'Are you going to start forcing people to wear floaties every time they jump in the water because they cannot swim?' There are a lot of people out there who can swim and can look after themselves. There are a lot of people out there who cannot swim. There is nothing stopping them right now from putting a life jacket on. Let people have personal choice. Let people use the life jackets that are already in their boats and serviceable.

I ask the state government to really consider this. We do not another way for revenue raising to continue in this state. We want people out there to enjoy the last frontier—the water—without overburdening regulation and legislation. We want people to get out there and spend time with their family and friends. Personally, I have done my coxswain ticket near coastal. That is the commercial entry boat licence. I was very shocked when I went through that process. Even today, if you want to get your recreational boat licence you have to read four or five pages of literature—it is quite thin. This allows people to go out there and enjoy the waterways. I think there should be better education while people are out on the water so they are not getting themselves into trouble. When I did my coxswain ticket it was like reading the Bible twice. There is so much extra regulation and legislation that you need to know. It is important to know that stuff. I think more people need to be educated on boating safety.

We should not be burdening people who have grown up around boats or enjoying the waterways or who know boat safety with the need to wear a life jacket constantly. Do not ask people to fall to the lowest common denominator when it comes to safety. We see that too many times. Extra regulation and legislation imposes extra costs on people that are unnecessary. We have seen it across industries. We have seen it across a number of things. We are even feeling it in our hip pockets now when we go to pay for something. The regulatory burdens of systems continue to lift the cost of living and everything we do in Queensland.

This might sound miniscule, but I tell you what: people will buy a boat and use it literally three or four times a year but, in this world where we are all stressed and we are trying to do our best in our


jobs, they will look forward to those three or four boat trips a year. That will get most people through a crappy work week. It will get most people through a mundane job. Let people enjoy the outdoors. I ask the House to please support this motion.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dametto, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 6.28 pm to 7.30 pm.

## DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Error in Division

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Honourable members, I have been advised by the clerks at the table that there was an error in calculating the votes in division No. 4 earlier today. The division was on the question that the member for Traeger's disallowance motion relating to the Fisheries (Structural Reform Stage 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024 be agreed to. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record needs to be corrected. The member for Maiwar's vote was not recorded. The result of the division was, in fact, ayes 3 and noes 86. In accordance with standing order 106(11) I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of the Proceedings*.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.31 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

Resumed from 28 November (see p. 80).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 is landmark legislation aimed at restoring the safety and security of our communities across Queensland. It delivers a fresh start for Queensland and implements some of our most important election commitments. The Crisafulli government has a mandate from government to fix Labor's weak laws that created a generation of young offenders who see themselves as untouchable, who have wreaked havoc on our communities and left a trail of broken victims in their wake because a 10-year Labor government failed to act. The Crisafulli government is acting. The LNP listened to the concerns that Queenslanders had raised with us. We listened when the Palaszczuk and then when the Miles government ignored them. We took our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy to the election in October and overwhelmingly in communities across our state Queenslanders backed it.

The bill was introduced by the Premier on 28 November 2024, the very first bill introduced by this government, and then it was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. The committee examined the bill and tabled its report on 6 December 2024—and, importantly—making only one recommendation, that the bill be passed. I want to thank the committee for its support but especially the chair, the member for Nicklin; Madam Deputy Speaker, the member for Thuringowa; and the member for Capalaba for their hard work and effort on that committee. I would also like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made submissions or appeared before the committee. I would particularly like to thank the victims who shared their experiences and insights about Queensland's justice system during the committee's inquiry into the bill.

I note the statement of reservation and the dissenting report to the committee's recommendation from the Labor opposition and the member for Maiwar respectively. I note again that the only

recommendation was that the bill be passed. I do note that the opposition does not yet appear to have a position on the bill. Hopefully, when I address some of the issues raised by them in their dissenting report in my contribution today during this debate of the bill, the opposition might be able to work out where they stand on this bill. I would also like to foreshadow that I will be proposing a number of technical amendments to strengthen and clarify the bill which will be moved during consideration in detail. The amendments confirm the policy intent of the bill.

A key focus of this bill is the Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms, which aim to ensure that youth offenders who commit serious crimes face appropriate consequences. The bill achieves this by amending the Youth Justice Act 1992 to impose the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties on youth offenders as those applied to adults for the 13 specified serious Criminal Code offences. Those offences are: murder, manslaughter, unlawful striking causing death, acts intended to cause grievous bodily harm and other malicious acts, grievous bodily harm, wounding, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, serious assault, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, robbery, burglary, enter premises, and unlawful entry of a vehicle. The government will establish an expert panel to advise us on the inclusion of any further offences. As I have indicated, I will be progressing a number of amendments in consideration in detail of the bill to clarify the policy intent and the provisions in the bill applying to Adult Crime, Adult Time and to ensure their intended operation in creating adult level consequences for youth offenders.

I note that during the committee process some stakeholders generally expressed concern that the reforms in the bill to provide for adult maximum penalties for certain offences will not be effective in reducing youth crime and are unlikely to deter youth offending. In response to those concerns, firstly, I would like to note that these reforms are supplemented by gold standard early intervention initiatives. I would like to make special and particular mention of the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, who has done outstanding work in this regard. These initiatives aim to reduce crime by focusing on early intervention and community-led programs, something that the former government failed to do.

The government's commitment to this holistic approach to tackling youth crime is evident with the significant investment of \$100 million, with \$50 million allocated to kickstart new programs and another \$50 million to expand successful community-led initiatives. We will also deliver \$40 million for two youth justice schools, which will divert young offenders from crime. One school will be in South-East Queensland and another will be in North Queensland. On top of this we have committed \$40 million for four early intervention schools to re-engage 900 students who have fallen out of mainstream schooling and are assessed as at risk of falling into crime. These will be delivered in Ipswich, Townsville, Gold Coast and Rockhampton. Another \$50 million will be invested in nine regional reset programs which will provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than some community-based programs can provide. This is a comprehensive approach to tackling youth crime in our communities and goes far and above what the former Labor government did to address the root cause of youth offending.

Secondly, what we know for sure is that Labor's approach was far from effective. The former Miles-Palaszczuk government watered down Queensland's youth justice laws and presided over a youth crime crisis that spiralled out of control in our communities right across our state. In the last financial year under the former Labor government there were 46,130 finalised proven offences by young people. This is a 12 per cent increase in the last year and a 51 per cent increase in the last five years. It is a 98 per cent increase over the last 10 years. These are atrocious figures by the former Labor government, which is still protesting and trying to say, 'Everything is okay. There is nothing to see here.' Queensland needs change and it voted for it on 26 October this year. We took our plan to end Labor's youth crime crisis to the election and Queenslanders backed it in. That is what this bill delivers.

Another key aspect of the bill is the amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to remove the principles that detention should be a last resort and that non-custodial orders are better for reintegrating children into the community. Instead, courts must prioritise the impact of the offence on the victim. Currently, the impact of the child's offending on a victim is one of many factors to be considered by a sentencing court. The bill elevates this consideration and requires a court to have primary regard to it when determining the appropriate sentence.

The bill also creates a new principle in the charter of youth justice principles. The effect of this is that, after the first principle that the community should be protected, the new second principle is that a child should be held accountable in a way that recognises the impact of the child's offending on any victim of that offending. The bill positions victims at the heart of youth justice. This is one of the most important elements of this bill.

My colleagues and I sat in the chamber this afternoon and listened to the member for Capalaba deliver his outstanding maiden speech. It truly was a heartfelt speech and no-one in this chamber was left unmoved. I want to read into the record these words from the member for Capalaba that reinforce why these reforms are necessary—

All too often our justice system knows how to clear the wreckage and the debris from the site of a crime but it does not know what to do with the victims and their families. We feel as if we are the wreckage discarded at the side of the road. This must stop.

The Crisafulli government says enough is enough. Victims will come first. We must not put up with a system that puts the rights of youth offenders before the rights of victims. For the member for Capalaba and many others like him who have been let down by Labor's weak laws, we are righting this wrong.

I am aware that a number of stakeholders have expressed concerns that prioritising the impact on a victim at sentence may result in victim impact statements being challenged and an associated risk that victims will be subject to cross-examination on them. I can advise that the bill makes no change to the current processes applying to the provision and the use of victim impact statements at sentence.

**Mrs Gerber:** It's another scare campaign.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection: it is another scare campaign. I can advise that the bill makes no change to the current processes applying to the provision and the use of victim impact statements at sentence.

The bill amends the Youth Justice Act to ensure that police cautions, restorative justice agreements and contraventions of supervised release orders occurring after the commencement will appear on the child's criminal record when sentenced as a child. The bill also makes a child's criminal history admissible for up to five years after the final outcome of the last childhood offence when they are being sentenced as an adult. These amendments to the contents and admissibility of childhood criminal histories will commence on proclamation. As I have stated, I will move amendments to the criminal history related provisions in the bill in order to clarify and better target the definition of a criminal history in the bill to give full effect to the policy intent of the amendments which is for the court to have as much context as possible when sentencing.

The bill also amends the Criminal Code and the Youth Justice Act to ensure that certain childhood findings of guilt can be admissible for five years for the offence of the dangerous operation of a vehicle. This will ensure young adults who continually place the community at risk through repeat vehicular offending are subject to the same penalties as older repeat adult offenders. Some stakeholders expressed concern that cautions that were issued pre commencement will be captured on childhood criminal histories. I can assure the House that only cautions that are issued after commencement will appear on criminal histories.

Another victim-centric element in the bill relates to the shift of an opt-out model for the victims information register. This will ensure that victims and immediate family members of deceased victims will automatically be included in the victim register without needing to apply. This will simplify the process for victims and lessen the burden of accessing important information. This will commence on proclamation.

The bill opens up the Childrens Court by, firstly, ensuring that relatives of a victim can be present during criminal proceedings. Secondly, the bill removes the ability of a court to make an exclusion order. This will ensure that the relatives and representatives of victims and accredited media can be present during proceedings. The bill will not affect the operation of other closed court provisions or the court's general powers to deal with contempt. Let me be clear: the existing prohibitions about publishing identifying information of child offenders are not changed by the bill. This meets our commitment to hold youth perpetrators accountable for their crimes.


Additionally, the bill establishes a process for managing offenders who turn 18 by transferring them immediately to adult correctional facilities. Under this new framework, detainees will be transferred to adult custody within one month of turning 18, regardless of whether they are on remand or have been sentenced. This ensures that adult offenders are housed in adult jails rather than in youth detention centres designed for children.

During the committee process concerns were raised about the impact of the reforms on children's human rights. We do not shy away from the fact that these are tough laws. It is important to remember that the Human Rights Act applies to every Queenslanders, not just those who are breaking the law. The current situation with respect to Queensland's youth crime crisis is exceptional and it is time that the rights of victims be put before the rights of offenders. We have a broader need to ensure the safety and

human rights of the entire Queensland population. Safety and security in one's own home is no longer guaranteed in parts of our state. Just ask residents of Townsville, Cairns, Mount Isa, the Gold Coast and parts of Brisbane. This bill is a response to the community's demand for stronger measures against youth crime.

Finally, I note that during the committee process concerns were raised in relation to the need for a longer consultation period on the reforms in the bill. The Making Queensland Safer Laws were a key plank throughout the 2024 election. The people of Queensland have spoken on this issue. They have voted to restore community safety by implementing tougher laws for youth offenders. They voted to put victims before offenders. The bill is therefore a direct and timely response to the mandate given by the people of Queensland during the state election. Of course, the government will monitor the implementation and the outcomes of these reforms and, as outlined by the Premier in his introductory speech, take advice from an expert panel that will be established early in the new year.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 represents a significant step forward in the Crisafulli government's effort to create a safer, more secure Queensland. By implementing these measures we are not only addressing the immediate concerns around youth crime but also laying the foundation for a justice system that is fair, that is effective and that is trusted by all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (7.49 pm): I rise to address the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Every Queenslander deserves to be safe and to feel safe in their home, in their workplace and as they go about their daily lives. I want to start by acknowledging all victims of crime: those who are unable to be here today, those in the gallery who may be listening and those who are in this chamber. I, and the Labor opposition, and indeed all members, recognise the pain that is caused by the consequences of crime. One victim is one too many. As the Victims' Commissioner outlined in her submission, victims are not a homogeneous group, their experiences, needs, perspectives and opinions differ widely, but as the member for Cooper said recently, everyone is unified in the common goal of making our community safer.

The other day I was walking through the doors of the chamber and I paused to look at all of the members of the 58th Parliament and what I saw was a board made up of Queenslanders with an array of diverse backgrounds and experiences, all bringing something to the table in the contest of ideas. Before entering politics I worked as a solicitor. What drove me to the job was ensuring Queenslanders have access to justice. I am the daughter of a retired, former Queensland Police Service officer so the principle of consequences for action was instilled in me from a young age. I am also the sister of a brother with Down syndrome and so I cannot help but think about the not insignificant number of children who offend who have suspected or diagnosed disabilities. The fact is the causes of youth crime are complex. Sadly, some Queensland children are not growing up in the kind of loving, nurturing environment I think that every child deserves. I have seen the power early intervention had on my brother's life, particularly in those critical early years.

Yesterday I attended a ceremony where retiring District Court judge, His Honour Horneman-Wren, appointed by the member for Kawana, said—

If we as a caring, humane and responsible society do not address the underlying societal issues that lead to offending, no slogan-based solution will ever prove effective.

That was a statement heard by the current Attorney-General and a statement I hope will be taken on board by this government. Access to health care, education, housing and support services are all measures that will help us turn a corner—evidence-based solutions, not just punitive measures which ultimately is all this bill does. There is no simple solution to this complex problem. There is no magic wand that can be waved, but Queenslanders want action and we hear that. The bill before the House, while only 52 pages in length, is a complex area of law and public policy. Some of the 52-page bill has been derived from the LNP's four-word slogan during the election campaign: Adult Crime, Adult Time.

The Labor opposition accepts the outcome of the election and the views of the Queensland community that more needs to be done to ensure our community is safe. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, Labor will not stand in the way of the LNP increasing maximum sentences. However, some of the measures in this bill have the potential to leave a range of unintended consequences in its path. Queenslanders did not vote for laws that put victims on trial. They did not vote to end restorative justice, a program supported by victims groups. The LNP are ramming through laws that experts say may make the situation worse.

We are a constructive opposition. That was evidenced by the fact that both I, the member for Bulimba and the member for Gladstone wrote to the government twice, before this bill was introduced and after, seeking a briefing from the department to ask legitimate questions.

**Mrs Frecklington:** But didn't turn up to the briefing that you requested.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I am advised we received no response.

**Ms Farmer:** You are making that up!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take personal offence to that interjection and the speaker on her feet and I ask that she withdraw.

**Mr J KELLY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr):** I am just getting some advice. I ask you to wait for a moment. Before we go to the point of order, the minister has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw your comment.

**Mr J KELLY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am not sure how the minister took personal offence. She would have found it difficult to hear over the amount of interjections she was making. I had great difficulty following what the shadow minister was saying.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the speaker on his feet is reflecting on the chair.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, for the dignity of the parliament, could I please ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. We were prepared to come back to this House for another sitting week before Christmas so the government could deliver on its election promise while allowing Queenslanders and experts more than two business days to submit their feedback. That was rejected. Queensland is unique in that there is no house of review so the committee process and the role of the crossbench and opposition is important in scrutinising laws on behalf of the communities that we represent.

It is clear from many stakeholders that the legislation before the House goes beyond the slogan and policy that the LNP took to the election. Youth Advocacy Centre said—

... the provisions in this bill go far beyond the mandate given to the government by voters and what is necessary to ensure community safety.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my right!

**Ms SCANLON:** The government may not be interested in what these stakeholders say, but I think Queenslanders are. The Queensland Council of Social Services said—

There is a clear mandate for this law, but it goes further than the mandate.

We accept that the government is acting on its promise to put in place its slogan policy before Christmas, but as was clearly evident from the stakeholders, the elements that go beyond that scope should be subject to a proper committee process. Throughout the submissions, and even the testimony of the public hearings, there was a similar theme which could be titled 'unintended consequences'. Bravehearts said—

Adopting policies that are not based on evidence and careful scrutiny of their impact on our children and young people, would be a grave error.

The Queensland Mental Health Commission said—

It is noted the short timeframe for consultation on the Bill may lead to unintended consequences.

The Independent Ministerial Advisory Council said—

It is the view of the IMAC that the fast-tracked process for developing this legislation has not allowed for an appropriate and evidence-based consideration of complex issues and any potential unintended consequences of the Bill.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission said—

The evidence is also clear that making laws without appropriately scrutinising the unintended consequences of those decisions, will ultimately have far reaching implications.

Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group said—

... when legislation like this is rushed it can have unintended consequences and it can also trigger victims who already distrust Government.

These are just some of the many statements that outline negative unintended consequences that may occur because the government has rushed this legislation through. As outlined by the Bar Association, it is noted that one unintended consequence of this bill is that any incentive for young people to enter pleas of guilty to serious offences will be either completely removed or significantly reduced. They stated—

The consequence will be profound for:

victims of crime who will not only have the outcomes of their matters delayed pending trials and appeals, but will also have to give evidence;

the family members of victims of crime; and

the witnesses to the crimes.

As the Bar Association outlined at the public hearing—

It is the experience of our members that young people plead guilty to murder with greater frequency than their adult counterparts and this is due to the ability on sentencing for judges to reflect on their relative culpability and mitigating features in the length and nature of the sentence.

This was raised by others and, as such, there is a potential for increased delays due to the number of cases awaiting court. Therefore, we ask the government: what modelling has been done? Is the government going to resource the courts more and, if so, by how much and where?

We have also heard from stakeholders that victims themselves might have to be more involved in the court matters due to these laws, as a sentencing principle will now be primarily related to the victim. As the QLS has stated—

The new provision will result in the perverse circumstance where, for example, a child might be sentenced to a higher penalty on a less serious offence than an offender who has committed a more serious offence because the victim was more engaged in the proceedings.

If that is the case, does that sound appropriate? In their submission, the Queensland Law Society also stated—

In effect, these proposed amendments will inevitably put the victim's experience, and therefore evidence, in centre focus in the context of the criminal trial.

That comes from expert practitioners who work in the field and in our courtrooms every day. They went on to say that the amendments may result in an 'increased burden on court registries in regards to an increase in applications filed to cross-examine victims' and an 'increase in court time to hear and determine these applications'. They also stated that they would 'further increase the need for legal representation including for victims'.

Labor members will always support victims and their rights, which is why we need to ensure that the laws before the House do not have unintended consequences against victims, as raised by stakeholders. We certainly do not want a situation to occur, as outlined by the QLS—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** This is the Queensland Law Society, which said—

The provisions will create a tiered system of justice with victims who are more articulate, better resourced and better educated having more potential to influence the outcome than those who are not.

It should be noted, as outlined by the Victims' Commissioner, that—

The current laws require the court to have regard to any impact of the offence on a victim, including harm mentioned in information relating to the victim given to the court under Victim Impact Statements.

Stakeholders have also indicated that there might be an unintended consequence with the legislation resulting in children receiving harsher penalties than adults for the same offence. The Office of the Public Guardian has stated—

OPG notes that section 9(2) (a) of the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* is not proposed to be amended, which maintains the principle of imprisonment as a last resort for adults. This discrepancy between the child and adult sentencing frameworks could be seen as discriminatory toward children.

The Queensland Law Society has stated that removing this principle for children while retaining it for adults is vexed and inappropriate in relation to detention.

The government's own Victims' Commissioner, a position that those opposite voted for, stated, 'The proposed amendments to section 150 creates incongruity with section 9' of the *Penalties and*

Sentences Act. As such, it is incumbent on the government to outline why there will now be a two-tier system in respect of sentencing options for the same offence: one that will apply to children and one that will apply to adults. Also, it appears that when taking into account the harm to the victim it is for all offences if committed by a child but only violent and particular sexual offences for adults. These are just some of the unintended consequences that have been through the truncated committee process. IMAC stated—

Restorative justice has important benefits for victims and victim-survivors, young offenders and their families, and the community more broadly. The complete removal of restorative justice orders for the 13 serious offences outlined in the Bill is concerning and not supported by the IMAC.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin, who said that those statements by IMAC are not correct. I think that is disrespectful to the individuals who have put forward those submissions. On behalf of Voice for Victims, Natalie Merlehan stated—

... the ability to use restorative justice, whether at request of the defence or prosecution should not be removed, and if the rights of victims are to be considered as 'front and centre' the choice to undertake restorative justice, where suitable should be allowed to be considered through the appropriate channels and as a part of a healing journey for the victim and a willing perpetrator.

The YFS Community Legal Centre stated—

The removal of restorative justice options for offences classified as "Adult Crime, Adult Time" is a step backwards. Evidence demonstrates that restorative justice not only reduces reoffending but also fosters accountability and rehabilitation while providing opportunities for victims to participate meaningfully in the justice process.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Give us some figures for the 13 most serious crimes in the last 10 years.

**Ms SCANLON:** The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak believes—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Are these the people you were defunding?

**Ms SCANLON:**—that restorative justice orders serve an important function in facilitating rehabilitation as well as providing a sense of justice to victims of crime. I note the Attorney-General's interjection when I talked about an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. That is incredibly disrespectful.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. From the former government that defunded ATSILS—I take personal offence and I ask that she withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr):** Member for Gaven, the member for Nanango has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. They also advised that restorative justice delivers measurable benefits, with 77 per cent of children either reducing or altogether ceasing offending after participating in a restorative justice process.

The Crisafulli LNP government went to the election saying that they would listen to experts and take the advice. Therefore, it is disappointing to see them rushing through changes that remove elements of the law that the experts have indicated have a positive impact on the justice system. Restorative justice is not mandated; it is a sentencing option. If the bill is passed it will be removed as an option for those offences.

I turn now to the issue of capacity. As has been outlined previously by the QAO, Queensland's youth detention centres are consistently operating above their safe capacity. Via the statement of compatibility, the government itself has acknowledged that the amendments may result in children being held in watch houses for extended periods. It is incumbent on the government to explain in detail how it will manage the situation and ensure everyone is safe. It is incumbent on the government to release the modelling that they have received regarding capacity. At the hearing the director-general, Mr Gee, said—

... I do not intend to breach the cabinet handbook. I will not be talking about matters that may or may not be part of the budget process or the Cabinet Budget Review Committee.

Frankly, the director-general has let the cat out of the bag. We know that modelling has been done. We know that the government is, therefore, considering it. To ensure that as parliamentarians we are fully informed regarding the impacts of these laws, we call on the government to release the modelling today.



It is incumbent on the government to ensure that the staff of watch houses and detention centres are provided with every possible resource to ensure that they themselves are kept safe. The Queensland Police Union stated—

... the QPU flags the potential for increased or sustained detention capacity issues at Queensland Police Service watchhouses  
 ... Youth detention centres are continually over capacity and young offenders are often held in QPS watchhouses for lengthy periods.

In their submission the Inspector of Detention Services stated—

We are concerned that the new sentencing laws in the Bill will increase the risk of prolonged detention of children in watch-houses and in doing so will increase the risk of harm to them.

They went on to say—

To mitigate this risk, we submit that the Queensland Government should delay the commencement of the Bill until the Wacol Youth Remand Centre is operational.

It is imperative that the government outlines to this chamber Bill how it will deal with capacity issues to protect not only those young individuals but also, and most importantly, the hardworking and dedicated public servants on the front line in these centres. How will they be safe?

The Labor opposition is ready to work with the government on this complex issue to ensure positive outcomes are derived for all Queenslanders. As such, we understand the need for provisions regarding the ability to promptly transport 18-year-olds from the youth justice environment to the Corrective Services environment. Whilst there have been some issues raised, we understand that they will hopefully be worked through and implemented in a sound and appropriate manner.

In respect of information updates being provided to victims via an opt-out model, we support this provision. We agree with the principle of opening up the Childrens Court more, with appropriate safeguards around it. Opening the court to certain individuals and media whilst maintaining certain safeguards might result in a positive outcome where Queenslanders are better informed about their justice system. It also builds on the reforms undertaken by the former Labor government earlier this year. However, it is clear that this amendment has been put forward by the government without clear consultation with the government's own Victims' Commissioner. In their submission, they stated that—

... the proposed removal of section 20(2) of the CCA fails to recognise that there may be appropriate and justified reasons to exclude certain parties from a hearing of a criminal proceeding of a child.

While we support the rights of victims, we ask that the government look at this to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place in particular circumstances. We also heard from stakeholders that the legislation does not match up to the government's goal of early intervention and we ask the government to explain how their laws and policies will marry up. Act for Kids said—

We applaud the Queensland Government's stated intention to invest in prevention and early intervention and an evidence-based approach to children and families and see this Bill as opposite to that intention and likely to negate all evidence-based interventions with the result of increasing crime in Queensland.

The Queensland Human Rights Commissioner said, with respect to earlier intervention and rehabilitation programs, that—

... the harm that will be caused by this Bill will outweigh these efforts and undermine their intended outcomes.

It is up to the government to explain how their programs will work and how the legislation intersects with them. The feedback from stakeholders is significant, particularly when you consider that this bill was introduced at 11.28 am on Thursday, 28 November, declared urgent and sent to the committee by 11.50 am. The record reflects that the Labor opposition raised strong reservations regarding the urgency motion and pointed out that the House could have sat one week later—next week—to provide the committee more time but that offer was not taken up. Within just over a week, the committee—stacked with LNP members—rammed the hearings through. This short timeframe has meant that many stakeholders, indeed many members, have not had the ability to completely appreciate the totality of the legislation before us. Associate Professor Terry Goldsworthy from Bond University, a name those opposite in the LNP are familiar with and refer to, said—

It is disappointing that such a tight timeframe was imposed on submissions in relation to this bill. It would have been much more prudent to allow sufficient time for comprehensive submissions to be made. The last time legislation was rushed through the parliamentary process like this it resulted in the ill-conceived and problematic VLAD anti-bikie laws that were a dismal failure in terms of combating organised crime.

Those are the words of Terry Goldsworthy.

**Mr Stevens:** It worked! The bikies left town.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. For the new members in this House, it was the former LNP government, which was overseen by the member for Kawana, which implemented these reforms which did not work and were proven by the courts as such.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b) in relation to the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr):** Thank you, member for Nanango. I was just going to refer to that myself. Please bring it back to the bill. You have strayed from the bill, member for Gaven.

**Ms SCANLON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, it was in relation to a submission but I will come back. The Australian Association of Research in Education outlined that this very parliament—

... has not provided adequate time to conduct a full inquiry and this threatens to undermine the credibility of the Bill.

The Law Society said—

The timeframe for us to consider this submission has been truncated.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Excuse me, member for Gaven, could you please take a seat. Member for Pine Rivers, was that comment addressed to me personally?

**Ms Boyd:** No, it was not.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Ms SCANLON:** The Queensland Law Society went on to say—

We did not receive a confidential consultation of the Bill before its introduction ... A fundamental tenet of our system of parliamentary democracy is that stakeholders have a meaningful opportunity to be involved in the consultative process. The above timeframes are not consistent with this.

Legal Aid stated it was—

... unable to provide comprehensive feedback noting the very limited window for consultation and the nature and magnitude of the amendments being proposed.

I could go on. These are just some examples of many stakeholders expressing their frustration with the lack of consultation provided to them by the LNP government.

It is clear from the actions in respect of this bill, coupled with the LNP's actions regarding ramming legislation through the last sitting and their motion earlier today, that the LNP are not interested in the proper process of democracy in this state. I have previously stated that the Labor opposition acknowledges that the LNP took a position, albeit in slogan form, to the election and the people of Queensland voted them in.

As the Leader of the Opposition has outlined, we will not stand in the way of increased maximum sentences. However, it is clear from the submitters and the public commentary that the bill before the House makes substantial other changes to the justice and youth justice system in Queensland which were not canvassed during the general election. Why did the LNP not release an exposure draft when in opposition or when in government to get public comment, particularly given that, before the election, I am advised that the then leader of the opposition said during a leaders' debate that the laws had been drafted?

It was extremely obvious to us and all stakeholders that there was one important stakeholder missing in the conversation during the committee process—that is, the Queensland Police Service. They are the Queenslanders on the front line every day fighting crime and keeping our community safe. To not hear from them during the process is a sad indictment on the part of the LNP government. The Labor opposition, on behalf of Queenslanders, wanted to ask them a series of questions regarding this legislation, including: how they would operationalise the laws in the timeframe required by the government; how would the Queensland Police Service train their officers in the new procedures and laws in the timeframes required; are the police ready for any additional demand; and what contingencies have they put in place? These are just some of the many questions that have been left unanswered. It is disappointing that the committee chairperson, a former police officer, did not go out of their way to hear from former colleagues, and we wonder why. Today, we call on the police minister to stand up during this debate and answer these questions.

While the consultation process was truncated, many constructive ideas and feedback were given by stakeholders, including the requirement for a legislative review period. Legislative review mechanisms are not a new thing. They appear across the statute books and the government, which is

true to its word, should not be afraid to include a review clause. As such, I can advise the House that the Labor opposition will be moving an amendment during consideration in detail to include a legislative review mechanism to ensure these laws will be reviewed 18 months after they commence.

Ensuring these laws can be properly reviewed within the term of government will do to two things. The bill's genesis is about support for victims and victim numbers. Premier Crisafulli, when introducing the bill, said this will be a government that has as its focus a safer community and fewer victims of crime. During the leaders' debate during the general election, the then leader of the opposition answered, 'You bet,' to a question from a respected and considered Nine Network journalist who asked him, 'Your biggest campaign promise is that crime will be lower under the LNP and there will be fewer victims year on year, if you are elected. If you fail to do that, will you resign as premier?' It was alarming to hear the testimony of the director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support before the committee when he said—

I know that the government will announce how it intends to count the number of victims in the near future. That is a matter for whole-of-government consideration.

Premier Crisafulli, during the election, used the ABS statistics which are published yearly based on the information and data provided by each jurisdiction. In our case, it is the Queensland Police Service. This is based on the current method provided by the ABS. We know that this data exists. The police use QPRIME and other computerised systems to capture it in real time and, as such, Queenslanders have a right to know. I table a copy of the amendments and associated material for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, amendments to be moved by Ms Meaghan Scanlon MP.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Ms Meaghan Scanlon's amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Meaghan Scanlon's amendments.


I was further interested to read that despite the fact that the statement of compatibility and the statement about exceptional circumstances related to provisions amending the Youth Justice Act it was not signed by the youth justice minister, and I wonder why that is. As I stated at the beginning, one victim of crime is one too many. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that our laws not only meet community expectations but also are evidence based and work.

While we acknowledge the outcome of the election and the policy that was taken to it by the LNP, that policy was in slogan and infancy form at best. It was not detailed policy that thought through all of the issues. While the Labor opposition will not stand in the way of the LNP government's ability to implement the policy that we and stakeholders understand they took to the election, we also have an obligation on behalf of the many stakeholders who did and did not have the ability to submit to the committee process and to scrutinise the laws. As such, I move—

That the words 'now read a second time' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- '1. withdrawn and redrafted to remove the following provisions and elements with the remaining elements contained in a separate bill, to be reintroduced and considered during this week's sitting:
  - (a) clauses 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 23, 28, 37(2), 39 to 45, 47 to 53, 58 and 59;
  - (b) elements of clause 19 that deal with restorative justice; and
2. The removed elements in 1. be referred back to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to undertake full and proper examination and report back to the House by early 2025.'

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): An amendment to the second reading question has been moved. Any member speaking from now until the question is put must speak to the amendment.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.22 pm): I rise to speak to the amendment moved by the member for Gaven to ensure these laws are properly considered and effective. At the outset, let me make this clear. Like every other member in this House, I believe that everyone deserves to feel safe and must be safe in their home, their workplace and their community and as they go about their daily lives.

We have listened and we have heard the views of Queenslanders at the election. Labor will not stand in the way of increased maximum sentences for youth offenders. The proposed reasoned amendment moved by the member for Gaven makes that clear. We respect the will of Queenslanders and note that certain parts of the bill reflect that outcome. We support Queenslanders, including victims of crime.

However, the question that the LNP cannot answer is: will the laws before the House in totality in this bill keep Queenslanders safe? Do all elements of this bill properly support victims? That is

because the bill, as outlined by many stakeholders, goes further than what the LNP took to the election. That means it may inherently contain elements that lead to a number of unintended consequences. That is important to note because we have sought amendments to ensure the clauses that pertain to certain elements not adequately canvassed at the election are appropriately scrutinised and are not rammed through this House after just two days of consultation.

Our proposed amendment to the government motion this morning where the LNP moved to guillotine debate on this bill was designed to allow more time to deal with elements of the bill on a clause-by-clause basis and specifically address matters that experts fear will be bad for victims. Queenslanders did not vote for laws that would put victims on trial. The Queensland Law Society submitted—

In effect, these proposed amendments will inevitably put the victim's experience, and therefore evidence, in centre focus in the context of the criminal trial.

The amendments proposed by the opposition to the way the House should deal with this bill, which the government rejected, would have allowed the House to appropriately deal with the matters in the bill that were not clearly taken to the election, especially those that stakeholders, particularly victims groups, have raised concerns about throughout the committee process. When they voted against that amendment it was another clear signal to everyone who cares about a safer community that the LNP are not ready to answer questions of detail.

When this bill was made urgent, our concern was that stakeholders and victims themselves may not get the time they need to consider the impacts properly. In last week's consultation we all saw that that was the case. Instead of weeks, we saw just a couple of days of scrutiny. It is clear, in the view of stakeholders, that there has not been adequate time for the experts to have an informed say. The LNP have a track record with situations like this. As the House has already heard, the last time the LNP were in office the Queensland Law Society said of their approach to these sorts of laws—

This prevented in-depth analysis, thereby increasing the risk of unintended drafting consequences remaining unidentified.

Twelve years later, at last week's Brisbane committee hearing, the Queensland Law Society stated—

I think that we are yet to explore all of the unintended consequences because of the shortness of the period in consultation.

The LNP have not learned since that time 12 years ago. In fact, they have actually become worse. The Justice Reform Initiative stated—

The Bill, and the extraordinarily limited process for consultation, is unfortunately a textbook example of the kind of rushed, politicised law making that will inevitably have significant, harmful consequences for all Queenslanders.


We on this side of the House believe that policies and interventions must be evidence based—evidence given by experts; experts that the LNP said they would listen to. That is why we are committed to working with the government to ensure the best possible laws are enacted to support all Queenslanders. That is why we have sought this amendment. That is why we have asked the House to further consider some elements of the bill through an appropriately robust consultation process. It is why the House should support a review mechanism of 18 months after the start of the legislation. It is also why another amendment to the bill should be agreed to—that is, to put in legislation that victim numbers in the same format provided to the ABS by the Queensland Police Service should be provided to the parliament for tabling and, therefore, publication. That way, the public record will reveal the outcomes of laws so that police, not press releases, will say whether the aim of reducing crime and the number of victims is achieved.

This and the amendment moved by the member for Gaven are sensible and should be uncontroversial amendments. If not agreed to by the government, the LNP make it clear that transparency is not their objective. Labor believes that Queenslanders are entitled to have a government that is accountable and as open as possible. Queenslanders deserve a government that they can trust. If the government will not agree to a review and accountability, it is clear that they are all about politics, not about people—the Queenslanders they promised a safer community to. Should the government reject the amendment moved by the member for Gaven it will be clear that this LNP government cannot be trusted.

**Ms FARMER:** Speaker—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Nanango.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (8.28 pm): It is obvious that this is a desperate opposition who—

**Ms FARMER:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. With the greatest respect, could I ask for your consideration of the fact that I was actually on my feet and asked for the call before the member for Nanango.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken advice and I have made the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you very much for your consideration. We have just listened for 30 minutes to the shadow Attorney-General criticise victims in this state and criticise a bill—

**Ms SCANLON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the comments made by the Attorney-General and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. It is great to have you in the chair for this debate, Mr Speaker. We have just had half an hour of the shadow Attorney-General criticising the bill from the beginning to the end but then saying, 'Nothing to see here. We're going to vote for it.' This is a desperate attempt by the opposition to not vote on this bill. It is a desperate attempt by this opposition which is just trying to play politics with victims of crime. This opposition is so clueless that—

**Mr Mander:** Support the laws!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. Just support the laws. For 30 minutes we have heard the shadow Attorney-General say, 'We're going to support the laws. We will not stand in the way', but they are going to bring in a desperate little amendment to try to stop voting on the laws this week. The opposition has not been able to get their party room sorted. They had to rush in the back door because the left did not want this to go through. The right was saying, 'No, we must stand up for victims.' The left was saying, 'No, we're for the rights of the offender.' What was the old guard doing? I do not know what the old guard did because the shadow Attorney-General—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—the wannabe—could not even circulate these amendments. What a desperate little attempt not to vote for these strong laws that are going to put victims first. These laws are going to put victims before offenders. What does the opposition in Queensland want to do? They want to not vote for these laws. We just heard the Manager of Opposition Business say that we have these amendments to enable people to come back by early 2025. The opposition wants to give offenders a free ride over Christmas. Guess when offences go through the roof?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have silence in the chamber. Those on my right are not helping. We cannot hear the member for Nanango.

**Mr Butcher:** That is a miracle.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I do take that interjection from the member for Gladstone. That is an effort. This lazy opposition is desperately trying to avoid a vote on this bill. It is the government that is standing up for victims. It is the government that is standing up for those people who want to have Christmas safely in their homes. We are standing up for the people of Goondiwindi—

**Mr Lister:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. There is a hotbed of youth offenders running roughshod over Queensland right now. We were elected with a mandate to bring in the Making Queensland Safer Laws to ensure we put victims right. Guess what this lazy opposition wants to do? They want to avoid it. They want to stall the vote. They want to—

**Mrs Gerber:** They put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from the youth justice minister. The biggest criticism the shadow Attorney-General had was that the youth justice minister allowed me to sign it. Thank you very much, because that is what collaboration is. That is what working together is. That is why we have been working with the Premier, the police minister, the Minister for Youth Justice and—go figure—the department of community safety. That is what we have been doing. That is what collaboration is about. We know the former government was lost in their little silos, but the Crisafulli government is working together and we are putting victims first. We are putting victims before offenders. This opposition rabble is delaying the vote on making Queensland safer. All they want to do with this amendment is say to the people of Queensland, 'Be afraid over Christmas. Be afraid on Boxing Day.' I can tell you right now that we will not stand for it. The Crisafulli government was elected to make Queensland safer by Christmas. We are doing what we said we would do. This opposition has hung the shadow Attorney-General out to dry. They allowed her to stand in the House for 30 minutes and

embarrass herself by saying, 'We're not going to stand in the way. We're going to support this bill.' The opposition has not been able to settle on what they are doing because obviously the left needs until—

**Mr O'Connor:** They can't sneak out the back door on this one.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. They cannot sneak out the—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you are speaking to the amendment?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am speaking to the amendment. I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney. They cannot sneak out the back door on this one. Their sticky feet need to be on the paper. We committed to voting for Making Queensland Safer Laws, which will be law by Christmas, but they have an amendment to delay the vote. They are over there laughing about victims. They are over there laughing about the people of Queensland who want to be safe in their homes over Christmas. They are laughing about the people who voted against them.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. They are misleading the House. I take personal offence. We are not laughing at victims.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I did withdraw because I understand the member over there might be one of those members who does not want to vote for this bill, and obviously that is why they have brought in this amendment. I know that we have many new members of parliament, so let's remind the House what this opposition did when they were in government. In March 2023 when they brought in the Strengthening Community Safety Bill they rammed it through. There was no committee, not one day. They just rammed it through on the day. There he is, the former police minister who brought it in and rammed it through with no committee.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Currumbin, you are now warned.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Where was their outrage about the statement of compatibility with human rights? They were completely silent about that. The former police minister brings in a bill that they thought—

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your ruling on relevance. I understood we were speaking to the amendment put forward by the member for Gaven.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you have one minute and 20 seconds left to finish your contribution to the amendment.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** When talking about this amendment I cannot wait for the contribution from the former youth justice minister, which is why we are in this position right now. There have been 10 years of failure. That is why these amendments have been brought in. The opposition has brought in amendments to delay this bill until February or March next year. That is what these amendments do. How many people will suffer because of this lazy opposition which set up their shadow Attorney-General to fail? How embarrassing is that. They set her up to fail with these amendments. We heard an interjection by the former youth justice minister. How dare the former youth justice minister stand up in this House when we are here in this situation because of the failures of the former government. We would not be in this situation if that government did not change the laws 10 years ago. We know these amendments are a desperate ploy by a desperate opposition that is desperately trying to find their position in this world, and it is wrong if they vote against this.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.39 pm): Oh, she is having such a tizz. When the amendment was put by the member for Gaven, they were running around: 'What has happened there?' It is very clear from that very embarrassing contribution from the member for Nanango that she actually is not across the bill and she is not across the clauses. It was just a bit excruciating hearing all of that.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker—

**Ms FARMER:** Oh, she is going to take offence!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that contribution and I ask her to withdraw.

**Ms FARMER:** I withdraw; it is nice to know some things in life are predictable.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, when you withdraw, you withdraw unreservedly.

**Ms FARMER:** I withdraw unreservedly, Speaker. Thank you for your guidance. In rising to speak on this bill, I am very conscious—and I am speaking to the amendment—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member on her feet just said she was talking to the bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

**Ms FARMER:** In speaking to the amendment put forward—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have some silence in the chamber. I cannot hear the member for Bulimba.

**Ms FARMER:** I am very conscious, in speaking to this amendment, that there will be people watching and listening who have been victims of some of the most horrific crimes imaginable, who in the midst of living their daily good lives have lost loved ones through crimes of violence that came out of nowhere. At least two of those people are our colleagues in this parliament, and I refer to the member for Capalaba and to my good friend the member for Cooper. We are all familiar with their stories, and we all stand with them in support of their journey. I personally do not even know how they fit what happened to them in their lives and are still able to stand. I do not know that of the other victims whose horrific stories have also shocked Queensland. Whether you are a victim of a heinous crime, whether you have had your car stolen, whether someone broke into your house in the middle of the night when your kids were sleeping—no matter what the scope or magnitude of the crime, it has a lasting impact on you. It has an impact on our communities and on Queensland if you do not feel safe at home, at work or in your daily life.

In my previous role as youth justice minister, I spoke to many victims. Although their experiences and need for support were different, the one common factor was that they wanted to make sure that what happened to them did not happen to anyone else. I listened many times to the member for Capalaba before he was elected and to the member for Cooper as they have spoken of their experience. They clearly have different views on what needs to be done to make sure no-one else has to suffer what they suffered. The Victims' Commissioner highlighted this need to reflect that broad range of responses. She stated—

Criminal justice responses must be capable of responding to this diversity. Critical to this is creating options for victims and providing victims with choice. This is consistent with the principles of trauma-informed practice: safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment.

Our part in that needs to be that when we legislate as a parliament we are doing everything we can to make sure that the laws we put in place to do the job—and that is to keep the community safe—achieve everything possible to make sure that others do not have the same experiences. We need to know that to the best of our knowledge our laws work. We know that community safety was one of the issues on the minds of many Queenslanders going to the election.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance in terms of relevance to the amendment as put.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It has been somewhat broad ranging since I have been here, I have to admit. Member for Bulimba, you are speaking to the amendment.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you, Speaker. We know that community safety continues to be one of the issues for many people, and we heard that message loud and clear. I repeat the message from the opposition leader: we are listening and we will not be standing in the way of increasing maximum sentences. However, what the LNP went to the election on was four words—Adult Crime, Adult Time—and that we will get those laws in before Christmas. What we saw when this bill was tabled was that the four-word slogan had turned into a 52-page bill that contained some things which had been canvassed broadly, but it also contained a whole lot of things that nobody had ever heard of. There were 170 submissions. They were given two days to submit. There were six hours of hearings altogether and we did not even get to speak to the Police Commissioner and the Victims' Commissioner. So many of those experts—in fact, even the experts who are usually on their side—raised concerns that, as a result of the rushed way in which this legislation was introduced, there would be significant unintended consequences: every single expert. When I speak more substantively to the bill I will actually raise some of those.

We acknowledge that it is not backed up by any evidence whatsoever. They never told the Queensland public that not only was there no evidence to support their claims but in fact the evidence shows there will be an increase in victims as a result of their laws. Nevertheless, we accept that the four-word slogan was taken to the people and that they voted for the LNP and that it would be in before

Christmas. There is no other element of this bill that was ever canvassed broadly with the Queensland public and it was certainly not said that any of those other elements had to actually be done before Christmas.

I hear this outrage on the other side of the House about how they are in support of victims and we are not. If expert after expert after expert after expert says that they are concerned about the impact on victims, then I would like to know what is the problem with going into February. We are not asking for a year; we are saying, as every single expert has asked, to please give us more time.


There is the possibility that victims would be cross-examined. I know the Attorney-General said that it is not the bill. Every single expert says that, in practice, if impact on victims is made one of the primary principles then defence lawyers are going to cross-examine the victim. We have had experts say that if victim impact statements are going to be of such significance then it means those victims who are more articulate or more able are going to be able to achieve different outcomes. We have heard evidence time after time that there will be a great reduction in pleas so cases will go to trial and the length of time between the offence and the actual trial will be enormous because there is not the resourcing to actually get those through the system. They are going to take away restorative justice conferencing, and the satisfaction for victims is above 70 per cent.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order again. The shadow minister is now straying into the substance of the bill as opposed to confining her contribution purely to the amendment. She is straying into a broader debate when it comes to the substance of the bill as opposed to confining those comments to the actual amendment itself.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. Member, I ask you to speak to the amendment. I know it is a broad amendment. You have two minutes to round out.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you, Speaker. I am speaking specifically to clause 23. That point that was made by the Leader of the House is truly scary because he is not following what is actually happening here. With these amendments, we are seeking to protect victims because expert after expert after expert has said these would have a huge impact on victims. They say they want to listen to experts, but they only want to listen to experts who agree with them. These are a wide range of experts saying, 'You can possibly have enormous impact on victims if you do not look at these laws properly, if you do not scrutinise them.' If the members opposite really care about victims, what is it to them to take an extra six or eight weeks to make sure they scrutinise this bill properly, to make sure they minimise any unintended consequences? Why would they not do this when there was no mandate? There was no mandate to take this range of completely new and unheard of clauses to the public. No-one gave them that mandate. We are saying to them support those victims. You have people saying to you those victims need support. Give them enough time to make sure that you are managing unintended consequences.

I must make a point about the Attorney-General saying they are going to be needing to arrest people over Christmas. You need to talk to your directors-general because they said to us in the hearing the other day actually that you were not going to pick up any kids until the middle of the year. I support the amendment and I hope that this House will pass it.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.51 pm): I want to make a few comments on the proposed second reading amendment. I do not require 10 minutes to do it. I obviously support the second reading amendment. More time to consider such a significant bill is obviously warranted, but I do not see why we should be stopping with a few clauses in the bill. The stakeholders that appeared before the committee—and I say this as a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee—were not just concerned about clauses 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 22, 28, 37 et cetera—

**Mr Hunt:** Some of them, not all.

**Mr BERKMAN:** The chair can quack all he likes down there. Was there a single stakeholder who appeared at the committee hearing who said they did not think this was rushed, who said that they were not concerned about the truncated timeframes? I cannot think of a single one. Maybe the chair wants to get to his feet and speak to the second reading amendment that is proposed, but I suspect he will not come up with one because there were none. Everyone who appeared told us that these are far-reaching, gravely significant proposals in this bill and, what's more, they all said that not only had they not had enough time to scrutinise the bill, but that they were concerned—and this included evidence from Voices for Victims—that these amendments might make the community less safe. The government might want to turn a blind eye to those observations, they want might want to pretend that it did not happen, they might want to truncate these processes to the point of absurdity to try to quiet



the views of stakeholders, whether they are supportive or otherwise, but they cannot pretend that those views were not expressed.

To send it back to the committee is the most sensible move we could make because the process was, frankly, a sham. I am not just talking about all the usual deficiencies in a committee process where these portfolio committees are clearly locked down, tightly controlled by government members with the chair's casting vote. These are deficiencies in the committee process which we have been talking about for years in here. It is a ridiculous process, no matter how much work the secretariat does behind the scenes—and they did; they absolutely worked like stink to get this report done—and to support the committee to the point where we could sign something off in only eight days after the legislation was introduced. What a joke! Eight days! Do not even bother referring it to the committee if you are going to pretend eight days is consultation.

**Mr Molhoek:** These aren't new ideas.

**Mr BERKMAN:** The member for Southport says these aren't new ideas. Again, we are left with this ridiculous situation where one side of the House tries to justify their procedural excesses on the basis that the other side has done worse. Where does that get us? Eye for an eye and the whole world is blind. If you really claim to have any respect for this institution—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, your comments will come through the chair, please.

**Mr BERKMAN:** If they really want to claim—Mr Speaker, I apologise—to have any respect for this institution, they just have to suck it up and actually deal with scrutiny. Five days to make submissions on the bill.

**A government member:** You had six months to make submissions for Queensland.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Maiwar has the call. He is the only one who has the call.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Again, lots of big talk from the tough guys who won the election. Yes, we know that. It is no surprise to anyone here, but this bill—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Ok, let's be clear about this. Adult Crime, Adult Time is not a policy, it is a slogan. When you translate a slogan into legislation, or even a policy, it has to have some substance to it. No-one knew what they were proposing when we went to the election. We had, as a community, five days in total to put together submissions on this bill. Submitters deserve better than this; they absolutely deserve better. The AG says that this is about stalling or somehow it is about laziness. If I was being lazy about this, we could wave the damn thing through tomorrow and I would not have to think about it again. I want this to go back to my committee so we can spend the time that it deserves so that we can respect the process and properly scrutinise it.


This observation from the Attorney-General that we should be afraid over Christmas, I cannot let that one pass. 'The non-government members want the community to be afraid over Christmas.' Absolute rot! Again, it carries this underlying supposition that somehow doubling penalties is going to mean that 10- to 17-year-olds are actually deterred when this does nothing to address the underlying drivers of offending.

I wonder if they read the submission from YETI. I am pretty sure it was the YETI submission that said, 'Young people are not going to be aware of these changes. They are not going to have any deterrent effect.' When I put it to the director-general at the hearing—I asked him point-blank, a couple times over—can he provide evidence that increasing penalties in the way the bill proposes, will the Adult Crime, Adult Time act as anything of a deterrent for young people, we got nothing; we got crickets. What he did was he referred to a single journal article that is 15 years old and relies on data from the turn of the century, like that is somehow evidence enough to overturn decades and decades of well understood evidence about the likelihood of an increase in offending.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, speak to the amendment, please. You are straying a little.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Thank you, Speaker. This is not a radical proposal that we actually spend the constitutionally enshrined minimum six weeks talking about such significant legislation. For all the squawking we heard from the now government when they were in opposition about the government's excesses, we are at two sitting days so far and they have shown every bit as much interest in maintaining the integrity of this institution—far less, in fact, I would suggest—than the former government did.

I will leave my comments there. I support the second reading amendment and, in fact, I would say let's send the whole bill back. Let's think about it properly, let's take our time and actually do our jobs as legislators.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.58 pm): This amendment is an absolute disgrace to the committee process that recommended the bill be passed. It is a disgrace to the people of Queensland who gave this government a mandate to bring these laws in. It is disrespectful to every single victim of crime who spoke with the opposition while we prosecuted Labor's youth crime crisis, who spoke with us about the need for these laws. It is disrespectful to Queenslanders over Christmas because do you know what this amendment will mean for the six to eight weeks over Christmas that this law is not in place? It will mean hundreds and thousands more crimes. There were 46,000 proven offences under the former Labor government in the last financial year.

Let's speak to some of the elements of this amendment that the opposition is trying to peddle. Some of these amendments are designed to strike fear into the hearts of victims. I am not sure if you are aware, Mr Speaker, but in a former life I was a federal prosecutor. In a former life I prosecuted offences like this, and I can say that these laws do not mean that victims will be cross-examined. These laws do not change the way victims are treated in a cross-examination situation. These laws do not change that process in the prosecution of a criminal case. Victims of crime will get to have their say now. The rights of victims of crime will be put before the rights of offenders under these laws.

The proposition put by those opposite that victims of crime will be cross-examined under these laws—that victims of crime should be scared because of the court process—is another disgraceful fear campaign. As a former prosecutor, I know the way cases are conducted. When you put a victim of crime on the stand to tell their story, guess what? That does damage to the defence—that does damage to the offender—because the victim of crime gets to tell their story. The victim of crime gets the opportunity to tell the court about the impact of that crime on them.

Let's talk about another aspect of these amendments that is a complete furphy from those opposite. Those opposite are trying to peddle the notion that restorative justice is completely gone. This bill allows for youths who are prosecuted under Adult Crime, Adult Time to receive the same restorative justice processes as adults. This is a complete fear campaign by those opposite. During the court process, youths who are being subjected to adult time for their crimes can receive the same—

**Mr J KELLY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on their feet seems to be speaking to the substance to the bill. I ask for your guidance in relation to relevance to the amendment.

**Mrs GERBER:** This very clause in the amendment talks about that—and you are a former Deputy Speaker, but let's move on. Let's move on to clause 7. Clause 7 is about the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. Do you want to know Labor's record in relation to the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle? Motor vehicle offences increased by 3,675 offences over the last five years of the Labor government. That is the record of those opposite. When they were in government, motor vehicle offences increased—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I appreciate that the minister is referring to clauses to which the amendment pertains, but the amendment is about how the House will deal with those clauses, not the substance of the clauses themselves. I appreciate that you have given some latitude, but I think the latitude being enjoyed by the minister is well beyond that enjoyed by any other speaker today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There has been some latitude given to all speakers, but concentrate on the amendment.

**Mrs GERBER:** Absolutely. I am happy to, Mr Speaker. Let's talk about clause 8, criminal history. Those opposite are trying to delay these sections of our laws coming into play before Christmas. One of those clauses—criminal history—allows for a court to take into account the full criminal history of a youth offender. They are trying to delay that. They are trying to make sure that does not come into play before Christmas. We promised Queenslanders that it would come into play before Christmas. We have a mandate from the Queensland people to bring these laws in before Christmas. Those opposite come in here and say they will support these laws but, 'We will only put up an amendment that talks about more data,' and 'We will only put up an amendment that talks about a review period. We will not put up an amendment that talks about any of the objections we have made.' Why? It is because those opposite are trying to run ANOTHER fear campaign. It is all they have. All they have are fear campaigns.

Let's talk about yet another clause. Clause 15 deals with sentencing principles. Victims were consulted on this. Queenslanders were consulted on this. We listened to those victims and we removed detention as a last resort. We told Queenslanders before the election that this is what would happen, that these would be the laws. Those opposite say in this amendment that they were not consulted, but the ultimate consultation was with the people of Queensland. We put our plan forward before the election, comprehensively consulted with them and guess what? Queenslanders overwhelmingly rejected those opposite. Why did they reject them? They rejected them because youth crime has never been worse in this state. They rejected them because they are suffering—with their homes being broken into, with their cars being pinched and with assaults. People have lost their lives to the youth crime crisis created by those opposite and members want to come into this House and delay these laws so that criminals can commit more crime over Christmas.

Throughout 2023 and 2024 there was a 12 per cent increase in youth crime on the previous financial year under those opposite, there was a 51 per cent increase in youth crime in the last five years under Labor and there was a 98 per cent increase in youth crime over the last 10 years.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Come back to the amendments, thank you.

**Mrs GERBER:** By moving the amendment they are delaying our Making Queensland Safer Laws. They are going back on everything they are trying to say. Why? Because it is a fear campaign. They are trying to run another fear campaign.


**Ms Grace:** It is just a slogan.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the member from McConnel. This was comprehensively consulted on. If it is just a slogan, why are those opposite trying to delay it and send it back? I will tell you why: they do not believe there was a youth crime crisis in Queensland. They are still denying it. The former Labor member for Capalaba called it a 'media beat-up', and what happened to him? We have a new LNP member for Thuringowa who trusts victims of crime, who listens to victims of crime. Then there was the former Labor member for [Thuringowa]. What did he say to victims for crime who turned up to have their say? He said they were a rent-a-crowd.

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that there are only 47 seconds remaining, but could we ask for the last 47 seconds that we have to hear to be relevant to the amendment, please?

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Member for Currumbin, speak to the bill.

**Mrs GERBER:** The amendment to the second reading shows absolute disrespect to the people of Queensland. It is an absolute slap in the face to every single victim who asked for these laws to be law before Christmas. It is a slap in the face to the victim sitting in this chamber who fought for these laws to be laws before Christmas and it tells us everything about those opposite. It tells us everything about how they will continue to treat victims and how they will continue to deny that they created the youth crime crisis in this state.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.09 pm): I rise to also speak to these amendments. What we have heard from the opposition tonight, as has been mentioned by previous speakers on this side, is an absolute disgrace and it shows absolute disrespect to victims. Those opposite are also refusing to accept the overwhelming mandate that this government received, and some would argue the reason we are sitting on this side of the House is these laws.

I heard members of the opposition carping and saying, 'Talk to the amendments,'—and I will do that in a moment so people actually understand what those opposite are trying to withdraw and redraft. Why are they trying to redraw and redraft the laws? It is because they cannot accept the mandate and, secondly, because of the internal division that has happened in that party. They are trying to make out they support victims but at the very heart of it they cannot support these laws. In their heart they cannot support these laws. It goes against everything they believe. They will not accept that the majority of Queenslanders do not agree with them and that is why they are in opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, I will ask you to speak to the amendment.

**Mr MANDER:** Let's look at clause 15 and see what they want to withdraw and redraft. I am saying this in the context of the member for Bulimba saying that all we went to the election with was a four-word slogan, which was backed up by the most comprehensive youth justice policy ever brought to an election campaign. Clause 15 says—

not have regard to—

- (a) any principle that a detention order should only be imposed as a last resort; or
- (b) any principle that a sentence that allows the child to stay in the community is preferable.

I do not know how many times I said—and the then youth justice shadow said it at the time, the then shadow attorney-general said it at the time, the leader and the deputy said it—that detention as a last resort will be removed. Now those opposite will not accept it; they want that withdrawn and redrafted.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you are warned.

**Mr MANDER:** In fact, that principle was at the very core of our youth justice policy. That is what the public demanded to hear and what they wanted to see happen. It was at the very core. That is one principle that those opposite want to withdraw and redraft. What is the other principle that was prosecuted so strongly by the then opposition and now government? It is this one. Let's go to clause 37, which states—

A child who commits an offence should be held accountable in a way that recognises the impact of the child's offending on any victim of that offending.

Those opposite want to withdraw that; they want to withdraw the very principle that we should be thinking of victims' rights and the impact of the crime on the victim. They are not happy with that. They are in a parallel universe with regards to some of these things that they are now refusing to accept. They followed the Greens' principles and policies regarding the lunches, the petrol stations and the electricity providers. They followed the Greens then to neutralise them and now they are trying to do the same thing retrospectively. They cannot accept these laws. That is one of the very principles.

If we go to clause 48 we see it talks about the admissibility and use of childhood criminal history in sentencing adults. What the public cannot tolerate anymore—the public has had enough of it—is children who offend and reoffend and reoffend and then once they turn 18, it is like nothing has ever happened. People cannot accept that. We have heard that.


**Mr Krause:** We took it to the election.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. We took this to the election. We were clear about these principles, about youth justice.

**Mr Minnikin:** Not for Bulimba.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. The member for Bulimba has just refused to accept these. She will go down in history as one of the worst youth justice ministers that we have ever had in this parliament. We could easily argue that it was the watering down of the laws that she introduced that led to the situation we are in at the moment. This is at the very core of the laws that we have introduced. To come here tonight at the nth hour to say, 'We now want this changed,' is only a delaying tactic so they can work out their internal politics. That shows that the left on their side of the House has won this argument. We will call it out every time. We know that they are not serious about dealing with this youth crime crisis we have at the moment.

We do not accept that these things were not communicated to the Queensland public as part of an election platform. It was very clear. What they are trying to do now is basically rewrite history and simply not accept that they were wrong, that they were on the wrong side of this argument and that Queenslanders were right, and that is why there was a change of government.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.16 pm): This is a desperate Labor opposition. They have not listened over the last 10 years in Queensland and as a consequence community safety has been jeopardised right across Queensland. The government was given a clear mandate at the last state election to ensure these laws were passed and passed by Christmas with the purpose of restoring community safety in communities throughout Queensland. Time is of the essence. The committee has done a terrific job. Yes, it was in a short timeframe, but that was because of the amount of crime that is occurring right across Queensland. We have to acknowledge the work that was done by the member for Nicklin and the other LNP committee members and the entire committee in getting the report done.

This amendment that has been moved tonight is really an attempt to divert, to obfuscate and also to stall. That is what the Labor Party is trying to do with these amendments: they are trying to stall; they are trying to delay the vote. When it comes to these laws and the amendment they are trying to redraw and redraft, particularly when it looks to trying to redraw and redraft those elements around removing detention as a last resort and not looking at the entire history of offenders, that is simply not on and it is simply not what the people of Queensland want. Queenslanders actually want strong laws put in place. They want to ensure that this is dealt with swiftly. They do not want to see any laziness, and we

are seeing laziness from the Labor opposition when it comes to this because the Labor Party has not been focused on community safety over the last 10 years.

Trying to redraft and redraw these laws at this last minute is an attempt by them to actually have all of these laws scrapped, because we know they are not committed to community safety. The Labor Party has never been committed to community safety. They have never been committed to the rights of victims. They have never been committed to ensuring we have laws to deal with some of these serious issues. That is why their record is one of failure when it comes to law and order and community safety in Queensland. As such, Mr Speaker, I move—

That the question be now put.

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 88, which relates to the question being put, paragraph (2) says that you have to be of the opinion that the question has been sufficiently debated and it is not an infringement of members' rights. I have sought the call four times. Albeit respectful of your opinion, I was not quick enough, but I would submit, Mr Speaker, that it would be an infringement of my rights, after trying to seek the call four times, for the question to be put at this time.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will talk to the Clerk, and I will have silence while I am talking to the Clerk. It is my view that we are not contributing anything extra to this debate. I think this debate is exhausted. I am sorry if you think you have something red-hot, but I am going to put the question.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

**AYES, 36:**

**ALP, 35—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**NOES, 53:**

**LNP, 51—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2—**Dametto, Katter.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Scanlon) negated.



**Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.26 pm): On 26 October 2024 Queenslanders voted for change, they voted for a fresh start, they voted for safety in their homes, they voted for safety in their businesses, they voted for safety at their local shopping centres and they voted overwhelmingly for safety in their communities. At the outset I want to acknowledge all of the brave victims of crime who stood up and told their story in the hope for change, in the hope for stronger laws, in the hope that no-one else will have to suffer through what they have suffered through. These laws are for all of those victims because, after a decade of the former Labor government, which weakened our youth justice laws and eroded the rights of victims, our proposed strong laws in this bill have never been more vital.

To people like Russell Field, Capalaba's newest LNP member of parliament, whose tragic loss at the hands of a youth criminal we sadly all know too well; to Natalie Merlehan, who was also hit by the youth criminal who killed Matthew, Kate and baby Miles and who desperately tried to save the Field family while suffering her own injuries; to Cindy Micallef and Victor White, whose tragic loss of their mum and wife, Vyleen White, we also know sadly too well; to Michelle Liddle and Ben Beaumont, whose 15-year-old son, Angus Beaumont, was stabbed to death by two teenagers with violent criminal histories; to Lee Lovell and his daughters, whose wife and mum, Emma Lovell, was brutally killed by a youth; to Chris Sanders, who was assaulted, stabbed and left lying in his own blood by youth offenders in a shopping centre; to Leanne Barsby, who was the victim of a violent and armed home invasion where a 14-year-old punched her in the chest and head, leaving her with seizures; to Ben Cannon

alongside Lyndy Atkinson, Trudy Reading, Helen Duck and George Atkinson, who galvanised as Voice for Victims to support victims of crime across Queensland; and to all of the brave victims of crime: I want you to know that the Crisafulli government has heard you, we see your pain, we see your advocacy and we will give you the laws you have called for and the support you need.

Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law before Christmas. We on this side of the House are delivering consequences for action. Adult Crime, Adult Time means youth offenders who commit the most serious offences like murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, robbery and burglaries and serious assault will be liable to the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as adults who are convicted for the same serious violent offences. Adult Crime, Adult Time will give the courts the laws they need to hand down consequences for action. Under the LNP's laws, Labor's generation of hardcore repeat youth offenders will no longer be untouchable. They will be held to account and victims will be safer.

These laws are the first step in our Crisafulli government's plan to make our community safer. It will deliver on our commitment to hold youth offenders to account and put the rights of victims before the rights of offenders. Our laws will require courts to have primary regard to the impact on the victim of the crime. This will no longer just be one of the over a dozen factors that a judge weighs up in determining the appropriate sentence to hand down, it will mean that the impact of the crime on the victim will be primary when a judge is considering what is the appropriate sentence.

Our laws will amend section 150 of the Youth Justice Act to ensure victim participation in the youth justice system is valued and respected. Our laws will open the Childrens Court to victims and their families and to the media. Our laws will allow the court to review the full criminal history of offenders when sentencing, including a juvenile's record for up to five years after the outcome for the last childhood offence. Our laws will make it easier for victims of crime to be updated about a case by changing to an opt-out system for victims to receive updates. Importantly, all of these were put to the people of Queensland before the election and they overwhelmingly voted for these laws to be law by Christmas. After a decade of the former Labor government systematically watering down our Youth Justice Act, of them refusing to listen to victims of crime, this bill has never been more important. There were 289,657 victims of crime in the last financial year that those opposite were in government. We know that is a record those opposite do not want to talk about and we know that that is a 14 per cent increase on the victims of crime in the previous financial year that those opposite were in government.

Under a Crisafulli-led government there will be fewer victims of crime. This bill is just the first step in strengthening the rights of victims. The plan for this bill is to help establish the professional victims' advocate service. It will be a one-stop shop for victims of crime to help them navigate the justice system and provide them with end-to-end support throughout the justice process.

I am so proud to be part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is putting the rights of victims at the heart of our justice system, giving them the respect and the support they deserve. How did the previous Labor government treat victims of crime when it was in government? The former Labor member for Capalaba called the youth crime crisis a media beat-up, while the former Labor member for Thuringowa described victims of crime in Townsville as a rent-a-crowd. Where are those members now? Their community overwhelmingly rejected them. I welcome the LNP member for Thuringowa who gives a voice to victims and stands up for her community and the LNP member for Capalaba who is the reason these laws are here. What he and his family have been through, his advocacy for these laws, is a testament to the rights of victims and what victims need in the system. One only has to look at some of the submissions to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee in Townsville to see how much those communities need these laws. Jillian Joyce told the committee—

I am an Army veteran with over 13 years service. I am no longer in the army but I deployed both domestically and on short notice to overseas operations in hostile and conflict environments. I can tell you, with confidence, that I am feeling more unsafe in my home at night than I ever did when I deployed to riots in Solomon Islands. This is not fair. This is not right.

Jillian is right. It is not fair and it is not right. It is a damning indictment on the former Labor government and it is why these laws must be law by Christmas. Not only are we determined to give Queenslanders the laws they need to keep our communities safe, but our Community Safety Plan also means we will intervene, we will rehabilitate and we will provide gold standard early intervention to at-risk youth. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws go hand in hand with our \$485 million additional investment in early intervention and preventative initiatives: Staying on Track, circuit-breaker sentencing, gold standard early intervention, nine regional reset camps, \$40 million for two new youth justice schools and \$40 million for four crime prevention schools. This is our comprehensive plan to deal with the youth crime crisis that those opposite started and continue to deny with their contributions to this debate. The Making Queensland Safer Laws that we took to the election, that Queenslanders

overwhelmingly backed, that Queenslanders overwhelmingly called for, are the laws that will keep our communities safe. This is the first critical step to returning safety to where you live in our Queensland communities.

**Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.36 pm): I raised a number of points when I was speaking to the amendment put by the member for Gaven and I will go over just a couple of those and move to some other concerns that we have with this bill. I reiterate that we understand very much that community safety was one of the key concerns of Queenslanders going into the general election and that it continues to be the No. 1 issue for many people. We heard that message loud and clear and I repeat the message from the opposition leader that we are listening and we support tough laws on youth crime accompanied by early intervention and prevention. We accept that the LNP went to the election with a clear platform—a slogan, actually—of adult time for adult crime and for those particular laws to be in place by Christmas. They promised that those laws would bring down victim numbers. They promised the laws would reduce crime and we just heard it again from the member for Currumbin. At one point, in fact, the Premier actually said there was going to be no crime after they had been in government. It was just going to be like magic. I do not think it has happened anywhere in the entire world, but he said that. They are the LNP and obviously they are the ones who are going to do it.

When they took that slogan to the people of Queensland they never told them that there was not one skerrick of evidence that the proposed new laws would result in fewer victims or less crime. They did not tell the public about the evidence that it would actually be likely to increase crime and increase the number of victims. We appreciate that the Queensland public wanted a circuit breaker on youth crime, they wanted something to change, and that slogan represented the change that they wanted.

As I have said, when the legislation was finally tabled in this House it contained a whole lot of things that nobody had ever heard of before. I need to give a voice to the over 170 submitters who are literally not going to be heard by this parliament. Those submitters said over and over again that these laws will not give Queenslanders the outcome the LNP told them they will get. The Queensland Council of Social Service stated—

... the amendments in the Bill do not deliver evidence based initiatives that effectively empower victims and reduce reoffending.

The Queensland Law Society stated—

There is no evidence that lengthier custodial sentences deter young offenders.

We hear this over and over again. I know that members opposite, particularly the member for Currumbin and the Attorney-General, think all of the experts are wrong. They think every single one of the experts is wrong. They only want to listen to the experts who agree with them, but the trouble is that none of the experts agree with them. I guess that rules out 'all of the experts'.

Submitter after submitter talked about how scary it is that there was so little time to consider such broad-ranging amendments. Dr Terry Goldsworthy, who the shadow Attorney-General pointed out is not someone who normally publicly criticises the LNP, said—

It is disappointing that such a tight timeframe was imposed on submissions in relation to this bill ... The last time legislation was rushed through the parliamentary process like this it resulted in the ill-conceived and problematic VLAD anti-bikie laws that were a dismal failure in terms of combating organised crime.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Mermaid Beach and member for Nicklin, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms FARMER:** Over and over again, almost every submitter talked about the problems, the challenges and the real dangers of not having enough time to look at the bill.

The bill went to a committee, which had two days to hear people's submissions. There was six hours of hearings. Neither the Police Commissioner nor the Victims' Commissioner appeared. The committee has delivered its report and now we are debating the bill. We have to make sure that the bill is passed in time for Christmas drinks on Thursday because those people do not like to miss out on their drinks.

This has now become a habit. This is only the second proper sitting day for the parliament and already it is a habit of the government to rush through legislation or motions without giving them any consideration whatsoever. You just introduce or table them and then you make the decision and you are gone. The Parliament of Queensland Act outlines a minimum mandatory time of six weeks to consider legislation so that evidence can be given, we can listen to experts and we can do the best

possible job of making sure the laws we pass are good laws. We have already passed an Olympics bill. We have taken away workplace health and safety rights. We have completely annihilated any hopes that the First Nations people of Queensland had of ever having a voice. Today we debated a ridiculous motion that will mean that we literally cannot talk about anything in the parliament unless David Crisafulli wants us to. That is what today's motion achieved. Goodness knows what else we will not be able to talk about. We have talked all about that. We have put forward our amendments. We have heard about the potentially catastrophic impact on victims if these laws are not scrutinised properly, yet those opposite are not even willing to stop and think, 'Maybe we should look at this because so many experts are talking about it.'

How will this government be accountable for the reduction in victim numbers? Throughout the campaign and in the lead-up to the election, the Premier talked about victim numbers as reported by the ABS. When the LNP was in opposition they were always asking us about data and reporting times. What we want to know and what Queenslanders want to know is: having made these big promises, how will you show us that there is a reduction in victim numbers? The Premier did not say 'at the end of the term'; he said 'year on year'. If it is not going to be the ABS data—and I think the director-general of Youth Justice made it clear that there was some other thing going on that he could not tell us about—what are the metrics and how often will the government report? We think it should be monthly. The government made the big promise so they will need to show us how that promise is tracking.

We would also like to know about the modelling for the impact of these laws on the system. I am talking about physical accommodation. The member for Currumbin actually said that hundreds of thousands of people will come in over Christmas. Never let an exaggeration get in the way of the truth is what I would say about the member for Currumbin.

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Ninderry, your interjections are not being taken. Member for Southport, your interjections are not being taken. Member for Nicklin, I named you before when you did not say anything—it was actually the member for Southport—so I apologise for that. Members, if your interjections are not being taken then they are considered disorderly.

**Ms FARMER:** What is the modelling for the number of young people likely to be in the system as a result of these laws? How long are they going to be there? What facilities is the government going to provide? The member for Currumbin is walking out now because she does not know the answer. How will you address the staffing because it is a legislated—


**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member commented on a member in the House in a way that is unacceptable and against the rules of the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. I will take some advice. Member for Bulimba, it has always been the case that you do not comment on a member's absence or otherwise from the House. I ask you to withdraw that comment.

**Ms FARMER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I advise you not to interject as you wander around the chamber. That is also disorderly.

**Ms FARMER:** What is the modelling? How many extra young people will be in the system and where will the government put them? The other day I heard the Premier say, 'We've got Wacol coming on and we've got the Caboolture watch house.' We put those facilities in place following careful modelling in order to deal with the projected numbers, but that was before these laws. The other day the people from YAC gave a guesstimate of 2,200 as a maximum. The facilities are not there. We do not have the facilities to cater for hundreds of thousands of people. If hundreds of thousands of kids need to be in watch houses or youth detention centres over Christmas, where will they be put? How will the government deal with the legislated ratio of four to one? They say that they are going to educate kids in the youth detention centres. Have they catered for the custodial officers who will be required? Do they even know that they need them? We want to see the modelling figures. We need to know: when this bill is passed, how will the government keep Queenslanders safe?

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (9.47 pm): It is great to be back in the 58th Parliament. As I was saying before I was interrupted, I am humbled to be back representing the good people of Nicklin, and that is due to the support of the people of Nicklin who voted for change. They voted for a fresh start. They voted for a Crisafulli LNP government that listened and is acting on the youth crime crisis.



I am back after another four years of proudly serving again as a Queensland police officer. I was working with great men and women who, for a decade now, have been swimming valiantly against the tide of the former Labor government that weakened laws, stopped listening to victims and created this youth crime crisis. It is a profession that I am proud to say my own daughter has joined. These laws will finally help the police in their pursuit of the protection of the people of Queensland. Under the former Labor government, the Queensland Police Service saw attrition rates at record levels as frustrated officers could not take it anymore. They were frustrated at Labor's watered down youth justice laws that saw young offenders laughing at and taunting police officers daily. I saw many colleagues reach a point of frustration that saw them leave a job they loved due to weak laws and the weak former Labor government of the past decade. It was a government that did not have their backs.

I know that if the LNP did not win the recent election we would have lost many more. Many officers were just hanging on for a change and the Crisafulli government is leading that change. I join this 58th Parliament with five other former police officers on our side of the House—members with collectively over 168 years of policing experience, motivated to run for parliament after witnessing the years of Labor failure. That is 168 years of drowning in victims' tears and frustrations of victims of crime who have experienced terror, personal tragedy and injustice.

Policing is a unique profession where one is confronted daily by those who have been victims and those who have chosen to inflict injury and fear in the community. Police officers are confronted by victims of crime who have seen injustice due to the weakening of the youth crime laws. This weakening, over time, was proudly brought into this place by the former Labor government, who stopped listening to victims and instead turned their ears inwards into their ideological bubble and listened only to the advice that fit that ideology. That has brought us to where we are now.

Not only did their watering down laws not work; they created a youth crime disaster and a generation of untouchables that frustrated police have had to deal with in the revolving door system that saw the same recidivist offenders continually thumb their nose at a system that had no consequences and commit crime after crime, often whilst on bail. Over the last four years, back on the beat in the Queensland Police Service, I have had a front row seat to the youth crime crisis. Working first in general duties and then in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit, I have seen the frustration in the victims, the community and the police service.

Still, we come into this parliament with a clear message having been delivered by Queenslanders and Labor just do not have the heart to support all our strong laws, as indicated in their amendments. Their ideology is under threat and they cannot bring themselves to park their egos and realise they were wrong. They failed. They failed victims of crime. They failed victims' families. They failed the people of Queensland. They failed the police service. They failed the courts. They failed the children of this state.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill is the first step in turning around a completely broken system. I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli government that listens to the victims of crime and the community and takes action, a government that has the political will to listen to those who have been ignored and take caution in the advice of those who are responsible for the crisis we now find ourselves in.

I want to thank the members of the committee who worked hard to ensure Queenslanders would not go to Christmas without these laws in place. Ours is a government that delivers on what we said we would do. I thank the secretariat, whose professionalism and hard work helped the committee deliver this important report to the parliament. I want to thank particularly the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra. The Townsville area is ground zero for the youth crime crisis and I thank the local members for attending the committee hearings in Townsville last week where we heard harrowing stories from victims of crime and businesses terrorised as a result of the youth crime crisis.

Importantly, I want to thank the member for Capalaba for serving on our committee. We all heard this morning again about the tragedy that has brought him into this parliament and I thank him for serving on this important committee to make the changes that Queensland needs and Queenslanders voted for.


It is important to point out that these laws are for the most serious offences by the most serious offenders. These laws do not change police discretion, which they have always had, to deal with young offenders by way of caution or through restorative justice processes. They also have the ability to take no action if that is the most appropriate way to deal with a particular young person. Specialist child protection police are very skilled at diverting young people from the youth justice system with these processes and they will continue with the high rates of success they currently have.

What will change, though, is that, if a young person disregards that caution or restorative justice process and decides to reoffend and ends up appearing before a court, the court will now know about those previous processes. Putting that information in the hands of a judicial officer will allow them to make a better assessment of the best way forward to ensure the young offender is dealt with appropriately. I fully support justices knowing that information. I trust them with that information.

The laws will also allow appropriate family and media into our juvenile court systems. Opening up the courts will allow victims of crime and the people of Queensland a level of transparency that has been sadly lacking in the last decade. These strong laws remove detention as a last resort, providing judges more options to deal with young offenders. This law has been a handbrake on our judiciary considering appropriate sentences for the most serious offences by the most serious offenders. That handbrake will now be removed as we hand over to our judiciary the discretion to deliver appropriate penalties for those most serious offences that are in line with community and victim expectations. These strong laws finally put victims as a priority for consideration by the judiciary.

I want to let victims know the Crisafulli LNP government is listening. The Crisafulli LNP government is acting. The Crisafulli LNP government is doing what it said it would do and delivering the first step in the reform of the youth justice system before Christmas with the Making Queensland Safer Bill so that Queenslanders do not have to go into the summer holiday period suffering any longer under the weak Labor laws.

The committee report has one recommendation—that is, the bill be passed. These strong laws and these reforms are what Queenslanders voted for in the recent election. They are desperate for change, desperate for a government that listens and desperate for a government that will act in the best interests of victims and the community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.56 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Queenslanders deserve to be safe and feel safe in their home, in their community and as they go about their daily lives in Queensland. The Labor opposition acknowledges that Queenslanders had their say during the general election and that the government is implementing its Adult Crime, Adult Time policy before Christmas. However, it is clear from reading the legislation and stakeholder feedback that this bill substantially goes beyond what was canvassed during the recent general election.

The government took a slogan to the election and produced a 52-page document that significantly changes the justice and the youth justice legislative landscape here in Queensland. The government has told Queenslanders it will reduce victim numbers, and Labor will hold it to that. The evidence shows us there is no silver bullet to addressing youth offending. Instead, a mixture of targeted prevention, of intervention and of detention is what is required.

The opposition were concerned from the first sitting day so we wrote to the responsible ministers in relation to the Queensland government's intention to introduce and pass the Making Queensland Safer Laws before the end of the year. The opposition noted that, during a leaders' debate during the election period, the leader of the LNP, and now Premier, indicated that the laws were drafted. The leader of the LNP said—

I've written the legislation. By the end of the year, it will be law.

While the government has a mandate to progress legislation, the LNP also committed during the election campaign to ensure the parliament's role in government oversight is strengthened so it is no longer used as a rubber stamp. Introducing this bill and ramming through another bill without going through a committee or public consultation in the first three hours of the first sitting day of this parliament is the biggest rubber stamp I have ever seen. If the now Premier had written the legislation, why did he hide it from full scrutiny by the Queensland public after the election, knowing that the earliest opportunity for the laws to be introduced in the Queensland parliament was Thursday, 28 November and also knowing that the government had indicated that the laws would be debated during the sitting week before Christmas? It only left one week for a portfolio committee to scrutinise in detail the proposed legislation before it.

To keep faith with the LNP's commitment to respect the parliamentary process and to ensure that stakeholders and Queenslanders had the ability to review and provide input into legislation, we asked the government to release the draft legislation to allow Queenslanders the ability to review and comment on it. This request was to ensure that Queenslanders had the best legislation considered and passed by the Queensland parliament. Due to the limited time afforded to this legislation within the parliamentary process, the Labor opposition also requested a briefing by relevant departmental officers regarding the proposed legislation prior to it being introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

The LNP have said that these laws will put a stop to youth crime. During the election the Premier quoted the ABS statistics and hedged his job on those stats. He said he would resign if victim numbers did not go down. However, it was revealed during the hearing by the director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support that the government is looking at how to count victim numbers. The transcript shows that the director-general stated—

I know that government will announce how it intends to count the number of victims in the near future. That is a matter for whole-of-government consideration.

The statistics which Premier David Crisafulli quoted during the election are used by the ABS to analyse victim rates state by state and we will hold the Premier and the LNP to account for their promises based on that data. Despite their slick slogans, it is clear the LNP already want to change the way that data is counted—to cook the books—so they cannot be held accountable if these laws do not work. This is straight out of Campbell Newman's playbook. It is just like when he stopped the publication of the QPS annual statistics—that is right, stopping the publication of detailed crime data in Queensland and hiding it from Queenslanders.

What did we do when we won the election in 2015? We set up the Government Statistician's Office—an independent office tasked with reporting this important data—because we believe in transparency. We want all Queenslanders to feel safe. That is why we invested so significantly in community safety and introduced tougher laws led by evidence. Our Queensland community safety bill—part of our community safety plan—was backed with \$1.28 billion in investment. That is right: we backed our law changes with the investment that was needed to make them work. Those on the front line told us that is what they needed and we listened to them. Our plan was working, with police telling us there was a downward trend in offending.

The LNP bill is not accompanied by a single dollar for our police, youth justice workers, corrections workers and the courts. There is no investment in detention capacity. The LNP have said that this bill will lead to more people in custody. Where is the investment from those opposite in additional custodial capacity? When they were last in government they did not build any watch houses or any youth detention centres. They point to the new remand centre at Wacol as a potential solution. We initiated that project to address existing demand in our watch houses, not the new demand that the government has admitted will come from the new laws we are debating over the next couple of days. There is no investment and no implementation plan for any of the proposals they put forward.

This is opposed by the Bar Association, the Queensland Law Society and leading academic and also faith groups. This is typical of the LNP. They think they know what is best for everyone, even the experts.


We have proposed sensible amendments tonight with one aim in mind: to strengthen community safety. They will not listen because they would rather rush through the laws that will not work and then admit that there is room for improvement later. Do members know who we have not heard from throughout this whole process? We have not heard from the Queensland Police Service—the people responsible for executing these laws and bringing the offenders before the courts.

The Premier and police minister need to come clean with what advice they have received from the police. Did the police say, 'Yep, no worries, we can do all this additional work and handle the additional capacity with no extra resources' or did they ask for support and the LNP said, 'No, you must buy your own equipment like you did last time we were in government.'

We all want Queenslanders to feel safe, but the LNP's approach is fundamentally flawed. There is no investment in police, no extra court resources, no extra additional custodial capacity and no real intention from the LNP to make the community safer with funding to support our frontline services. When the laws do not reduce victim numbers, the LNP have already asked the public servants to find a different way of reporting the data.

Queenslanders are smart enough to see through the LNP's slick slogans and sneaky tricks and we will work every single day to hold this government to account. These are serious issues that need to be addressed for both our police and our corrective services to ensure they have the work environment that is safe for them and they have the tools and funding required to maintain order in Queensland.

Our amendments are sensible and still allow the government to implement their Adult Crime, Adult Time policy before Christmas and give the parliament the opportunity to scrutinise the rest of the bill the way it should be.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.06 pm): For more than 20 years I was privileged to serve my local community on the Sunshine Coast and throughout the wider Queensland community as a police officer. During that time I witnessed the extremes of human behaviour—from the best and most courageous to the worst and most depraved. From my first speech in this House I have articulated my firm view that the community deserves to be protected from lawlessness and criminal influences and that the most important role of government is to craft the laws and create the environment in which all Queenslanders are safe. I have never wavered from this belief. However, much to my regret, I have seen this obligation of government turned on its head as the interests of offenders are placed above those of victims and weak laws have emboldened offenders.

Further to the long list of innocent people who have lost their lives at the hands of violent juveniles, as outlined by the honourable member for Capalaba earlier today, each day reveals another attack on individuals and families and their property. This is the legacy Labor has left the people of Queensland. It is virtually impossible to imagine that nearly 10 years after Labor came to office we are correcting the litany of mistakes, omissions and miscalculations that characterise their time in government. Labor's record on youth crime is abysmal. It represents one of the greatest failings in the administration of justice that we have seen in this state. Wilful blindness was heaped on a manic desire to play to Labor's supporter gallery. There was no careful consideration of policy alternatives, there was no evaluation of outcomes and there was no regard for those with the greatest stake in the process: victims.

Labor had a two-pronged approach to the youth crime crisis. They believed no such problem existed or, alternatively, they attempted to simply wish the problem away. Their words were never backed up with actions and they foolishly thought Queenslanders would think they were actually doing something. Labor's record is a sorry catalogue of neglect, refusal to accept reality and a blatant disregard for the interests of the majority of Queenslanders. What is most disturbing is that those responsible for Labor's pathetic response—those who sat around the cabinet table with premiers Palaszczuk and Miles and moulded these policies and watered down strong laws with pride—remain in positions of influence. Earlier tonight some of those rose to lecture us on crime. At the same time, the opposition benches were populated by members who unquestionably supported Labor's laws and never raised a whimper as their constituents' rights were placed below those of offenders.

This House would not be debating this legislation today if Labor had not failed in its obligation to the people of Queensland from the very first day it assumed office. From its election in 2015 Labor proudly embarked on the unravelling of laws designed to combat youth crime. In 2015-16 the Palaszczuk government introduced a raft of legislative changes that would have dire consequences for so many Queenslanders. They removed breach of bail as an offence, reinstated the principle of detention as a last resort, reinstated the principle that having offenders remain in the community was a preferable sentencing option, and closed the Childrens Court to keep out victims and the media. It should not be forgotten that Labor's inclusion of 17-year-olds in the Youth Justice Act created the children in watch house crisis. There were no children in watch houses in 2017; by 2019 there were approximately 100. This is another legacy of Labor's failed policies. I was surprised when earlier this evening the minister responsible for creating the kids in watch house crisis lectured us about modelling on youth detention facilities and watch houses.

It was not long before even the most biased Labor advocate realised that something more needed to be done as the seeds of the youth crime crisis began to sprout. Labor's answer was another plan: *Working Together, Changing the Story—Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023*. The title said everything. For Labor, changing the story was all that was required. If they got away with simply spinning another yarn, that was better than taking positive action and responding to the growing crisis. For Labor it was never more than a story. Two years later more changes were introduced. The charter of youth justice principles was amended to include a reference to the community being protected from recidivist young offenders. This was a mere six years after Labor's groundbreaking amendments were introduced. Did no Labor member ever stop to ask the question if their 2015-16 amendments were so good, why did they have to undertake so many rewrites and revisions? If their earlier amendments were evidence based, why was it that in the cold, hard light of day the evidence did not stack up? However, Labor's catalogue of failures did not end there.

In 2023 the Strengthening Community Safety Bill was introduced to combat motor vehicle theft and the actions of serious repeat offenders. That still was not sufficient to combat the outbreak of crime throughout so many Queensland communities. Just over six months ago Labor introduced the Queensland Community Safety Bill simply because its previous planned strategies and changes had not worked. On 22 August this year the then premier made an extraordinary admission. He said—

That's why I developed the Community Safety Plan in partnership with the Police Minister and new Police Commissioner, to tackle the root causes of crime, and implemented reforms to continue to give police the tools and laws they need.


What had Labor been doing for over nine years if it suddenly realised it had to tackle the root causes of crime? If this statement is true, why had Labor not been giving police the tools and laws they needed? The answers to these questions are simple: Labor never believed what it was doing was correct and its actions were little more than a tactic to draw people's attention away from the growing crime crisis. For Labor, activity was a substitute for achievement. The lamentable catalogue of Labor's failures brought us to the position we find ourselves in today. More than 50,000 youth crime offences have been recorded so far this year with a total of 400 serious repeat youth offenders. Only last Sunday Associate Professor Terry Goldsworthy from Bond University wrote—

To say that Queensland is experiencing a crime crisis is a fact. QPS data shows that the Queensland crime rate has in fact been rising since 2021. In 2023 the crime rate was the highest it has been for 20 years.

There can be no clearer proof that Labor's weak laws helped create a cohort of offenders who regard themselves as untouchable, beyond the reach of the law and free from significant legal sanction. Labor's catch and release policy has failed, and it is honest Queenslanders who have been forced to pay the price for its failures. Over the past four years we have crafted a legislative response to the disaster Labor left behind. Members of the then opposition and I travelled throughout the length and breadth of the state talking to Queenslanders about the impact of crime on their communities. It made little difference where we went because the message was the same: crime was out of control, there were no significant consequences for criminal behaviour, and the rights of victims had gone to the end of the queue.

It is from these discussions that this legislation, the Making Queensland Safer Bill, has been formulated. The bill reaffirms our commitment to significant law reform to ensure that, amongst other things: proceedings of the Childrens Court are open and that victims, relatives of victims, persons with a proper interest in the proceedings and the media are not excluded from hearings; youth offenders charged with serious violent offences can be charged as adults; the principle of detention as a last resort is removed; consideration is given to the impacts of offending on victims; it enhances consideration given to a person's criminal history; and an opt-out mechanism applies for victims on the victim information register.

This bill fulfils our commitment to have new laws in operation at the earliest opportunity. The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, in delivering its report on this bill last week, deserves to be thanked by the House. It responded with a careful consideration and argued assessment of the bill and its contents. It is to be congratulated on the report it has produced. Similarly, the Attorney-General and Minister for Youth justice are to be congratulated for their work on the bill. Through a sustained period of consultation we have sought to give effect to the wishes of the Queensland people. For too long they have been used as a punching bag for Labor's failed legal and social experiments. They have seen offenders' rights take precedence over those of victims and they have seen countless communities terrorised by criminals. This legislation will put a halt to the weak approach that has characterised the past decade of maladministration and ineffective laws. With the other initiatives around early intervention and rehabilitation, coupled with more police on the beat, we have plotted a course that will reform this state's approach to youth justice. This bill is the first step on the path and deserves the support of the entire House.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (10.15 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. At the outset I would say that, like all of my colleagues on this side of the House, we strongly believe that Queenslanders deserve to be safe and to feel safe in our communities. We have seen an unacceptable level of crime in our suburbs and this cannot continue. Whether it is through direct conversations, emails or representations, many members of my community have been clear with me that they are deeply concerned with what is happening in our community.

As a local member, I actively monitor the crime statistics for my suburbs on a monthly basis and speak regularly to our local police when I see an escalation of crime in a particular area or suburb to better understand what may be happening. I regularly share the crime statistics with residents who speak with me about very high crime rates in their particular suburb. Those very same residents are somewhat surprised when they see the numbers compared to some of our neighbouring suburbs. All crime is terrible and there is no excuse that can allay the experiences that many people in our communities have shared with us of being broken into, feeling that loss of safety, of having their vehicle stolen and the impact this has on them. The invasion in their lives is real and we cannot excuse it.

I recall being in Townsville last year, where I met with a mother who shared with me her trauma when her family's home was broken into and the impact this was having on her young child, who was frightened and refused to sleep in his own bed. She also told me that every morning she would wake up, grab a coffee and open her computer to her local community Facebook page to scroll through all of the crime posts. Sometimes when crime is raised with me and I query the specifics of what has happened to that person, I find that in fact they have never been the victim of crime but they have seen enough videos or posts on social media to warrant a deep fear. This has become a psychological issue for many people in our community, and that is deeply concerning to witness and very difficult to overcome.

Despite what the police minister said, I believe that as a Labor government we worked hard to strengthen our response to youth crime, particularly for serious repeat offenders. We introduced breach of bail condition as an offence. We made it more difficult for serious repeat offenders to get bail by expanding the list of offences with a presumption against bail. We introduced harsher maximum penalties for unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences if the person is armed, uses violence or where the offending is published on social media. We extended the maximum term of a conditional release order from three to six months, allowing additional supervision and rehabilitative programs to be undertaken. We also introduced a fast-track sentencing program in Brisbane, Townsville, Southport and Cairns to ensure young people spent less time on remand and more time serving their sentences. We provided additional police funding to conduct extra high-visibility police patrols in areas of concern, including public spaces and residential areas.

We introduced youth co-responder teams made up of police and youth justice workers who patrol the streets together to improve community safety, and I know this is working in the Ipswich region. We also introduced new laws to ban the sale of knives and other items to minors which further supported Jack's Law—the nation-leading legislation that authorises police wandering operations.

This is just a fraction of what we did. Despite all of this work, investment and reform, Queenslanders simply did not believe that we could keep them safe, and I understand this. Many of them expressed this at the ballot box in October, and I acknowledge that certainly in my area the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time slogan did convince many voters. I also acknowledge that the LNP have formed government and do have a mandate of sorts to introduce a new sentencing regime as per clause 19 of the bill and to have this in place before Christmas, as per the now Premier's public statements. The Premier said during the leaders debate—

I've written the legislation, by the end of the year it will be law.

The Labor opposition has recognised that the Queensland community wanted a change in approach and was willing to accept this approach despite it only being a slogan, because this is what many Queenslanders voted for. However, what is clear is that the Making Queensland Safer Bill makes substantial and wide-reaching changes to the justice and youth justice landscape in Queensland that were clearly not canvassed during the general election. The Labor opposition, along with a plethora of legal, youth justice and victim representative stakeholders, have raised significant concerns about the unintended negative consequences of this proposed legislation which is being rushed through with little regard for evidence-based and expert examination. The Homicide Victims' Support Group in their submission stated—

Firstly, we urge the Government not to rush through key pieces of legislation. We recognise that the Government did state it would be a priority, but victims of crime have had a lifetime of Governments doing things to them and when legislation like this is rushed it can have unintended consequences and it can also trigger victims who already distrust Government.

The Queensland Victims' Commissioner, which the LNP when in opposition said they supported, was not even able to give verbal evidence for this bill given the committee's truncated review. Instead the commissioner wrote in her submission—

I note the short timeframe to provide a submission—only 3 business days. This timeframe ... is unrealistic for stakeholders—particularly victims, their families, communities, legal advocates, and service providers who will have very significant contributions to make. We must adopt a balanced, evidence-based approach to community safety for all and this is done through open, transparent, and accessible consultation.

VictimConnect in their submission stated—

We note that we would like greater detail of the bill for VictimConnect and the community, especially those who are impacted by crime, to provide the nuanced consideration and consultation necessary to satisfy all questions about how proposed changes can safely and effectively keep Queenslanders safe.

The LNP government has always claimed that the voices and the rights of victims would have primacy, but here are just three examples of where victims' advocates are seeking more time and more

support from the LNP government to better understand what this will mean for victims. The adage of 'we know what's good for you' is simply disrespectful and arrogant and goes against the very things this government espoused when they were in opposition.

Given the woeful period provided to review the bill, I wish to commend the 176 submitters who did not allow the deliberately truncated committee process to deter them from providing an analysis of the legislation. Many of the submitters have been able to draw out the significant potential consequences of these changes to law including: potential negative impacts on victims during the court process, including the potential for victims to be cross-examined; the likelihood that victims who are less articulate will see lighter sentences for their offenders than those who are more articulate; delays in the court process times due to fewer plea deals occurring; and a change in the pattern of guilty pleas being entered resulting in more contested trial proceedings which would in turn create delays in the court system—again, a longer time for victims to have their matters resolved.

I ask whether the Attorney-General understands and recognises these potential issues that will impact our courts and what is the government's proposed solution. We have already heard that these changes will have a significant capacity impact in Queensland's detention centres and watch houses, with potential workplace health and safety issues for those who staff these facilities. Again, one must ask the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services what the plan is to create immediate capacity in the system and how she will protect hardworking frontline public servants who are expected to manage this increased intake.

We know that all evidence points to the fact that tougher penalties are not a silver bullet. Targeted prevention and intervention are critical if we are to have any impact on reducing youth crime in our state. The LNP itself spoke of gold standard early intervention, though we are yet to see any details of what this will look like. As acknowledged by the Attorney-General in the statement of compatibility for the bill—

The amendments will lead to sentences for children that are more punitive than necessary to achieve community safety.


As noted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, QATSICPP, in their submission—

Legislative changes which encourage more punitive punishments than are necessary risk significantly undermining the Queensland Government's stated aim, to create a world class early intervention system in Queensland.

There was an opportunity for the LNP government to do the right thing tonight to allow further consideration of key elements of this bill—elements which so many stakeholders have expressed need further consideration to ensure there are not unintended negative consequences. Today I have shared the words of stakeholders and made sure they were on the record because it is clear that the LNP has chosen to not listen to expert advice, to not listen to those with lived experiences, including victim representatives. In fact, the Premier went even further, saying of stakeholders in a backhanded criticism—

With respect to some of the different views on one part of our youth crime strategy, it's been the same voices that have led to the laws being weakened a decade ago.

That is a disrespectful way to speak of frontline organisations which spend each and every day doing some of the most important and valued advocacy work, including Bravehearts, yourtown and Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion. This legislation has been rushed and the Labor opposition along with stakeholders have attempted to raise the alarm. I urge the LNP government to support the shadow Attorney-General's amendments: allow the parliament in 18 months to consider the outcomes of their rushed legislation to better understand the consequences, what it means for capacity in detention centres and watch houses and, most importantly, whether the LNP have kept their much lauded promises to Queenslanders and have reduced victim numbers.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (10.26 pm): This is a very proud moment for me to be standing here tonight to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill, and I will tell the House why. Thuringowa, this is for you. Crime. Yes, finally you have a member for Thuringowa who is not afraid to talk about crime. The word 'crime' may not have been spoken by the former government. You told me that you did not have confidence that your previous member fought for you when it came to calling out the crime crisis, but I made a promise to you and the almost 6,000 people I doorknocked during the campaign: we will be tough on crime and we will make the tough decisions to ensure the rights of victims and community safety are prioritised over criminals.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill holds great importance to the people of Queensland who are currently bearing the burden of a decade of inaction by the previous Labor government. The youth

crime crisis has impacted so many communities across Queensland; however, it has been regional areas such as my electorate of Thuringowa and the wider Townsville community which have seen the true extent of this horrible crime crisis. It was the people of my community who first called out the youth crime crisis and spent almost a decade fighting to be heard after the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act.

To the people of Thuringowa: you were ignored and let down by the former Labor government when it came to your calls for help to address the youth crime crisis. You were made to feel unsafe in your own home. You were made to feel as if the never-ending cycle of crime was to be the new normal of living in our community.

I am proud to be on this side of the House as a member of a government that will put the rights of victims in front of the offenders. I am proud to be part of a government that will stand up for regional Queenslanders. We are putting the rights of victims first. We are making it clear that the damage done by offenders will no longer be swept under the rug, that their actions will have consequences and that the people of Queensland will not stand for a system that fails to protect them.

Unashamedly, we stand for the victims, the countless victims of crime in this state who have been constantly ignored and disregarded. We listened and today we deliver on our commitment to you. At the core of this bill, it is the establishment of a clear expectation that the rights of victims are prioritised before those of the offenders. The bill also instils a clear expectation that offenders will be held accountable for their serious violent offences.

It gave me great pride to be appointed to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. As a member who represents the community that was the epicentre of the youth crime crisis in this state, I am honoured that I get to be the voice of the region of North Queensland. Our voices are finally being heard.

It was crucial our committee went to Townsville to listen to victims. We heard of some of the most terrifying and heart-wrenching stories from those who have been left traumatised by the youth crime crisis. The committee heard from the business community who have been punished with additional costs of doing business due to the high levels of crime in Townsville. I am not sure I heard any comments from the other side on the victim statements during this process of our committee. There were stories that were important to shine a light on the truth about the impact and victimisation of communities due to inaction by the former Labor government.

Following the introduction of this bill to parliament, it gave me great pride to be able to return to my community and give them confidence that we are listening, and we are taking urgent action to restore safety in our community. My community is over forums and talkfests. They want a government ready to take action and listen to their concerns. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP government is doing, and it begins with this bill that delivers community safety for all Queenslanders.

Following the election, I met with our local police who are absolutely exhausted from dealing with the same group of repeat hardcore offenders and having to constantly attend to the victims left behind by this group of untouchables. They highlighted the fact that they had not once been visited by the former Labor premiers, but maybe that is because their carpet is not red. However, it was the first priority for the leaders on this side of the House to get out and see our frontline police, to let them know we support them, and we will do everything necessary to give them the resources they need to keep our community safe.

This bill is a first step of many by the LNP government as part of our Making Our Community Safer plan, to clean up the mess left by those opposite. This bill is very clear in its objective: making Queensland safer. We promised Queenslanders we would deliver on this by Christmas, and we will. They gave us the mandate and their backing to deliver this bill.

This bill removes detention as a last resort. This bill will ensure that an offender's criminal record is considered when sentencing. This bill will instil consequences for action, and this bill will enhance victim recognition in sentencing.


The Making Queensland Safer Bill will also complement the Crisafulli LNP government's broader plan to restore community safety through gold-standard early intervention and mandatory, result-driven rehabilitation programs to ensure there are fewer victims of crime.

To those opposite, including the Katter party, who are unsure on what position they would take on this bill, I pose a very simple question: will you stand with the many victims of crime across this state who have been traumatised by the youth crime crisis, or will you continue to ignore them and stand on the side of offenders and those who let this crisis get to the point it is today?



To those serious violent offenders, the message is very clear from the Crisafulli LNP government: if you commit an adult crime, you will face adult time.

To the people of Thuringowa and Queensland, I stand with you. The Crisafulli LNP government stands with you. We will fight hard for you and take every step necessary to restore safety in our community, starting with the Making Queensland Safer Bill.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (10.34 pm): The most primary human need that we all have is to feel safe. We are, in fact, biologically hardwired to seek out the conditions that make us feel safe. People in my electorate share those needs, and we are also not immune to crime; we have had our fair share of break-ins and cars stolen. There are people who have been impacted directly or who have witnessed graphic home invasions on social media and people feel scared. Community safety was absolutely a feature in this election. If this bill was offering a credible solution towards improving community safety, I would have no problem at all standing here and supporting it today, but the reality is that this bill, despite its slogan headline, will ultimately lead to a very violent state here in Queensland and it will set us apart as one of the greatest violators of human rights and, most egregiously, will remove options and rights for victims of violent crime.

This bill includes mandatory sentencing, it removes detention as a last resort and may result in children as young as 10 being sentenced to life sentences. I get that it is intuitive to say, 'Well, perhaps they will think about that next time they jump into the back of a stolen car,' but anyone who has worked with these young people, anyone in this room who is a parent of a teenager, knows that that approach just does not work. It is not how they work. These measures will harm young people who will then come out and harm others. They will harm people in my community, and that is intolerable to me.

I note that even in the brief opportunity of just two business days, stakeholders had to provide input to the committee on this bill. The committee indeed received over 175 submissions, and the overwhelming majority of those submissions completely and comprehensively repudiated this bill. I want to acknowledge particularly the victims who made submissions and who raised substantial concerns about this bill, victims who have experienced youth crime firsthand, and who are now urging the government to be brave enough to concede that perhaps they have not got it right and to go back and work with the experts and to work with victims to design and deliver a policy that fulfils the government's promise to reduce victim numbers.

I am a victim of violent crime and, importantly, I have spent 25 years listening to victims. Despite a range of views, we are unanimous on one thing: we do not want anyone to ever have to go through what we have experienced—identifying bodies, death knocks, media inquiries, funerals and court cases. When you live through an experience like this, you realise that this is not an issue to be used for political gain or expedience; that we in this place have a shared responsibility to keep Queenslanders safe.

Prisons are criminogenic. This is not an opinion or a hypothetical; it is something that has been proven across every comparable jurisdiction for decades. We also know that prisons do not deter young people, or adults for that matter, from committing a crime. It is not a subjective theory. This, too, has been well evidenced in many places, including Queensland. That is why Texas, which has the death penalty for murder, still has one of the highest murder rates in the world. So, while I appreciate the intuitive notion that locking more children up for longer periods will somehow make our homes safer, what we know is that when we remove children and young people from their home, when you take them away from people who care about them, when you take them away from their supports, when you take them away from their treatment, when you take them away from their education and you imbed them into a family and a network of peers who are also extraordinarily violent and isolated and angry, what you do—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** The member would know this as the minister—is create a cohort of young people who are traumatised and violent and resistant to rehabilitation.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** The minister has some serious questions to answer this week in parliament. What will be the impact on watch houses? Where are these young people going to be held? Any given night there are around 280 children in prison. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council data indicates that a further 2,200 children will be affected by this bill.

Conservatively, if even a quarter of those children are wrapped up into custodial sentences, you are looking at an additional 500 children sitting in prisons. How many more youth detention facilities

need to be built, and in which communities will the minister place them? Queenslanders have a right to know that. Queenslanders also have the right to know what it will cost and whether that funding would be better allocated upstream into mental health supports, rehabilitation beds and family supports.


The Premier during the election campaign spoke about gold standard early intervention. I would love the minister to take me to the clause in this bill that speaks to that, because there is no mention of that in this bill. The Premier spoke about 12-month transition plans for young people. It might be there, but I cannot see where that is in that bill. They have not explained whether that will carry over into an adult corrections facility, where most of these young people will now be exiting from under this bill. The Premier said that this bill would put victims first. Can the minister then explain why there are clauses in this bill that will cut restorative justice options for victims of crime to meet with their offender, to seek an apology and to seek recompense?

This bill is about giving a voice to victims, so I will highlight a couple of the submissions from victims groups—groups that are working with thousands of victims in this state and that raised significant concerns. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, while supporting the intent of the bill, raised numerous concerns about the bill including the likelihood that victims will be cross-examined. They said that victims have had a lifetime of governments 'doing things to them' and that rushed legislation like this is triggering and leads to distrust. Ending Violence Against Women asked the government to reconsider its position on removing youth justice conferencing as an option for victims of a youth offender. Queer & Trans Workers Against Violence urged the government to draw from the range of experts and asked the government to explain how this bill will actually deliver on the promise to keep Queenslanders safe.

Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma labelled this bill discriminatory and based on race. They said it would not make Queensland safer. They asked the minister what rehabilitation programs will be put in place in prisons. The Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence asked why the bill ignores best practice and the views of experts. The Independent Ministerial Advisory Council, which was established to advance the rights and interests of victims of crime, said that the fast-tracked nature of this bill has not allowed for proper consideration and advocated that the government reconsider the removal of restorative justice for victims of crime in Queensland. Beck O'Connor, the Victims' Commissioner, said that measures in this bill were unprecedented and submitted that there needs to be a review period put into this bill.

This week many of us have been at graduation ceremonies with young students and school leaders who are literally in the age range of this bill, 10- to 17-year-olds. When I speak to young leaders, I talk about integrity. I tell them that integrity is about doing the right thing when no-one is watching, but sometimes integrity is about doing the right thing when everybody is watching. It is about values. It is having the integrity to acknowledge when you do not quite have it right and it is about respecting the power and privilege entrusted to each of us with respect and decency. This bill represents a significant departure from the evidence of what works in criminal justice. This bill will result in more violence, more victims and more harm. I urge all members in this House to think about that this week as they cast their vote.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I call the minister, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in the gallery of Councillor Joel Richters from the Southern Downs Regional Council in my own electorate of Southern Downs. Welcome.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.43 pm): I stand today in this chamber excited and proud to be a part of the Crisafulli LNP government, which has fought so hard to take action on Queensland's youth crime crisis. It is a crisis that, if you listen to the member for Cooper, suddenly just materialised. Actually, we all know—Queensland knows—that it occurred because of 10 years of mismanagement by those opposite. I am also grateful to the Queenslanders who trusted our plan and gave us this opportunity to be here tonight to debate and hopefully pass these laws. We know they are needed. The statistics, the courts, the victims, the community and the police tell us they are needed. We promised that, if elected, we would get stuck in and pass these laws before Christmas, so now that is exactly what we are doing.

Youth crime has been rampant in our communities for too long, and these laws and our policies will put an end to the reign of terror that too many brazen young crims have held our state in for too long. Now juvenile offenders who commit serious crimes such as murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm will face the same penalties as adults. We are also prioritising victims' rights—something I cannot believe we actually need to do, as it should have been the norm all along. Sentencing courts

will now have to give greater regard to the impact on a victim over other factors when determining appropriate sentences for young people.

Furthermore, we are moving to an opt-out model of contact with victims and their families whereby they do not need to apply to be placed on a register to remain updated on the offender's custody movements. Instead, we will assume they do want and need to know this information and not place the burden of seeking it out on them. We will also ensure the immediate family of a victim can be present during criminal proceedings and remove the court's existing powers to exclude any person who has access to the proceedings. Again, I cannot believe we had to do this. These people should always have had a right to view the trial of a person who has committed a crime against their loved one or loved ones. Importantly, instead of remaining in juvie or being released too early into the community, detainees will now be transferred to adult custody after they turn 18.

Juvenile crime has been an issue in my own electorate of Glass House. In October, a 15-year-old boy was assaulted in a tunnel at the Beerwah Skate Park by a group of 17-year-olds while he waited for his mum to pick him up from school. His twin was the one who found him bleeding and unconscious. Just last week, a teenager stole a car in the early hours of the morning from a Caboolture family and barrelled it down the highway, pushing other vehicles out of the way and wiping out cars. Earlier this year, two gun-wielding teenagers, aged 14 and 17, led the police on a wild highway goose chase from the Gold Coast to Caboolture after attempting an armed hold-up.

Under Labor and its soft-on-crime laws, young offenders with a rap sheet a mile long have been able to steal cars and take the lives of innocent Queenslanders. In most cases, these young offenders end up being found guilty of manslaughter, which under the current laws carries a maximum sentence of 10 years—but keep in mind that is the absolute maximum. Many young criminals are barely serving any time. If the Making Queensland Safer Laws had been legislated prior to these tragic incidents, the drivers would have received a maximum sentence of life detention, with a minimum non-parole period of 15 years.

This bill will remove the maximum-penalty constraints in the Youth Justice Act on 13 Criminal Code offences being: murder; manslaughter; unlawful striking causing death; acts intended to cause grievous bodily harm and other malicious acts; grievous bodily harm; wounding; dangerous operation of a vehicle; serious assault; unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels; robbery; burglary; entering or being in premises and committing indictable offences; and unlawful entry of vehicle for committing indictable offences. These are all very serious crimes that do not just accidentally happen. They require planning and intent; they are premeditated. These laws are not intended to trap good kids who are caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, or someone who has just slipped up once. They are for the hardened, usually repeat offenders who pose an incredibly serious threat to our communities.


Yes, there are some who voiced concerns that these laws are simply going in too hard. To those I would like to highlight that our government will be bolstering early intervention programs and rehabilitation opportunities to support at-risk youths. We will get tough on the cohort of repeat young offenders created by Labor's do-nothing approach, but we want to help other young people, before they become hardened crims, to see a brighter future.

It is important that we invest in the wellbeing of young people who are at risk and those who are at the other end of the pipeline, those being released from detention. Once they are out of jail we want to help them stay out and make a good new life for themselves. Support every step of the way is critical and we plan to deliver it. Our Staying on Track program represents a \$175 million investment, providing 12-month post-release support where a community organisation will work directly with young people before they even leave youth detention to help bridge the transition back into the community. This offers the all-important support network that we know is critical to preventing offenders from relapsing back into a life of crime.

We are also so proud to present our Regional Reset programs, a \$50 million investment in nine early intervention residential programs that will provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than community-based programs are able to provide. It does not end there. Circuit-breaker sentencing will provide \$80 million towards three- to six-month rehabilitation programs as an alternative to detention. While detention should not be a last resort, we recognise it is not always the most appropriate option either.

Finally, our gold standard early intervention program will invest in community-led initiatives focusing on reducing crime and boosting education, training and/or employment because busy kids do not have time to be out on the streets causing the chaos they have been causing. These laws are tough.

We put them to the people of Queensland at the last election and Queenslanders have backed them in; they have entrusted us to deliver on them. Therefore, this bill has my complete support.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (10.51 pm): I rise to speak on the so-called Making Queensland Safer Bill and I will start by turning to the bill's statement of compatibility with human rights—or incompatibility as the case may be—which is quite an extraordinary read. It outlines in detail the many and varied ways these laws will limit the rights of Queensland children, and for what? The evidence is crystal clear for young people that any interaction with the criminal legal system, but especially spending time in custody, leads to future offending. The government can hike up the penalties all they like but it will not prevent offending.

However, the LNP is not interested in genuinely preventing crime. It is no wonder the Premier has walked back on his commitment to resign if victim numbers do not fall. These laws are about political grandstanding at the expense of the safety of all Queenslanders. These laws do not just completely remove the already watered down principle of detention as a last resort. They say the court cannot even consider such a principle. I will spell this out. This is a principle that still applies in sentencing adults, the principle that you try all other forms of rehabilitation first and only use imprisonment as a last resort, but it will no longer apply to children. The AG's own statement of compatibility says—

This will, in essence, create a sentencing system where adults are better protected from arbitrary detention than children.

This change is not only incompatible with human rights; it removes an evidence-based principle from our laws that non-custodial sentencing is often more effective for rehabilitation. We are forcing the courts to close their eyes to any such principle simply because it does not suit the government's agenda. The term 'Orwellian' gets thrown around in this place all too often, but I think in this circumstance it is a pretty neat fit.

As I said earlier, the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time is not a policy; it is a slogan. What they are actually doing is removing the court's discretion when sentencing. This bill applies mandatory life sentences to children for murder. For other offences, including non-violent offences, it applies the same maximum penalties for adults to children as young as 10 and includes mandatory prison sentences for vehicle offences. It stifles judicial independence, a fundamental democratic principle, all for the purpose of the LNP's pursuit of its political slogan.

I can understand the desire in the rare and genuinely horrible situations where a young person commits a serious harmful crime for a just outcome and to ensure that it never happens again, but the LNP's laws simply will not do that. Unfortunately, removing the court's discretion to apply an appropriate sentence will likely inhibit rehabilitation and disrupt those key cognitive and social developmental stages, creating more serious institutionalised offenders in the long term. The government's key victims advocacy body the IMAC, the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council, said the so-called Adult Crime, Adult Time laws—

... will have serious consequences, including the creation of a cohort of individuals who are further disengaged from society and at higher risk of further offending.

This is not some pinko conspiracy theory; it is what all the evidence says. Under the LNP's laws children will spend more time in detention and their human rights will be violated. That is why the government have had to so substantially override the Human Rights Act to introduce this bill. Again, the government's own statement of compatibility with human rights is unequivocal. It states—

The amendments will lead to sentences for children that are more punitive than necessary ...

When the LNP admit these laws are incompatible with human rights, they are not just admitting that the laws limit human rights; they are effectively admitting that those limits are not reasonable and cannot be justified in a free and democratic society. This is an incredible overreach and it is why the Human Rights Act only provides for an override in exceptional circumstances. That brings me to the first of the three fundamental lies that underpin these laws.

The LNP is justifying these horrific human rights abuses against the backdrop of a confected youth crime crisis. There have been some terrible tragedies in recent years and there is no denying the profound impacts these tragedies have on victims and their families, and I want to acknowledge the member for Capalaba and the tragedies that have befallen him and his family. I acknowledge that when we met as an advocate—and I continue to now—there was nothing any of us could have done to wind that back and there is no evidence to suggest that Queensland is facing a crisis that justifies the widespread breach of the rights of children and their families. The Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Government Statistician's Office and the Australian Institute of Criminology show a consistent decrease in youth crime in Queensland. The ABS demonstrates that the youth crime rate in

Queensland has halved over the past 14 years. There are fewer individual young people committing offences and there are fewer offences being committed. The LNP is just ignoring this evidence, again to suit its own agenda.

That brings me to the second of three: the LNP claims their ambiguous four-word slogan rolled out ahead of the election is justification for trashing parliamentary process, fast-tracking legislation without adequate time for stakeholder engagement and, indeed, without any stakeholder engagement on the actual content of the laws before their introduction, which ultimately will treat kids even worse than adults in the criminal legal system. The timing of this is also deeply concerning, right before the holidays without any lead time for preparation. The existing infrastructure simply will not be able to cope and they know that. This is going to be a summer of egregious human rights abuses in Queensland, and Queenslanders did not vote for that. Perhaps they voted for change, but they did not vote for this, which is more of the same but worse.

The biggest farce of all here is the idea that jailing kids will somehow make our communities safer. This is contrary to the views of every credible expert in the field. So much for a government that is going to listen to the experts! Ninety per cent of children sentenced to detention in Queensland reoffend within the first year of release. For the small cohort of kids who are reoffending at higher rates, it is clear that the system is failing and we need to listen to the experts and radically change tack. That means recognising that offending does not arise in a vacuum and recognising that the majority of children charged with offences in Queensland have a diagnosed or suspected mental health or behavioural disorder, most are totally disengaged from education, around a fifth are homeless or have unsuitable accommodation, around a quarter have an intellectual disability, the vast majority are known to the child protection system and most serious repeat young offenders are engaged in substance misuse and many are themselves the victims of crime.

Adult Crime, Adult Time ignores all of these factors for the sake of a neat slogan. Free mental health care, school meals, state school funding, more social housing and more community-led intervention program services will work. These laws will not. They will fail. They will take us backwards. The LNP is not just lying to victims by introducing a bill that, based on the vast majority of evidence, will make offending worse; it is actually removing benefits for victims. This bill removes the option for some victims to access restorative justice processes, which many say they valued greatly.

Again IMAC, the key advisory body representing victims, said in its submission—

By taking away restorative justice processes, this Bill removes options for victims and victim-survivors to recover from harm, voice their views about the offence and outcome, and understand more about the offence committed against them, ultimately leading victims to be empowered.

This government is taking that away. IMAC also said that this bill will disproportionately impact First Nations people, which we know, and the government is not even pretending it is otherwise. I said it last sitting week and I will say it again: this is what the LNP's racist agenda looks like in action. We all know that it is overwhelmingly First Nations and racialised young people sitting in detention centres and police watch houses across the state. First Nations kids are 23 times more likely than their non-Indigenous peers to be in prison in Queensland. The government's statement of compatibility again acknowledges that there will be a greater impact on Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal kids. There is no dispute that these laws will not make those kids safer. The LNP talks about community safety, but it does not see First Nations children as part of our community. It does not care about their safety. It does not care about their wellbeing, their great potential and their hope for a better life. The Institute for Collaborative Race Research said in its submission—

By introducing a Bill that it knows will traumatise, isolate and lock up Black kids, the Queensland Government tells us that racial violence is alive and well in Queensland lawmaking.


**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Those opposite accuse the Greens of sowing division. Christ! Experiences of racism, of being othered—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member, that was unparliamentary. I would ask that you withdraw that.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw. Experiences of racism, of being othered, of serious systemic disadvantage and discrimination: these are not just unacceptable in and of themselves; they are drivers of offending behaviour, and with these laws the LNP wants to further entrench the very things that lead to offending in the first place. This bill is not about rehabilitation or better outcomes; this bill is retribution.

Until we see all kids as part of our communities deserving of safety and care, we stand no chance of making our communities safer.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.01 pm): As I rise to speak for the first time in this 58th Parliament, may I congratulate all returning members and in particular the 20 or so new LNP members of parliament. Congratulations on your election and congratulations as well to Mr Speaker on his election as Speaker.

In supporting the Making Queensland Safer Bill, I want to reflect on the contest of ideas that we are having with this bill. Members will know that, as a member of this parliament for some time and a member of the former Legal Affairs and Safety Committee over a number of years, I have a very reasonable way of dealing with these things and assessing things, looking at both sides of an argument and not being too extreme one way or another. When we look at the history over the last decade of the youth justice system in Queensland, the debate on this bill really does come down to a simple question. The fact is that the number of youth offences has increased by around 98 per cent over the last 10 years, with 22,866 offences in the last financial year. When we look at these statistics and the history over the last 10 years since the Labor government was elected in 2015, this bill comes down to a debate about whether you are with the victims of crime and the community and community safety or you are with the rights of youth criminals. Our team—the LNP government—is unashamedly putting victims first and putting the rights of the community and community safety first as the top priority of this government, and that is as it should be.

That is not to say that there are other points of view and that there also needs to be consideration for people who are involved in the youth justice system, but when we look at the way things have been progressing there have been awful crimes that our communities have been subjected to with horrific consequences—for individuals, for families, for the fear that so many people are now living in as a result of youth crime and repeat youth offenders. Murders have taken place allegedly by offenders who have rap sheets 70 or 80 offences long; the death of Emma Lovell on Boxing Day 2022; the death of Vyleen White; the deaths of Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and Miles; the horrendous grievous bodily harm inflicted on one of the toughest men in Queensland, if not Australia, Toutai Kefu and the fear that that has inflicted on his family and hundreds of other families like his across the state. We could talk all night about the accounts of victims—

**Mr McDonald:** And so we should.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. We should talk about the victims and the impact that youth criminals have on them, because it is a tremendous impact. What a lost decade for Queenslanders we have had with the Labor Party in office between 2015 and last month. What a lost decade of opportunity in so many ways, but what a lost decade when it comes to youth justice. I remember when the Labor Party came to office and the celebration it had in watering down the Youth Justice Act in that it was going to make it easier for young offenders not to be detained, even in the face of concerns about community safety.

The Scenic Rim electorate that I represent strongly supports these laws. When it comes to taking a life—and we are talking about Adult Crime, Adult Time—one of the key principles we took to the election and sought a mandate from the people of Queensland for is that taking a life demands consequences. At the heart of this bill, not just in Adult Crime, Adult Time but in so many other ways, it is about restoring consequences for actions when it comes to youth offenders. At the moment, under the regime that has been in place under the Labor government, there are no consequences for actions for youth offenders, and repeat youth offenders know this. Taking a life demands consequences and it demands justice for the community, for families and for the victim. Taking a life means that the victim has died. This morning when making his maiden speech to this House the member for Capalaba said that he is here to seek justice not only for his family but also for the community that he represents and for the people of Queensland. The grief of family demands justice. Adult Crime, Adult Time will be a key part of ensuring that there are consequences for actions whilst also ensuring that the rights of the community to justice are fulfilled.

The member for Maiwar essentially said that youth crime was a beat-up. He used different words to the former member for Capalaba. He used more words than the former member for Capalaba did when he famously stated that youth crime was a beat-up, but the member for Maiwar is essentially saying the same thing that Don Brown did.

**A government member:** Shame.

**Mr KRAUSE:** He should hang his head in shame for that because of the impacts that it has had on so many families and so many communities. The member for Maiwar may be trying to rewrite history,

as the Labor Party often does in this place as well. We have seen that tonight where it is trying to claim that the policies in this bill were not taken to the people of Queensland and a mandate sought when they clearly were. We stated numerous times throughout the campaign that we would put the rights of victims first, and we are doing that in this bill, and that we would change—

**Mr Bennett:** Sixty-nine times.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Sixty-nine times?

**Mr Bennett:** It was 69, yes.

**Mr KRAUSE:** We also said that we would change the sentencing principles to remove the principle of detention as a last resort only after all other options had been exhausted because we recognised—and the people of Queensland demanded—that that principle be removed in order to ensure community safety and to put community safety and the rights of victims at the forefront of our justice system's considerations when it comes to youth offenders.


When it comes to the issue of the media and victim access to the Childrens Court, which this bill also deals with, we have a strong presumption in our system of law that there should be a system of open justice. I understand that the provisions have been in place previously to close the Childrens Court in some circumstances. When we see what has gone on over the last decade, it is clear—and the community that we represent in Queensland have made it clear—that the scales have tipped too far against the community and against victims of crime and in favour of the offenders.

This bill is about righting that balance and having access to courts to know what is going on. The youth crime history of young offenders will be available to courts after they turn 18 for a period of time so that there cannot be this system where once you turn 18 if you stop offending for some time there is no consideration given to a young offender's vast youth crime history. That is not right when we talk about the long list of offences committed by some young offenders in Queensland today.

Under this government the number of serious repeat youth offenders has continued to climb greatly since 2014-15. I remember back to that time when the Childrens Court president, Michael Shanahan, released his report of the 2014-15 year. There was evidence in that report that the number of young offenders and the number of youth offences was going down under the provisions put in place by the former LNP government.

**Mr Nicholls:** Individual court presentations.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Thank you, member for Clayfield. The report pointed to the fact that changes made by the LNP government between 2012 and 2015 were making a difference and sending youth crime down. Members opposite—some of them were not here then but many of them were—celebrated the fact that all of that was tossed out even if there was an evidence base to say that it was going in the right direction. Today here in this chamber we are correcting that on behalf of the people of Queensland who have given our government a strong mandate to put victims first and community safety at the forefront of our youth justice system.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution in this debate on the Making Queensland Safer Bill on behalf of the long-suffering people of Southern Downs who have, more than most in Queensland, been impacted by the rampant youth crime that we have seen over the last decade. One thing I know for certain is that the people of Queensland have an expectation that the order of precedence in terms of justice in the community is that law-abiding citizens come first and then, well below that, perpetrators. All of this debate and the election campaign that has just come and gone has centred around whether or not the people of Queensland should be allowed to have that currently inverted order of precedence where offenders are kowtowed to and hands are wrung over their welfare and communities are left to fend for themselves and victims continue to mount up.

This bill is the culmination of the campaign that the Liberal National Party under David Crisafulli took to the election. It was a clear promise to the people of Queensland that before Christmas came the Making Queensland Safer Laws would be brought before parliament and passed. When I saw the shenanigans that occurred earlier tonight, whereupon the opposition in this state attempted to delay proceedings and grandstand, I thought that that was a great discourtesy to the people of Queensland and an even greater affront to the victims of crime. I can certainly speak for the electors in Southern Downs who have experienced much of that.

The type of crime we are talking about typically in places like Goondiwindi, but also Millmerran, Warwick, Texas and Inglewood and other places such as Killarney, involve offenders who are becoming increasingly violent and brazen and want to steal cars. They will identify a car they like in the motel car park, they will kick the door down and, because of the lack of consequences over many years, the youth

offenders, and the older ones who were youth offenders during the period of backsliding that we have seen over the last decade, will go into the hotel room and pre-emptively clobber the occupants to subdue them in order to get their car keys. We are talking about people who break into people's homes with no concern for the fact that there are people inside, with the intent to brutalise them and to get car keys. We are talking about people who have lost their cars once, twice, three or four times. If you are a tradie and you lose your ute and all of your tools and equipment because the ute is burnt or pushed into the Macintyre River, that has a massive impact on you. If you are the operator of a motel and there is an invasion, that hurts your business, it hurts the reputation of your business. That room may not be able to be rented out for months. If you are the operator of a small business like a supermarket or a corner store and your premises are ram raided with a stolen vehicle over and over again, each time \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 worth of damage can be done in order for the offenders to steal lollies and cigarettes. People are traumatised, they are fearful. I wrote to the previous government to make it very clear that many of my electors sleep with clubs and firearms at the ready because they are concerned about being home invaded. They are concerned about the absence of restraint and proportion and any sense of respect for themselves or for the community on the part of the perpetrators who have had it too good for too long.

These laws are very important to my community and to all Queenslanders. I believe that those who disagree with these laws sincerely believe that the answer does not lie in locking up offenders. I am afraid the horse has bolted on that. We have had a decade of youth offenders being allowed to run amok. Some of them are adult offenders now. I have heard members on the other side of the House say that these offenders have disabilities, mental health problems, fetal alcohol syndrome, they have not gone to school and so forth. Part of the reason for those things is the fact that they have been allowed to stay with unfit parents. I believe that there were failures on the part of the Labor government. Because of political expediency or a philosophical commitment to leaving kids with their parents if at all possible, those children have experienced a disservice and their drift into a life of crime, where they have not attended school or where they have been traumatised, has then meant that they are committed to that life path now. I believe that many of the perpetrators may never be rehabilitated. We believe we should start immediately with the very effective early intervention strategies that we went to the election on and that are proposed here.

Those who argue that locking up offenders is not the answer are forgetting that a decade of going soft on crime has resulted in perpetrators who do not care and whenever they are at liberty they steal cars, invade homes, assault people, ram raid shops, run amok and in some cases the outcome is tragic. Anybody who says that this is not the way to go is saying that the community, the good law-abiding people of Queensland, should simply tolerate the crime until the social policies, which we hear should fix the problem, take effect. That is just not on. The people of Goondiwindi, Millmerran, Warwick, Stanthorpe, Killarney, Inglewood and Texas are entitled to sleep safe in their beds at night. If the way to achieve that is to lock up a recidivist offender so they cannot reoffend every night then that is what we must do. Anybody who says that this is an excessively punitive approach and that it is grandstanding—which I think I heard the member for Maiwar say—is fatally disconnected from the word on the street in places like Goondiwindi.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that acknowledgement from my honourable friend, the member for Lockyer, a distinguished police officer before he entered parliament and a representative of a community which too has been touched by this crime. In order to satisfy the people of Queensland that the justice system works and that they are safe, we need to make changes now. There is a clear mandate from the people of Queensland to do so. Early intervention may take a long time to start bearing fruit but we will start immediately. We will make sure that there are consequences for actions and that those who perpetrate crimes lose their liberty if necessary in order to prevent that crime being committed over and over and over again.

I am weary of hearing about experts and expert advice. I think the Premier made a very pithy point last week when he pointed out that those same experts are the kinds of people who advocated for the watering down of youth justice laws in the first place. I am tired of hearing experts who live away from Goondiwindi saying that the people of Goondiwindi should be condemned to ongoing crime in order that the perpetrators, whom they view as victims, can have a free rein. That is not on.

Who is the Labor Party kidding? I encourage anyone who disagrees with what I have said to doorknock my electorate and tell people what a rogue and a heartless reactionary I am because I support these laws as that would very much help me at the next election. I think the Labor Party need to confront the fact that they are disconnected from what people really want and they are disconnected



from what the community expects. Their approach to youth justice was the genesis of the problem we have now and it has been discredited. For 10 years the experts had been saying that what the Labor Party was doing was what they wanted, but they were wrong and the Labor Party was wrong. The people of Queensland are right. The people of Goondiwindi and other places in my electorate and throughout Queensland are entitled to a government that listens and regards their safety as being more important than the interests of offenders.

**Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (11.20 pm): No-one in this chamber can deny the pain and anguish of those who have experienced any crime. It is an experience that no Queenslanders should have to face and we know that it leaves physical and emotional scars that can last a lifetime. It is clear that Queenslanders wanted us to move faster on issues such as crime. We have heard that message and we do accept the outcome of the election. We do accept that more needs to be done to keep our communities safe. We absolutely believe that every Queenslanders has the right to be safe and to feel safe—safe in their homes, safe at work, safe at the local shops and just about everywhere else. The Labor opposition supports strong action and tough laws to protect Queenslanders. We will continue to fight and advocate for the safety of all Queenslanders. We will continue to consult with experts, stakeholders and Queenslanders themselves to achieve this.

Premier David Crisafulli made a vow to listen to experts and yet the results of what can only be described as a rushed committee process held last week would indicate that the Premier has done nothing of the sort. Adult Crime, Adult Time is a four-word slogan that has now manifested into a 52-page bill. According to almost every expert and stakeholder who has had the opportunity to have their say, this is a bill that has unintended consequences. One of those unintended consequences includes potentially making things worse for victims. Victims who are seeking justice may now face lengthier trials and the experience of having to be cross-examined by criminal defence barristers.

Another unintended consequence is the perverse outcome of a justice system that is harsher on kids than it is on adults. I do not think anyone thinks that will make our communities safer. We have heard the pleas of countless legal professionals, victims representative groups, youth advocates and victims themselves who want further consideration and consultation on this important bill. In fact, the Queensland Victims' Commissioner expressed her dissatisfaction with the consultation process. She stated—

I note the short timeframe to provide a submission ... is unrealistic for stakeholders—particularly victims, their families, communities, legal advocates, and service providers who will have very significant contributions to make. We must adopt a balanced, evidence-based approach to community safety for all and this is done through open, transparent, and accessible consultation.

It is not me saying that; it is the Victims' Commissioner of Queensland. The LNP government is ramming through this legislation without listening to victims, experts, stakeholders or members of the public. These are important laws and Queenslanders deserve the opportunity to have their say. We have already seen the LNP ram through legislation in a day during the last sitting week and they are on track to do the same again.

The Premier said that he would be a premier who took advice and who listened, but he is doing the exact opposite. Stakeholders have raised some pretty big issues with these laws. The committee report contains a lot of expert advice and evidence that should be considered.

**Mr Lister:** Don't talk to me about experts. They've had it their way for a decade and they were wrong.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. When I talk about 'experts' I include victims. Victims themselves have called for more time and more consultation.

From the evidence that was given to the committee it is also clear that there are real and serious concerns about the capacity of watch houses and youth detention centres. Where is the government's modelling on how many extra children will be held for extended periods in watch houses? What is the safe ratio of police to children in watch houses? How many extra police will be needed to look after those kids in watch houses? How many additional youth justice staff will be needed in the youth detention centres? The government need to release that information—that is, if they have done the modelling. The government do not seem to have any of the answers because they are determined to ram and rush through this legislation.

Stakeholders have raised very serious concerns. Time and time again, many acknowledged that Queenslanders voted for these laws in the hope of having safer communities. However, the overwhelming evidence indicates that we will not achieve safer communities with these laws. The Bar Association stated that, while they will generally support evidence-based law reform, there is no

evidence to suggest that this bill will fulfil its titular object of making Queensland safer. In fact, in the statement of compatibility the Attorney-General stated—

The amendments will lead to sentences for children that are more punitive than necessary to achieve community safety.

In their submission, Act for Kids Ltd stated that they believe the bill is 'likely to negate all evidence-based interventions with the result of increasing crime in Queensland'. That is the opposite of what the bill says it will do. Many of those who were able to speak at the committee hearings also raised concerns about a judicial system that punishes youth offenders with harsher sentences than adults. When was that canvassed in the campaign? 'Perverse' is the word most commonly used amongst those providing submissions because that is what this is. The Bar Association stated—

... a child imprisoned at 10 years of age is unlikely to turn out, newly-released into the community as a 30 year old, as anything other than a hardened, more dangerous criminal.

However, I think the biggest and most concerning unintended consequence of this bill is the fact that victims will find themselves on trial. It is me not saying that.

**Mr Hunt:** That's rubbish.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection. This is not a scare campaign. Criminal defence lawyers are saying that they will cross-examine victims.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order, members! Pause the clock. I am sorry to interrupt you, member for Waterford. Member for Nicklin, I have given you a bit of latitude. You have continued to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Law Society—that is, the criminal lawyers in Queensland—said—

It will lead to comparisons being made between victims, may compromise victim agency and result in them being cross-examined and otherwise being required to properly come to proof about the impact of the offence upon them.

The Attorney-General says that will not happen because the process has not changed. Who do you believe: the criminal lawyers of Queensland who say they will need to cross-examine victims because of the changes or the Attorney-General?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I cannot begin to fathom what the emotional impacts and trauma would be from an intense period of cross-examination in a criminal justice system to determine the impact of a crime on the victim. Has the government considered how it will be for victims having to be cross-examined by criminal defence barristers? Another unintended consequence of this bill—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The former attorney knows better than that. What a scare campaign.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. Pause the clock. I will just wait for silence. We will just wait. The House is becoming more and more unruly as we get later and later. I have been giving a bit of latitude but now I will issue a general warning to everyone. If there are further injections, members will just be warned and then the second time they will be asked to leave.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango, the Attorney-General, who says this is just a scare campaign. If it is, it is a scare campaign being run by the Law Society and the criminal barristers of Queensland who have given evidence to the committee that their members will have to cross-examine victims, and that is appalling.

Another unintended consequence of this bill is that it removes any incentive for young people to enter guilty pleas. This will have a range of serious implications for victims, their families and witnesses who will be forced to give evidence at trial with lengthy delays. Many of the submissions also expressed concern about the removal of restorative justice from the Youth Justice Act as a sentencing option, and I note the contribution from the youth justice minister who said restorative justice is still available because it is available for adults—not as a sentencing option, member for Currumbin, only for conferencing. Voice for Victims stated that restorative justice, whether at the request of the defence or prosecution, should not be removed. That is from victims themselves. The Labor opposition has moved amendments so that we could have further consultation on these issues that impact victims.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are warned.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (11.31 pm): I rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. The bill reflects the unwavering commitment of the Crisafulli government to addressing the safety concerns of all Queenslanders who have been desperate to feel safe in their communities again. My electorate of Surfers Paradise, and the Gold Coast generally, has been deeply impacted by the youth crime crisis, as I know many other places in Queensland have. It is an issue exacerbated by nearly a decade of inaction under the previous Labor government, with people feeling unsafe in their homes, workplaces and communities. This bill represents a cornerstone of the Crisafulli government's promise prior to the election to restore safety as our priority before Christmas to all Queenslanders.

We know the escalation of youth crime did not happen overnight; it happened as a result of the previous government's watering down of youth justice laws—a watering down that we warned against when it was brought in—creating a generation of hard-core, repeat offenders who know that their rights outweigh those of their victims. Already this year there have been more than 50,000 offences committed by youth offenders. On the Gold Coast, from 1 January 2024 to 30 November 2024, there were 5,153 offences, with a number being committed by serious repeat youth offenders targeting homes, cars and businesses.

To illustrate the seriousness of this issue, since 2021 I have raised youth crime in this House on 10 separate occasions, highlighting that residents throughout my community in neighbourhoods including Clear Island Waters, Sorrento, Benowa Waters and Paradise Waters have felt so unsafe they have resorted to hiring private security to protect their homes and property. This bill responds directly to these concerns by prioritising safety and sending a clear message: committing crime has consequences.

This bill includes several critical reforms. Firstly, Adult Crime, Adult Time—young offenders committing heinous crimes such as murder, grievous bodily harm and manslaughter will face adult penalties, including mandatory life detention for murder. Secondly, the bill prioritises victims with courts needing to give primary regard to victims' experiences when sentencing young offenders, ensuring their voices are heard. Thirdly, it changes sentencing, with judges now able to consider an offender's entire criminal history, including juvenile offences, ensuring sentencing reflects their pattern of behaviour along with the principle of detention as a last resort being removed and youth justice reforms providing detainees be transferred to adult custody after they turn 18 years of age. Finally, there will be greater transparency with regard to media, with provisions to allow media access to Childrens Court proceedings and the inclusion of victims' families in the courtroom to enhance accountability and justice for victims.


We must also acknowledge the importance of initiatives like Jack's Law, which the member for Bonney, the now Minister for Housing, championed alongside the Jack Beasley Foundation. Its introduction has allowed police to use metal detecting wands, leading to the seizure of over 450 weapons, more than 1,200 people being charged with nearly 1,900 offences and 39,000 individuals being scanned in safe night precincts and on public transport.

The electorate of Surfers Paradise is home to two of Queensland's 15 safe night precincts where police have successfully trialled these operations with overwhelming community support for these initiatives. Whilst addressing crime is vital, unlike the previous Labor government the Crisafulli government recognises the need to prevent it and is making historic investments in early intervention and rehabilitation programs, including a \$175 million investment for Staying on Track, which provides 12-month post-release support to reintegrate young offenders into society.

In addition, the Crisafulli government will invest \$50 million for nine Regional Reset programs and \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing, both equipping at-risk youth with the tools through referral services and rehabilitation programs as an alternative to detention to allow young people to turn their lives around. Further, there is an investment of \$100 million for gold standard early intervention, funding community-led programs to prevent crime before it begins via education, training and employment initiatives.

Our commitments expand further to \$40 million for two youth justice schools to be delivered by Ohana for Youth, based in both South-East Queensland and North Queensland, along with \$40 million for four early intervention schools. One will be delivered on the Gold Coast by Marco Renai—the 2024 Australian of the Year from Queensland—through his Men of Business school aimed at re-engaging 900 students who have fallen out of mainstream schooling and are assessed as at risk of falling into crime throughout Queensland.

Youth crime is not just about statistics; it is about people. It is about the small business owner who is repeatedly targeted. It is about the family whose sense of security has been shattered by a home invasion. It is about every victim who deserves justice. The Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 is not only a promise to crack down on crime but a commitment to be smart about preventing it, with measures to restore safety and confidence to our communities. Unlike those opposite, we know Queenslanders have had enough of living in fear. The priority of the Crisafulli government is to restore safety to our communities and this bill demonstrates that commitment, with the measures that will protect our communities, victims and address the root causes of youth crime.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (11.37 pm): I want to introduce you to Steve. He is a decent guy from Ormiston. He found himself on his way home from work the victim of an attempted carjacking on Finucane Road, one of the major arterial roads in my part of the world, at the hands of a young person. I have had a householder from Cleveland tell me his horrific story of being woken in the middle of the night by the sound of young people breaking into both of his cars at once and having to chase a group of them down the street in an effort to keep them away from the family he wanted to protect. I have lost count of the number of older people who, after being repeatedly broken into, are now fearful to go to sleep in their home. So many people, more than I can recall now, have gone to sleep one night only to find their cars gone in the morning or their tools robbed from their work ute and they are unable to go about earning a living the following day.

One story that has really stuck with me is of a family broken into on Christmas Eve last year. The young people caught on their home CCTV were organised and professional in their approach and carried machetes. The CCTV videos showed them in the children's bedrooms as the children slept. They stole all the children's Christmas gifts, but more horrific has been that they stole the peace of mind of that family. They do not sleep well anymore—not the mum, not the dad and definitely not the kids. The children have been begging their parents to be sent to boarding school, hoping that they will feel safer than they do at home. All of those feelings were compounded and made so much worse when the very same gang returned in the new year to do it all over again. I could keep going for the whole of my allocated time with examples—horrible stories of families broken, lives lost, injuries sustained, property stolen and destroyed, all by people who have, in a sense, been created by a system that provides no real, meaningful consequences for when they do the wrong thing.

The first duty of a government is to set the conditions for a safe community. It is the foundation on which everything else rests. If we do not get that right then we cannot build prosperity. If we do not get that right then people cannot build a business, cannot build a career and cannot seek justice in a wider sense in our community. None of those things are possible unless we have basic safety and order, balanced with the protections of a fair justice system.

What has become very clear is that the decision made a decade ago by those in the Labor Party to remove the mechanisms in the Youth Justice Act for there to be meaningful consequences for actions for those who break the law has created a dangerous group of people who really do consider themselves untouchable by the legal system. When I talk to the police officers in my local command they very plainly say that they know who the problem people are. They are a cohort of hardcore recidivist offenders who treat the law as a joke, who laugh as they walk out of court and who treat victims with contempt.

Perhaps perversely, those changes have incentivised organised crime groups to make the most of young people for the perpetration of the activities of their group, knowing that the justice system for them is a mere revolving door from which no real consequences flow. They have actually created an incentive for the recruitment and deployment of children to engage in this kind of behaviour. It has left a trail of destruction in the lives of victims. It has even torn apart many families who desperately want a justice system that is capable of straightening out a wayward child but who cannot seem to get a meaningful consequence out of the system.

I accept that this has been a heightened debate in the chamber. I am prepared to accept that when those opposite watered down the laws many of them were well intentioned in doing so. Nobody likes the idea of having to penalise a young person. Everyone wants to be hopeful about what lies ahead for the individual in that situation. But, 10 years down the road, we now have an abundance of data that demonstrates that the policy they implemented has been an abject failure. In the 10 years since Labor changed the law there has been a 98 per cent increase in youth crime rates throughout Queensland. The number of serious repeat offenders has increased by 58 per cent in the last five years. In the 11 months of 2024 for which we have data there have been over 7,000 reported offences committed by young people in the South Brisbane region alone, which includes my part of the world.

That is not even counting the cases where people are too scared to report or do not even bother reporting—they just go straight to their insurance company.


In Cleveland alone last year they had the highest crime rate numbers in over 24 years. I was horrified to look at the *Courier-Mail* crime map recently and see that the Redlands—this beautiful part of the world that I get to call home—is no longer the safe place that we like to think of it as. It was shaded in red, which tells us that crime has become a persistent problem.

It is simply wrong and plain foolish for those opposite to refuse to change course when it is clear the approach they had was not working. Let us go through what this bill will do—this commitment we have made to the people of Queensland at the election with the upmost transparency. Let us be up-front about what it is going to do. It will provide Adult Crime, Adult Time. Juvenile offenders who commit serious crimes like murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm will face the same penalty options as adults.

We are going to prioritise the rights of victims. The bill will amend the sentencing principles in the Youth Justice Act so that when we are sentencing a child offender the court must give primary regard to the impact of that offending on a victim. It is important that the rights of victims are prioritised over other factors when determining the appropriate sentence. The amendments also move to an opt-out model so that victims and their families have an automatic right to be kept informed of the process, unless of course that is not what they want. It is important they have access to information that is necessary for closure and for an understanding that they matter in this process. It is supposed to be setting the record right.

The courts will be empowered to review the full criminal history of offenders, including juvenile records, for up to five years when sentencing an adult offender. That is important because if a person is not turning their life around at that critical part in their life then they should be held accountable for the entirety of their course of behaviour rather than getting the opportunity to hide behind their record when younger. The bill provides that detainees will be transferred to adult custody after they turn 18. It will provide for media and victim access to what goes on in the Childrens Court to enhance transparency. Also importantly, there is a huge investment in early intervention and rehabilitation. This is not simply punitive. It comes with the wraparound services that are needed to give a person who has made bad choices in the past every chance and every help to craft a better life for the period ahead.

These laws should be passed. They put consequences for actions at the centre of the youth justice system but in a balanced way. It invests heavily in the lives of offenders to give them every chance to make better choices in their future, to wrap them in the services, training and support that is needed to help them turn the page in their lives. It is exactly what we promised the community. It is exactly what Queenslanders voted for at the last election. More than on any other topic, this government has a mandate to deliver this bill. There is no sensible reason those opposite should stand in the way of it.

 **Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (11.47 pm): I find it sad that I am standing in the House at 10 to midnight debating this very important bill that will affect a lot of people.

**Mr Crandon:** You're not used to it, are you?

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection. There is nothing unusual about it. I would not be proud of the fact that—and a lot of Queenslanders would think it is ridiculous—we are debating this kind of bill at this time of night.

The Labor opposition supports strong action and laws that protect Queenslanders. We passed some of those laws. Everyone deserves to feel safe and must be safe. The government are not the only ones who believe that people need to feel safe. They are not the only ones in the world who think that. To suggest that somehow they are the only ones who believe that people should be safe is absolutely offensive. We all believe that. I for one believe it. I do not want to hear anyone suggest that I would want anyone in our community or my family not to feel safe. As a woman, there have been times in my life when I have not felt safe. I am sure that every other woman in this House would feel the same.

**Mr Stevens:** And for their union mates.

**Ms GRACE:** It is not a laughing matter, member for Mermaid Beach. I will take that interjection. I am not joking when I say this. These are issues that affect us all, and to suggest that somehow on this side of the House we have no sympathy is incorrect. I hope that when these laws are passed—and they will be because the government has the numbers; there is no doubt about it—they will see a change. I also hope that no-one in our families, none of my loved ones and no-one's children whom I

know gets caught in these laws. I pray every night that that does not happen to anybody in this House because Lord help them if it does. This is a complex issue, and those opposite get up and wax lyrical that the only reason we are where we are—not only in Queensland, I might add, but nationwide and, might I even say, worldwide at the moment—and try to break down this complex issue and say that the only thing to blame are the laws in the land. I hope that crime stops completely when this happens. We will be holding you to account when it does not.

While the LNP went to the election with an Adult Crime, Adult Time policy, the bill makes substantial changes to the Youth Justice Act that were not canvassed during the campaign. In my electorate there are many unintended consequences in this bill that were not canvassed during the campaign. During the campaign both sides came to me. I had those who were victims—friends of mine whom I know very well. I was a victim many years ago. I had my house broken into; I had my car stolen. I do not necessarily see myself as a victim but other people do. Things happen like that. Both sides came to talk to me, including a lot of parents who said they are really concerned about Adult Crime, Adult Time should their kid ever get caught up in it. There were others who said, ‘No, we need to do it.’ We do not want to stand in the way of that happening, but there is no doubt, from the small amount of time the committee had, that there are unintended consequences in this bill.

It goes further. It is concerning that in this House the youth justice minister, who was collaborating with the Attorney-General in putting these laws together, did not even know that restorative justice was going to be removed when sentencing for those crimes included in the bill. I will read *Hansard* to make sure that is what I heard. The government does not even know what their bill says.

**Mrs Frecklington:** That is rubbish!

**Ms GRACE:** I will take the interjection and I will correct you tomorrow.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at what the member on her feet is saying. She is making allegations. If she has an issue she can write to the Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): You have taken personal offence.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I would ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand. I am going to take some advice. I was liaising with the Clerk at the time of the point of order. I did not hear a personal reference made. Did the member on their feet make a personal reference to you, member for Nanango?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** At the time I thought she did.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That does not really help.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** She was referring to both the Minister for Youth Justice and the Attorney-General in her contribution.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I did not hear the member refer to you personally.

**Ms GRACE:** I will make it easier: I withdraw. It is ridiculous. For goodness sake! We have here a four-word slogan that is now 52 pages. We have stakeholders and victims-of-crime groups. Even the Queensland Homicide Victims’ Support Group, a group you would think would come out applauding this legislation—‘Let’s go for it’—said that when legislation like this is rushed it can have unintended consequences. It can also trigger victims, who already distrust government. We have gone through stakeholder after stakeholder, including ones you would think would be on their side, who have raised concerns about this.

Our amendment moved earlier this evening was about saying, yes, adult time for adult crime. You have it here. You have stipulated what they are. They are going to get that sentencing. Let’s get that done, but there are other areas where there are unintended consequences, like with the restorative justice order. That is going to be removed for children but not for adults. In fact, a child could be worse off than an adult for some of these crimes. Those are unintended consequences that did not go to the electorate. I do not care what the government says: it did not go to the electorate. You can wax lyrical as much as you like, but it was not stipulated that kids could be worse off than adults in certain situations. I think that if the public were listening—and I am having to debate this at midnight—they would agree that these sections which were not explained to the electorate should be going back to the committee to scrutinise the legislation. Otherwise, why are we here? You have the numbers. You can come in and move any motion you want. We debate nothing in this House except when you are happy for it to happen. You came in today and said, ‘You cannot debate, you cannot raise a motion, you cannot

put a view and you cannot amend.' Just come in and do it. I would not put it past the government, with its arrogance and hubris, to come in and do that.

Some of the other unintended consequences raised are the potential for a negative impact on victims. It was never explained to the electorate about changing the wording. In labour law, for example, there is a big difference between a contract of service and a contract for service. That one tiny word has a big implication on the industrial rights of people. If they change this legislation, mark my word it is going to have unintended consequences for victims because when they are giving evidence they will be cross-examined. If I was a lawyer, I would do that. That is what they are saying. But no, those in government know better! Stuff like that needs to be looked at, and it is—

**A government member:** You're a lawyer now?

**Ms GRACE:** No, I am not suggesting I am a lawyer. I will take that interjection. The government think they know better. Here we have the youth justice minister—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** My understanding is that there is a general warning. The next person who interjects will be leaving the chamber.

**Ms GRACE:** It is concerning that the youth justice minister did not even understand parts of this legislation. There is a likelihood that victims who are less articulate might end up with a worse outcome. Delays in the courts, the industrial implications of capacity issues in detention centres and watch houses, potential workplace health and safety issues not only for those in those detention centres but also the staff working there, the admissibility of information in relation to cautions, restorative justice and what that means, the potential for children to receive higher penalties, detention as a last resort for adults still in but not for children—these issues are unintended consequences. They were not canvassed. We did not hear from the police. They would not even allow the police to brief the committee, which I think is a disgrace. I hope that at the end of the day we can get through this. We had a solution which was objected to by those opposite.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.59 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Bundamba Electorate, Electricity Supply




**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.59 pm): November was a great month for the Bundamba community. We saw a wonderful milestone at the Swanbank power station, where 138 battery packs have been installed along with 24 transformers. That is all part of the Swanbank big battery, a 250-megawatt battery that is going to provide enough electricity to power around two-thirds of Ipswich. It is a proud Labor legacy. I was very proud to deliver that \$450 million investment in our local community. It is an investment into the future of our community and clean, sustainable energy. That is what Labor does: we invest in our communities and we invest in the future of clean, reliable energy.

That stands in strong contrast to the LNP. On Sunday night, there were communities—and my community was affected—where over 25,000 households suffered blackouts. It was a very hot and humid day and there were storms. Since that time, the government and the energy minister have been missing in action. Absolutely no detail has been given to my community, especially to the residents of Ripley, Redbank Plains and Collingwood Park, because, of the 25,000 homes that were affected, Ipswich bore the brunt of the blackouts. We have received no detail from the government about exactly what happened and we have received no detail from this LNP government about what action is being taken to stop it from happening again.

We are right in the middle of summer and there will be many more hot and humid days. Our community deserves to know that action is being taken so that there will be no blackouts heading into Christmas and the new year, but we have heard absolutely nothing from the LNP in terms of any advice about what happened or reassurance that action is being taken. It is not good enough. It is not good enough for the LNP government to treat our Bundamba community like mugs. It is not good for enough the LNP government to keep Ipswich literally in the dark when it comes to our energy future. This government has absolutely no plan for the future of our Bundamba community's energy supply or that of Queensland.

### Gamer, Ms E OAM

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.02 am): Today, 53 Australians will have been diagnosed with leukaemia or blood cancer. That is one Australian diagnosed every 27 minutes. Sadly, each day 16 Australians will lose their lives to that pernicious disease. Thank God for the Australian Leukaemia Foundation. Tonight, I rise to pay tribute to Elaine Gamer OAM, who dedicated 48 years to work as a volunteer with the Australian Leukaemia Foundation. For 27 of those 48 years, Elaine served as a board director. Let me share Elaine's story. It is a sad story, a moving story and an inspirational story about an amazing Hervey Bay resident.

Elaine's story began many years ago whilst she was living in Mount Isa. Elaine's 15-year-old daughter, Lisa, was a bright and lively girl. She was the top of her class. She was an energetic year 12 student who had the potential to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. Sadly, she contracted leukaemia, or blood cancer, and needed medical treatment in Brisbane.


Elaine and her late husband, Mal, were self-described bushies and salt-of-the-earth working-class people. They could not afford the airfares to Brisbane so they took the long, hot drive from Mount Isa to Brisbane to visit their daughter. Night after night, Elaine and Mal slept in their car outside the hospital until someone generously offered them accommodation.

After about 10 months, Lisa was due to graduate from year 12. Lisa left the royal Brisbane hospital on a Friday morning and the family took the flight from Brisbane to Mount Isa. Lisa's classmates and teachers met her at the airport. On the following Monday, Lisa attended her year 12 graduation. She passed away the following morning.

Elaine says that before she passed away Lisa briefly rallied and said to Elaine, 'Mum, when this is all over, remember to help the leukaemia patients.' Lisa then closed her eyes and passed away. Elaine says that the promise to fulfil her daughter's dying wish has inspired and motivated her to keep going these past 48 years as a passionate advocate for leukaemia patients and their families. Today, the Australian Leukaemia Foundation provides free accommodation and counselling support in Brisbane to regional families whose loved ones require blood cancer treatment. That means no more sleeping in cars outside of a hospital. In about June 2018, Elaine was awarded an OAM for her advocacy work. Elaine Gamer is now in her early 80s but is always willing to share her story.

I commend Elaine Gamer as a person of faith, compassion and integrity. Her desire to serve our regional blood cancer patients and their families in their time of greatest need is a testament to her love for her daughter, Lisa. Elaine's service through the Leukaemia Foundation is truly Lisa's and Elaine's legacy to our community. Well done, Elaine, and thank you for your service to our community.

### Mount Lindesay Highway

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.05 am): Mr Speaker, you no doubt know how passionate I am about the Mount Lindesay Highway. It is one of the key arteries that gets families in Logan to work, home from work, to recreation—places like the Park Ridge Pirates or the Jimboomba United Football Club—and to shopping. Nothing is more important than getting home safe.

I am so pleased that we started construction on the duplication of the Mount Lindesay Highway from Johanna Street to South Street before the LNP could cut it. It is vitally important that we get this duplication in place. The improved intersections at Johanna Street, Tamborine Street and South Street will make those crossings safer and faster. Most importantly, the road will be widened to four lanes and a bridge will be built across the rail line, building upon the work we did two years ago when we started the project to build the pedestrian underpass.


The LNP have actually built nothing on the Mount Lindesay Highway between Jimboomba and Browns Plains. In fact, one project that they inherited in their time in 2012 was the project from Green Road through to Stoney Camp Road but, as we know, when there were financial problems with the builder they cut and run and actually stopped that project. The project was abandoned at Rosia Road. Not only that, but a further \$160 million was cut from the Mount Lindesay Highway, this vital artery.

If the LNP try to stop the construction of the four lanes in Jimboomba between Johanna Street and South Street, I will not be silent like the LNP members were. I will fight every day in this place to ensure it cannot be cut. When we finish this project—and I will not let it be stopped—I want to challenge the member for Buderim to be the very first transport minister from the LNP in a generation to actually build something on the Mount Lindesay Highway between the Logan Motorway and Jimboomba. Absolutely nothing has happened in a generation of LNP transport ministers and I want to push them to do a grade separation at Green Road.



The LNP has committed to putting out a plan for community consultation in the first half of the year, but I also want to see four lanes between Chambers Flat Road and Green Road. I will be fighting for these projects and my challenge to the member for Buderim, the transport minister, is for him to be the first minister in a generation to actually do some work on the Mount Lindesay Highway between Browns Plains and Jimboomba.


### North Stradbroke Island, Public Transport

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (12.08 am): In my community is wonderful North Stradbroke Island. One of the challenges of living on an island is, of course, being able to get around. One needs to be able to catch a ferry with relative reliability and one needs to be able to get around once one is on the island. Whilst those on the mainland in my community were really excited to see 50-cent fares introduced, it was a little bit of a bittersweet moment for people on North Stradbroke Island because, while their buses were included in the scheme, the ferry was not. My predecessor and I were asking questions about this because it did not seem to make sense that, while the Southern Moreton Bay Islands were included in the scheme for 50-cent fares and lots of other places had their ferry services included, Straddie had been excluded.

When we asked questions about this issue, the answer we got was that it could not be done because the ferries to Straddie are operated by private companies. The Groom family runs the *Straddie Flyer* and SeaLink runs services too, but it is an excuse that does not wash because, of course, there are privately run public transport services all around the state of Queensland. There are plenty of private bus services that were included in the program, and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands are a great example of privately run ferry services that were nevertheless included in the scheme.

I want the people of Straddie to know that I am working really hard with our incoming transport minister to make this unfairness right. There are barriers to participating in the economy, working and accessing health services that are unique for people who live in an island environment. It is much more expensive to do ordinary things like get your groceries or even go to work than it is for somebody who has a mainland residence. I want you to know that the LNP government and I are fighting for you to get a better deal when it comes to your transport costs. I will not accept for the long term that which those opposite from the Labor Party were prepared to accept as the status quo; that is, the idea that people on Straddie should be treated as second-class citizens who should not have access to the same services the rest of us do. That does not wash. I will not accept it. Every day that I am in this place I am going to be fighting for you to get the fairness that seems to be so much more readily offered to people who have a mainland home.

### Minister for Transport and Main Roads

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.11 am): Congratulations, Speaker, on your appointment. I will have more to say about that tomorrow night.

Last week the new transport minister turned up in Cairns, and what a privilege it was. With the wet season approaching, I thought he would have addressed some immediate issues—for example, road repairs up around Cape Tribulation or Port Douglas or maybe even updated reef operators on the new fee structure at the Cairns marina—but his focus was on the Cairns Common User Facility. This is a really important initiative that both federal and state governments have been working on together. It is not only important for our precinct but also vitally important for our regional economy and jobs. The transport minister howled about cost blowouts and made some wide, sweeping and unsubstantiated allegations about hidden costs for political gain. Allegedly, the previous government dumped the project. It was all quite interesting. At the end of the day, a journalist at the local paper wrote a couple of stories saying these statements are grossly and impressively inaccurate. As stated in the *Cairns Post*—

Tropical Reef Shipyard manager Andrew Wagner said the cost blowouts did not come as a surprise to him when compared to a similar project in Darwin.


Mr Trent Toomey, who is well known to many on the other side, stated that he was sure the cost increase was of no surprise. Even the retiring federal member for Leichhardt, Warren Entsch, was quoted as saying ‘the costs will be greater than \$600 million’, and that was in a speech in 2022! It was also reported that the Miles government acknowledged the cost blowout but remained committed and instructed the department to renegotiate with the federal government to determine a new funding split.

Making public announcements while having discussions of this delicacy could potentially be a commercial breach. If the minister had any commercial experience he would understand that. It really

would not serve any purpose, so the minister's statements were plainly wrong. Many of us in the Far North suspect this is part of a softening-up process. This is what the Crisafulli government does before it cuts vitally important projects. I cannot see why Premier Crisafulli cannot find the money for Cairns when he has not batted an eyelid at spending extra billions on CopperString for Townsville, on Cross River Rail in Brisbane and on extending the Sunshine Coast heavy rail line.

In closing, I would like to let the minister know that the people of the Far North have noted the change in wording when it comes to the Barron River bridge. We understand that now it is going to be 'fixed'. We are just looking for a little bit more detail on what 'fixed' looks like and how soon that will happen. We are very keen to find out what he has to say in that space.


### Mermaid Beach Electorate, Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.14 am): Light rail stage 3 is 85 per cent through my electorate of Mermaid Beach. The construction of this project has caused incredible pain and disruption to the residents, businesses and commuters of my electorate. In the 2023-24 budget Queensland taxpayers were slugged an extra \$250 million for the CFMEU BPIC wage blowout which the construction company, Holland's construction, refused to pay. In the shadow of this year's election, when the Labor government should have been in caretaker mode they granted Holland's construction another \$330 million of taxpayer money, much of which will end up in the pockets of CFMEU members. The project has now blown out to an operational date of mid 2026. To accommodate this cash splash for the CFMEU and Holland's, the Labor government inspired a complete road closure notice for the Gold Coast Highway through my electorate for two weeks at night-time from 8 pm until 5 am in the morning, giving just nine days notice. This would have forced highway traffic through my residential areas and caused untold disruption to residents and commuters alike.

I am pleased to say that, following representations from me to the newly minted LNP transport minister, Mr Mickelberg, the minister overturned the ridiculous proposal to allow traffic to traverse the Gold Coast Highway via one lane. Sanity prevailed. There was disruption and inconvenience caused to my residents by the cavalier attitude of the construction company. Residents have been locked out of their driveways for five weeks at a time, and vibration and unbearable noise levels are inflicted on a regular basis, with the G:link authority overseeing construction being forced to repeatedly take remedial action to address justified complaints. This project will be another 18 months to finalisation, and I am calling on the construction company to take greater care and have consideration of the inconvenience and suffering they are inflicting on my residents as they continue their drawn-out and disruptive project.

Light rail stage 3 has been derailed by CFMEU union demands, leading to a blown-out budget and a time delay due to a lack of union influenced productivity output—just 3½ days per week of productivity—which tells everyone about their union elected government members and their allegiance to their union masters. Light rail stage 3 is a classic example of Labor's financial blowouts. This project was originally to cost around \$800 million; now it will cost over \$1.5 billion. This reflects Labor's cost blowouts on just about every infrastructure project they approve. Cross River Rail is a classic example, from \$5.9 billion to over \$13 billion.

### Queensland Health, Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.17 am): The new Premier, David Crisafulli, has shown that Queenslanders cannot trust him. In fact, his own backbench cannot trust him, as we have seen with today's events. During question time the Premier was asked a very simple question: whether or not the LNP government would cut the Queensland Health Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. It was a straightforward question. His response to members in this House—indeed, Queenslanders right across state—saw the Premier revert to the weasel worded opposition leader we saw before the election. That weasel worded opposition leader refused to answer a question 130 times. It was a nice, easy question. I thought he would just answer the question by saying, 'Of course we will support Queensland Health workers.' What we heard in answer to the question was the Premier saying—

I would like to inform the honourable member that every single cent in the budget will be spent.

What does that mean? He went on to say again—

I can confirm for the honourable member that every single cent in the budget will be spent ...

In fact, he went on to say another two times 'every single cent'. 'I know the narrative,' he said. Let me tell you, we know the narrative of the LNP. He then said a fourth time—

Every single cent will be spent because we need the best and brightest ...

In the *Courier-Mail* this evening at about 11 o'clock we had a little bit of truth from the health minister. As stated in the *Courier-Mail*—

Incentives worth up to \$70,000 luring Queensland Health workers to remote and vacant roles have been axed by the state government.


Queensland Health staff were told the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme would be cut from January 1 as the government realigns its workforce strategy ...

Why could the Premier not just answer that during question time? Instead, he had to wait until his health minister got caught by the *Courier-Mail* late at night and they had to come out in the dead of night to try and beat the media run in the morning. The *Courier-Mail* further states—

However the cash incentives will be axed for new employees from January 1 ...

AMAAQ president Dr Nick Yim said that the Australian Medical Association supports the incentive going forward. He said, 'We have called for it to be expanded, not axed.' The AMAAQ said they have called for this program to be expanded and not axed, yet here we are. When the member for Burnett said he would break the backs of Queensland health workers the Premier said, no, that would not happen. He could not answer a question. He could not speak to Queenslanders. Shame on the LNP! They are already sacking health workers.

### Virb Education Hub

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.20 am): Today I rise to talk about a very special place in Caloundra. It is led by an incredible team—Josh, Sam and all their volunteers—who are dedicated, positive and committed to making a difference to young people in Caloundra. It is called the Virb Education Hub. It is an alternative learning centre dedicated to re-engaging disengaged or at-risk students in grades 7 to 10 who are either struggling with or have already completely disengaged from mainstream schooling. The Virb hub creates a safe space for these fantastic kids to be supported to continue their education rather than falling through the cracks. As soon as you enter the hub you see an alternative place for these children. It is colourful, it is welcoming, it is inclusive and it is respectful.

I heard from one dad who spoke so lovingly about his happy, academic, sporty year 6 child who then battled through two years of high school due to a range of factors, including bullying. He used the words that night: 'I thought I'd lost my son.' Then they found Virb and this student is now thriving. Another student wrote the following for her adults at Virb—


Meeting you was the best thing to happen to me. Thank you for changing my life.

The hub is a proven method for early intervention and it is working. Data does not lie. Here are some Virb statistics from 2024. At the start of the year they had 18 students enrolled. Four of them have already reintegrated into mainstream schooling, with another five starting back at the start of the school year next year. Of the 18 students, all had a zero per cent attendance rate prior to attending Virb. They were simply not going to school over an extended period of time. During 2024, of the 18 students, 13 had a 100 per cent attendance rate and the remaining five had 70 per cent or above, which is a significant improvement on zero.

The last time this group of students attended mainstream schooling they collectively averaged 0.88 behaviour incidents per week. This has dropped to 0.22, and zero incidents of a violent nature. Some 89 per cent of these kids have a neurodivergent diagnosis such as ADHD or ASD and they have had no funding or support from the previous government. They were not even interested in meeting with them.

These are the kinds of programs that are working in Caloundra. I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of Josh, Sam, John, Jarryd, Rachel, Alder and Robyn, their whole team and the amazing families who support these kids at Virb in Caloundra. It should be recognised and celebrated.

### Mount Isa, Glencore Copper Mine

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.23 am): There is no greater issue facing Mount Isa and the north-west than the planned closure of the Glencore copper mine. Mount Isa has a population of around 18,000 people. The planned closure agreed to last year by the government means that 1,200 jobs will be lost. That is the equivalent of Townsville losing 11,500 jobs. It is equivalent of Brisbane losing 180,000 jobs. Everyone heard about Townsville losing 800 jobs when Queensland Nickel closed. The loss of 1,200 jobs is a big issue. It is a big issue for Townsville MPs as well, as more of those jobs are based in Townsville than in Mount Isa.

I will give a bit of background. People are saying it is closing down because it has run out of copper. That is not true. There are a number of mining companies that have said, 'We would love to get our hands on that copper mine. We can keep it going. We will do just what we did in Cobar.' Glencore divested itself of all its metal assets three or four years ago. It did not end up selling the zinc mine, the lead mine, the copper mine and the copper smelter in Mount Isa and the copper refinery in Townsville—one package—but they sold the copper mine in Cobar to a buyer who said, 'You are finished with the mine and are saying it is dead.' They went in and put extra life into the mine. They are operating it now. Different mine owners can operate mines more profitably.


Glencore said about the Ernest Henry mine that it only had four years left in it so they would sell it. Evolution, a junior Australian mining company, raised a billion dollars and bought it. They have small pockets. This is a small company and not a big Glencore with 150 mines around the world. This small company bought the mine and has put 17 years onto its life because it knows how to run the mine more efficiently. We need someone to come in and buy the Glencore copper mine to keep 1,200 jobs going.

In the next 25 years we need to pull more copper out of the ground than we have in the history of mankind. How are we going to do that when we passively stand by and say, 'That is all right. You can shut it down Glencore. We do not mind'? The reality is that the capital that is required to keep that mine going Glencore would rather deploy into Africa and South America, where there is a lower cost of labour and there are lower environmental conditions. They park their money there.

If people endorse that then let it go, but the government needs to step in do something. We cannot passively stand by and say it is Glencore's decision. The government issues the mining leases. Should we be saying to people, 'You do whatever you want. You can sit on it for the next 30 years if you want, costing 1,200 jobs. We do not care'? No, we should not.

That is why I introduced legislation into the last parliament to give the power back to the mines minister to say that if a company is going to sit on a mine and someone else can see some value in it then they should have to put it back into the market so another company can use it. It should be use it or lose it, as the member for Hinchinbrook says. That is what we need to do with this mine or any other mine. Companies should not be allowed to sit on mines. That is what the government should require. Legends like Sir Leo Hielscher would hate to see something like this going on in Queensland.

### Keppel Electorate, Volunteer Organisations

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (12.26 am): I rise tonight to highlight the special role played by three volunteer organisations in the community of Keppel this Christmas. Last week I had the opportunity to join with 100 Keppel locals who came together to enjoy the spirit of the season at the community centre. This organisation is the beating heart of our community and last month celebrated 35 years of operation. The staff and volunteers at this centre have over the last year invested in providing a community lunch once a month thanks to volunteer donations made to the centre. Unfortunately, the number of attendees at these lunches has increased month on month because Keppel locals are facing the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. I offer my thanks to the staff, the volunteers and the donors who provided a ray of sunshine and a community connection for some of the most vulnerable in our community.

I also had the opportunity last week to visit the team at Food Relief Capricorn Coast. This community-driven project is helping families and working overtime to provide for people this Christmas. The last organisation I would like to acknowledge is the service of the men and women of Meals on Wheels. From sweets to the classic roast lamb, again and again these volunteers of Keppel are stepping up and providing a bit of Christmas cheer for those who need support this Christmas. I thank the brilliant volunteers of our community and of communities across Queensland for their charity and service. Merry Christmas.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.29 am (Wednesday).

## ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause,

Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young