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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 12 December 2024

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THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2024

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.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



Mr de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Earlier this week, the government moved amendments to sessional orders in respect of the Making Queensland Safer Bill. It is the opposition's view that this significantly constrained the rights of members, particularly in relation to amendments seeking to be moved. For that reason, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 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, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Parliamentary Precinct, Christmas Tree



Mr SPEAKER: Tonight, after the rising of the House, the lighting of the Parliament House Christmas tree will take place on the President's verandah overlooking the large tree. Following the lighting of the tree, members and staff are invited for refreshments on the Speaker's Green. I look forward to seeing you all there this evening and extend season's greetings to members, staff and your families.

PETITION

The following lodged e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk is now closed and presented—


South East Queensland Regional Plan, Hardwood Extraction

1,254 petitioners, requesting the House to bring the commitment to permanently cease extracting native hardwood products from publicly owned state forests within the South East Queensland Regional Plan area to the attention of the Premier and the Minister for Environment and Tourism [\[265\]](#).

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL PAPER

State Finances

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.39 am): I table the audited report on state finances for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Tabled paper: Queensland Treasury: 2023-24 Report on State Finances of the Queensland Government—30 June 2024 [\[269\]](#).

The Financial Accountability Act requires these financial statements to be prepared within six months after the end of each financial year and for the report to be tabled within 14 days after the Auditor-General returns the statements. This occurred on 3 December 2024 and I am tabling the report well within the legislated timeframe.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Keep up.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Only one person has the call.

Mr JANETZKI: The report reveals a \$12.2 billion decline in the operating balance in 2023-24. This is the biggest single-year deterioration of the operating balance since the start of accrual budgeting in Queensland. This cannot be blamed on softening coal royalties. Revenue only changed by 0.05 per cent while expenses increased over 16 per cent. That is nearly three times the average annual rate of expense growth across Labor's previous eight budgets.

I thank the officials in Treasury, across government and in the Queensland Audit Office for their work in preparing and auditing these statements.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[266](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4159-24) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 2,687 petitioners, requesting the House to allow parents or nurses to call for immediate intervention from an ICU or PICU doctor when they deem a patient to be in a life-threatening situation and feel their concerns are not being heard, to be known as Zara's Rule

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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


[267](#) Final response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4140-24) sponsored by the member for Maroochydore, Ms Simpson, from 2,700 petitioners, requesting the House to repeal the gag laws at section 114a of the Guardianship Act that prohibit people living under guardianship and administration orders from speaking publicly; and to change the default ban on speaking publicly to a default approval unless QCAT otherwise decides in alignment with the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission

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

[268](#) Final response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4104-24) sponsored by the member for Callide, Mr Head, from 1,443 petitioners, requesting the House to make Rockhampton an Active Removal Zone for crocodiles in the same way that Cairns and Townsville are classified

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Police Service Deaths, Anniversary

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.42 am): On this day two years ago three innocent lives were senselessly and callously taken in an act of terror that this state will not forget. It was 12 December 2022 when Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Mr Alan Dare were tragically killed in the most devastating and heinous circumstances in Wieambilla. It was an act of terror that shook our state.


A crime like this seemed foreign to Queensland—something that only appeared on TV screens or in newspapers from faraway places. But this was not far away. It was in a proud regional Queensland community. Those unspeakable things that happened, they happened in our state.

Constables McCrow and Arnold died in the line of duty. They lost their lives simply doing their job. Their loss, their sacrifice serves as a stark reminder of how every day the men and women of the Queensland Police Service put their lives on the line to protect our community and to protect our way of life. The bravery shown by their colleagues that afternoon and night was truly remarkable.

On our team we have no shortage of representation of members who have served as sworn officers in the Queensland Police Service. I know they, just like current and former officers right across the state, will walk with a heavier heart today.

The emotions of that day are still so very raw. Alan Dare lost his life that day too. He was simply going to check on the wellbeing of his neighbours—something that Queenslanders do day in and day out. I want the families, friends and colleagues of Rachel, Matt and Alan to know that they are not forgotten and will not be forgotten. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister and I attended the police memorial this morning to pay our respects and to acknowledge the sacrifices of constables McCrow and Arnold and also those who have fallen in the line of duty before them.

Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.44 am): Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and our government has already delivered a number of the key commitments in our first 100-day plan. We are implementing our plans to address youth crime, health, housing and cost of living. I mention we have delivered all of our first-week and first-month commitments, as we said we would, and are already delivering on commitments that are due by the end of the year and at the 100-day milestone. Early next year we will commence work on expanding opportunities for home ownership in Queensland's Indigenous communities. It is transformative work that will give Queenslanders in these communities the ability to own a home.


We all know our government's Making Queensland Safer Bill is being debated in the House. To complement this legislation we will begin work to tender for our Regional Reset programs and our Staying on Track programs. Yes, we have spoken about the need for tough laws. These programs will target early intervention and rehabilitation services for young offenders and at-risk children to ensure there are programs on offer to turn young lives around before they go down the path of crime.

Parliamentary inquiries into volunteering to strengthen community participation and elder abuse have been moved this week. We committed to funding new solutions to our housing crisis and we are working closely with key stakeholders to unlock church owned land for the community housing sector and important changes will be made by the end of the year to break down barriers and get houses built.

Next year, Queenslanders will be able to see real-time hospital data and we are already identifying sites that are suitable for new CT and MRI machines to deliver health services closer to home. Some of these will be at what are currently called satellite hospitals where we will boost the services on offer. We will boost them, not cut them, as was suggested during a brutal fear campaign during the election. Queenslanders did not vote for scare campaigns. They voted for these services. They voted for hope over fear. They voted for a fresh start.

Our team has been busy doing just that—working on a fresh start—and we will still be doing that as the year comes to a close. On this side of the House, we are all eager to deliver on our plan for Queenslanders. We have done it since the election. We will do it for the rest of 2024 and we cannot wait to do it in 2025.

Police Service Deaths, Anniversary

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.47 am): It is two years since a dark cloud descended on this state with the murder of three Queenslanders—Rachel McCrow and Matthew Arnold, who served as police officers in the rural town of Tara, and Alan Dare, who was simply acting as a good neighbour. Few of us can forget that day—12 December 2022. These three Queenslanders became victims of a heartless and unprovoked attack that resulted in them losing their lives in Wieambilla.

Constable McCrow and Constable Arnold were doing what we asked of them—serving and protecting their community. Alan Dare was looking out for those who lived near him, little expecting the brutal fate that lay in wait. Rachel and Matthew represent the very best of our Police Service. Their


dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism are the very qualities that we require from members of the Queensland Police Service. What is even more telling is the bravery they demonstrated in the face of an ambush driven by the most evil of motives.

We should never forget that they were not only part of the police family but also part of the local community. The people of Chinchilla and Tara welcomed them and embraced them. They became part of the fabric of these towns, became friends with so many residents and participated in so many community activities. The important thing they demonstrated was the way in which country police are integral to the communities they serve. This is one of the strengths of our rural and regional police officers.

The way in which the Western Downs community responded to the deaths of these two officers is ample proof of the high regard in which they were held. The people of these towns offered their unwavering support to the families of constables McCrow and Arnold, as well as all the police officers who serve the area. All Queenslanders recognise the sacrifices that our police make to keep us safe. It is tragic that the events of two years ago bring home to us the real nature of that sacrifice. Events at Wiewambilla demonstrate in the most stark and tragic way the debt we owe to our police.

Simply through a willingness to serve, these two constables, with the prospect of long and successful careers ahead of them, made the ultimate sacrifice. They will be remembered forever with their names now etched into the wall of the Queensland Police Memorial where the Premier and I and some of those opposite paid our respects this morning. In contrast, the names of their murderers will disappear into oblivion, never to be recalled. We will remember Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare with affection and respect. Their sacrifice stands as a monument to the willingness of ordinary people to take extraordinary steps when faced with insurmountable odds. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. With honour they served.

CFMEU

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): It is the last sitting day of the new parliament for 2024. This year Queenslanders voted for change and the fresh start our state so desperately needed. We have surpassed our first month's goals, hitting the ground running on our commitments to fix the mess that Labor left us and Queenslanders over the last 10 years of failed policies, scandals, cover-ups and blowouts for which Queenslanders ultimately paid the price. Labor knew about these blowouts before the election but they took Queenslanders for granted and treated them like fools. The days of Labor cover-ups, scandals and failed policies are over.

The Crisafulli government took a clear set of commitments to the election and we are working hard to deliver on that 100-day plan Queenslanders voted for. With the passing of the new 24-hour right of entry workplace health and safety framework we will end the bullying and intimidation of workers by the CFMEU on job sites. Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe at work and to be safe, no matter what they do or where they live. It is why we also wasted no time pausing BPIC, also known as the CFMEU tax, and moved to re-establish the Productivity Commission. We must restore productivity to worksites in Queensland, get Queensland back on track and send a strong message. The Crisafulli government is open for business and not open to union thuggery on worksites. In addition to our legislative changes—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: There she goes defending the CFMEU again, the paymasters of the Labor Party. Honourable colleagues, the former minister for industrial relations cannot help herself and interjected the minute I mentioned the CFMEU. It has a triggering effect on the Labor Party because they protected them for so many years, but we will not protect the CFMEU. If the former minister for industrial relations is triggered by that, wait for this.

In addition to our legislative changes, my department has been instructed to also commence discussions with the Queensland Police Service to update or revoke the memorandum of understanding between the QPS and the Office of Industrial Relations to make sure it is fit for purpose and to ensure all Queenslanders are safe. If that means Queensland police officers attend job sites to sort out the thuggery of the CFMEU, so be it. We will not stand for Office of Industrial Relations workplace health and safety officers being the punching bags of the CFMEU anymore. The High Court is also currently hearing a case brought by former officers of the CFMEU challenging the administration takeover— incidentally, I might add, allegedly paid for by the ETU.


A government member: She's laughing.

Mr BLEIJIE: I know. She cannot help herself. She is laughing all about it. The outcome of the first report of the CFMEU's Queensland administration is expected to be provided to government early next year. I am sure those opposite will be hoping for a quick and decisive resolution to the matter because we know, as I said, that the ETU is withholding \$1 million in political donations to Labor and redirecting it towards funding the CFMEU's High Court appeal, but it is really one and the same. CFMEU, ETU and the Queensland Labor Party are one and the same.

Over the last decade Queenslanders paid more and got less due to the CFMEU tax. If allowed to continue, the CFMEU tax would have pushed up costs for major projects by over 25 per cent and cost Queenslanders up to \$17.1 billion. It could have resulted in 22,000 less homes being built over the next five years and it could have driven rents up by seven per cent. The Crisafulli government stands firmly on the side of workers and Queenslanders who want to get ahead and build the infrastructure our great state needs free from the bullying and intimidation of the CFMEU.

Labor needs to think long and hard about whose side they are on. My Christmas homework for the opposition leader is to pick a side. He needs to finally come clean and choose between Queenslanders or the militant CFMEU, because the LNP will back Queenslanders every day of the week.

Home Ownership


 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.54 am): Home ownership has been declining in Queensland for decades. The 2021 census reveals that Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership compared to other Australian states. We sit at 64 per cent; New South Wales, 65 per cent; Victoria and South Australia, 69 per cent; Western Australia, 70 per cent; and Tasmania, 71 per cent. They all came in higher than Queensland. Many young Queenslanders now believe they will never be able to purchase their own home.

The numbers across the decades tell the story. Some 53 per cent of 25- to 29-year-olds owned a house in 1971 compared to just 35 per cent in 2021. There are a range of reasons for the decline: increasing property prices; the rise in the cost of money; and steepening rents which make it near impossible to save a deposit. The nation's fifth biggest lender is the bank of mum and dad. If you do not have the privilege of access to parental or family generosity or another source of funds, home ownership is becoming nearly a mountain too daunting to climb.

Statistics from the Residential Tenancies Authority show that average tenancy lengths for rental houses increased from 14.2 months in 2013-14 to 20.8 months in 2023-24. This demonstrates that people are renting for longer because the traditional path of finishing school, renting with mates and then saving a deposit to buy a house is broken. Labor's failure to address this broken home ownership pathway was a deliberate design feature of their housing architecture. I have dedicated nearly half of my professional life as part of a Queensland mutual bank to helping Queenslanders achieve their dream of buying their piece of our great state. It is an honour to now help influence policy settings so that home ownership is more accessible for those who choose to buy.

Today we will take the first step towards reducing barriers to entry to home ownership when I introduce legislation that honours our election commitment to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers looking to buy a newly built home. Home ownership may not be the desire of every young Queenslanders. They may wish to prioritise travel, financial freedom or career advancement. They are all legitimate choices, but for those who choose to buy it must be possible for them. Restoring a belief that home ownership is achievable will help drive aspiration. Young Queenslanders deserve a fresh start to achieve their dream of home ownership, and today is the first step in turning that dream into reality.

Government Owned Corporations

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.57 am): I would like to bring some clarity and transparency to the House around some of the issues facing government owned corporations, GOCs, following a decade of mismanagement, poor practice and utter failures by the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and its gaggle of former ministers. We have discovered numerous hidden blowouts and cost overruns since coming to government. The former Labor government, the former treasurer and shareholding GOC ministers left behind a shopping

list of issues among the various GOCs that range from cost overruns and blowouts to delays and safety issues that stretch the length of the state. Now the Crisafulli government must fix the mess left behind for Queenslanders by Labor.

Labor had such a disregard for safety that they neglected CS Energy's Callide C Power Station for so long it led to the 2021 explosion which plunged more than 370,000 Queensland homes into darkness and sent power bills skyrocketing. That was a direct hit to the hip pockets of Queenslanders at a time when Queenslanders were already doing it tough due to Labor's cost-of-living crisis. The cost of repairs and maintenance on ageing infrastructure at CS Energy will lead to significant financial losses for some time. There are now cost overruns in other major GOC projects. The Borumba pumped hydro project, initially budgeted at \$14.4 billion, has experienced a \$4 billion cost overrun, bringing the total to \$18.4 billion. The impacts of these sorts of careless overruns strain financial resources and can delay completion, impacting service delivery and profitability. If you need a lesson on how not to manage a project then look no further than Labor.

We do not have to look too far to find another example of what happened under a lazy Labor government. Sunwater's new IT billing system, CASPr, intended to serve 5,000 customers, saw costs escalate from an estimated \$500,000 to \$1 million, to an eye-watering \$38 million. What were the former shareholding ministers doing? Did they pay any attention to how these corporations were running? Cost overruns result in potential increases in service charges, affecting customer satisfaction and financial performance at Sunwater—which is a vital source for our farmers—and that is without going into the debacle that was the Paradise Dam saga under the former government. Unlike Labor, we are actually concerned about how costs, including for water, skyrocketed under the former government—because rising costs leave Queensland families, farmers and businesses unable to make ends meet.

Staying with the theme of cost blowouts under Labor, Powerlink's CopperString transmission project has faced substantial cost escalations, with the initial figure of \$5 billion increasing to \$6.2 billion, before further reports indicated that the total cost could instead escalate to \$9 billion. Shamefully, the former treasurer had the hide to stand here on 10 September and tell the House that CopperString would cost \$6.2 billion, despite being informed about the \$9 billion figure on 2 August. Queenslanders are rightfully questioning the competence of the former treasurer.

Unlike Labor, we are committed to enhancing the financial and operational performances of our publicly owned businesses to deliver the best services and value for Queenslanders. With our energy GOCs, this starts with the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee—a new investment, performance and accountability framework for Queensland's publicly owned electricity generators. We will bring back responsible economic management and hold government accountable, with properly costed projects and KPIs. Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government has the Right Plan for Queensland's Future, and that plan will restore respect for your money.

Resources Industries



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.00 am): Just over a month ago Queenslanders voted for change and a fresh start for our state, and that responsibility is not lost on any of us. Under our government the resources sector can expect a breath of fresh air and a fresh approach to working with government. Our commitment to the resources sector is ironclad. We know how important mining is to Queensland. It is the largest industry in this state, contributing \$86 billion to the Queensland economy. More than 77,300 people work in the Queensland mining sector and we will never take them for granted. Whether they are working here in Brisbane—Queensland's biggest mining town—or pulling on their high-vis in Central Queensland, they matter. Our government will create an environment for growth that will continue to underpin Queensland's long-term prosperity.

We will provide certainty on project approvals—unlike those opposite, who left projects languishing for years, piles of them in fact, gathering dust on the former Labor minister's desk or who moved the goalposts at the last minute. Industry, investors and importantly the communities that rely on the resources sector will get a clear yes or no.


The era for taking the resources sector for granted is over. Central to that drive is the creation of my Resources Cabinet Committee. Led by myself and joined by my esteemed colleagues the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, the committee will deliver a cohesive approach to growing the Queensland resources

industry and removing the roadblocks preventing new projects taking flight. The establishment of this committee is part of our 100-day plan and it gives me great pleasure to say we have delivered and we will meet for the first time next Tuesday.

The committee will: improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Queensland's regulatory framework; implement measures to support productivity and investment; strengthen consultation mechanisms; improve the coordination and timeliness of applications, assessments and approvals, so where projects stack up it is not then taking up to 15 years for them to get going; investigate opportunities for regional economic development and investment attraction through cross-sectoral partnerships, including processing and manufacturing; work with industry to attract the best talent and create a pipeline of skilled workers; investigate the sector's role in ensuring affordable and reliable energy security; and, importantly, uphold Queensland's environment, social, governance and safety responsibilities. It is not just about sending a message that Queensland is open for business. It is a practical forum to demonstrate that we are not just talking the talk; we are walking the walk. We are laying out an ambitious, long-term agenda which will see new and expanded mining opportunities across the state and we cannot wait to get going.

Let me be clear. Our government values our resources sector and we will not take it for granted. My message is simple. We want your business and we will work with you to give you confidence that you can make long-term investments in our state.

Housing and Homelessness

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.04 am): I rise today to update the House on the concerning state of housing and homelessness in Queensland. New data shows just how bad Queensland's housing crisis is after a decade of Labor. Yesterday the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its 2023-24 annual report on specialist homelessness services, which I now table for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report, titled 'Specialist homelessness services annual report 2023-2024' [\[270\]](#).

The report reveals deeply troubling statistics. Queensland recorded 11,206 unassisted requests for specialist homelessness support last financial year. That is a 47 per cent increase from the 7,612 requests recorded in 2022-23. This was the largest increase of any state or territory in the nation, far exceeding the average national increase of just 2.1 per cent. Most other states saw decreases; Queensland went up 47 per cent. In total 60,024 Queenslanders sought specialist homelessness support in 2023-24, up 13 per cent in just 12 months from 53,081 people in 2022-23.

The report shows young people are particularly at risk. In 2023-24, we saw 88.6 per 10,000 Queenslanders aged 15 to 26 present for assistance, up from 85.9 the previous year. What were the main reasons these Queenslanders were seeking help? They were: 50 per cent selected financial difficulties, compared to 41 per cent nationally; 48 per cent selected housing affordability stress, compared to 36 per cent nationally; and 43 per cent selected housing crisis, compared to 37 per cent nationally. These figures show the housing pressures young Queenslanders and families across our state are grappling with. They clearly show, despite housing pressures being present across our nation, the housing crisis is undeniably worse in the Queensland that Labor governed for the last decade.

Our government is committed to turning this around and delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders. This AIHW report further quantifies the extent of the member for Gaven's failures as the former, now shadow, housing minister. Last week my department released the latest social housing register data. This showed 20 additional Queenslanders were added to the social housing waitlist every single day in the September quarter, with the total list now reaching 47,820 people. That is an 11 per cent increase in just a year on the member for Gaven's watch.


This is the consequence of Labor's decade of underinvestment in social housing, which grew just six per cent, far below Queensland's population increase of 16 per cent in the same period. It is a consequence of the community housing sector being shackled by the former Labor government's policy settings which meant community housing grew by only three per cent over the last decade.

One of the solutions put forward by the former Labor government was the Housing Investment Fund. The former, now shadow, housing minister failed to deliver a single newly constructed home from the \$2 billion HIF. Our incoming government brief revealed the Housing Investment Fund will deliver 1,600 fewer homes than Labor promised. Part of the reason for this shortfall is the decision of the former, now shadow, minister to purchase existing housing stock from the private market instead of building new housing—adding fuel to the fire of the Queensland housing crisis.

Under the former, now shadow, minister, the HIF was a cruel hoax. The Crisafulli government is delivering the change Queenslanders voted for. We will work with proponents to make sure the Housing Investment Fund does what it was meant to do by investing every dollar into new homes to add much needed supply. We will deliver 53,500 social and community homes to help our most vulnerable Queenslanders, and we will provide a 20 per cent uplift in funding for specialist homelessness services through to 2027-28.

Every day that I have the privilege to serve as Minister for Housing I will work tirelessly to actually deliver the homes Queenslanders need. Instead of just talking about them, instead of just making announcements and instead of playing politics, we will get things done. Our new government will secure our state's housing foundations to give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

Agriculture Industry, Biosecurity


 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.10 am): The Crisafulli government has a bold target to drive future investment in Queensland's agricultural output to \$30 billion by 2030. We can only reach the target by driving future investment, creating jobs and unlocking opportunities for producers. It also means strengthening Queensland's biosecurity, using research, technology and innovation to drive agricultural productivity and to secure primary industry production. The first step to reach this target is to strengthen Queensland's biosecurity. This is why the Premier committed to an extra \$50 million in funding and 100 extra staff. We are now delivering that commitment. Recruitment has already started.

Regional biosecurity hubs will be established in the southern, northern and central regions. A team of biosecurity regional leaders will be leading the change. Local government is at the coalface of dealing with biosecurity issues, and the regional leaders will be tasked to work with local government to identify local biosecurity issues specific to those regions.

To reach our 2030 target, it also means backing industries like wool and value-adding capabilities. Last week I went to Blackall to announce our \$940,000 commitment to fund the final stages of a planning and feasibility study for the Blackall Wooolscur project. It returns wool manufacturing right to where it is grown. Blackall Wooolscur is a heritage-listed site and was first commissioned in 1908. It is steeped in the history of Western Queensland's wool industry. I welcome the member for Gregory's strong support for this project and the wool industry. I want to acknowledge the Mayor of Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Andrew Martin, for his support. The wool scour is vital to reaching our \$30 billion target. It provides value-adding opportunities to further develop the local wool industry and increases our manufacturing capability. A local wool scour will facilitate early-stage fibre processing in regional centres. That means more jobs and skills will remain in the bush.

The 2013 decision by former LNP minister for natural resources Andrew Cripps to return cluster fencing to the Western Queensland region has been integral to giving industry confidence to invest once again in sheep. As the wool sector continues to recover and grow, we need to supply opportunities for local producers and families while reducing the costs they incur in shipping raw wool to other locations. The Crisafulli government is committed to the long-term future of traditional primary industries like wool. Our actions stand in stark contrast to those of the previous Labor government.

Sport Infrastructure

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.13 am): Last weekend we saw an incredible feat in the sporting world when young 16-year-old sprint sensation Guot Guot ran the fastest time over 200 metres in Australian history—20.04 seconds—breaking a 56-year-old record. That is pretty quick, but I have seen something quicker. That was when the now opposition leader became the premier and ran away from the decisions of the Palaszczuk government around games infrastructure. Man, that was quick as well! He ran away from decisions. The delays, the deceit and the dithering were symbolised best by the Gabba knockdown and rebuild proposal, which went from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion to \$3.4 billion—decisions that he criticised when he was the infrastructure minister who was responsible for every one of those decisions.


What happened then is that public sentiment in this state in relation to support of the games plummeted. It plummeted. Now we have the task of rebuilding confidence. We have done that in a number of ways. I congratulate the Deputy Premier on bringing together the Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority that will finally put this to rest after 100 days. We will build a legacy for this state for 50, 60, 70 years into the future.

The other thing we have done relates to not just elite sport infrastructure. During the election campaign we announced a program called Games On, a \$250 million program that will revive sporting infrastructure for communities right across this state. One of the big issues is that the regions need to understand that this games is not just for South-East Queensland; it is for the whole state. We want people, whether they live in Charleville, Augathella, Cook or Coolangatta, to look at something and say, 'We have that because we are holding the Olympic Games in 2032.' We are looking forward to making those announcements over the next few years and looking forward to having a legacy that Queenslanders can be proud of.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stadiums

 **Mr MILES** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Four days before the election, the Premier said that the terms of reference for the 100-day Olympics review would not include a new stadium. Now the terms of reference for the independent Olympics infrastructure review authority includes new stadiums. Will the Premier honour his promise to Queenslanders and not build a new Olympic stadium?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. The terms of reference could in fact be summed up in three words: fixing Labor's mess. The reason is that what the Deputy Premier has done in one month exceeds what those opposite could not do in 1,200 days. For 1,200 days, the confidence of people when it comes—

Mr Miles: Where does it all point? To LNP fundraising committees.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition, again besmirching the seven people on that panel. If you have a problem with them, call out who. Stand up and call out who. But you won't. The reason he will not—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, the reason he will not is twofold: one, he lacks the ticker to do it; and, two, he knows that all seven are beyond reproach. The seven people on that board are beyond reproach.

We did a few things when we went to the election. We stated what that body would be and we said that within one month we would appoint an independent infrastructure and coordination authority. There is a big tick. The seven people on that board have been universally praised. Do members know why they have been praised? It is because they are leaders in their field. They are people who have given their lives to their respective fields.

In contrast, in 1,200 days those opposite could not pick a board—in 1,200 days! What was the honourable minister doing? In 1,200 days she could not find seven people to chart a way forward. She could not find seven. The reason I have taken the interjection is that it goes to the tone that has been set by those opposite from the moment they entered opposition, and all for the first time. The problem with those opposite is that they do not know—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question pertained to whether there would be a new stadium.

Mr SPEAKER: That was included in the question. I know the Premier took an interjection but that was the crux of the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The terms of reference are very clear. It speaks about generational infrastructure. It speaks about maximising existing venues. If I may, in the remaining 35 seconds—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, this is the last question time for the year so let's have a little bit of decorum. I had just called the Premier back to his feet. I believe he was going to the question as asked.

Mr CRISAFULLI: As I said, the terms of reference are clear: generational infrastructure, maximising existing venues. The reason the Leader of the Opposition cannot articulate his position on things is that he cannot say sorry. He cannot say sorry for the mess. There are many messes they presided over, but after 1,200 days they caused the Olympic and Paralympic Games to plummet in the minds of Queenslanders—we have fixed it in 30 days.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stadiums

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. On 21 March, the Premier was asked whether he supported knocking down and rebuilding the Gabba. The Premier said 'no', and I table that news article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Guardian*, dated 21 March 2024, titled 'No new stadium to be built for 2032 Olympics as Queensland opposition leader reveals plan' [\[271\]](#).

Will the Premier honour his promise to Queenslanders and not knock down and rebuild the Gabba?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The reason the Gabba is so topical is the position of the now opposition leader. In order to give a fulsome answer about what happened in this state, one has to go back to the past. The former, former premier—the one that the now opposition leader is doing the Guot Guot away from as quickly as he humanly can—whom the now opposition leader served as the deputy premier and the minister responsible, on the world stage stood up and said a couple things. One: the former, former premier said that Cross River Rail would be opened in 2024. Well, unless it is coming in the form of a sleigh from Santa, that ain't happening. The second commitment was that the Gabba would cost, in the eyes of the world, \$1 billion. Where did that figure come from? There was detailed analysis of the media release, and that is where the \$1 billion figure came from. This shows everything you need to know about why faith in the Olympic and Paralympic Games has plummeted. It is because of that. Fast-forward and the \$1 billion became \$2.7 billion, because they were looking for a justification to try and crab walk away. Then, the \$2.7 billion was subsequently \$3.4 billion. What the honourable Leader of the Opposition did was call his own review.

Mr Bleijie: Look at this!

Mr CRISAFULLI: There it is. I almost want to table that new business case. So what happened is, as a result, the now Leader of the Opposition called his own review to try and find a justification—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was: will the Premier honour his promise to Queenslanders and not knock down and rebuild the Gabba? It is very clear.

Dr ROWAN: To the point of order, the Premier is providing a detailed answer. He is providing—
Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The point of order will be heard in silence. The next member who interrupts while I am hearing a point of order will be warned.

Dr ROWAN: The Premier is providing the historical context of the former Labor government's failure when it comes to the Gabba and, in doing so, he is being responsive to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier. The question was around the Gabba.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The honourable Leader of the Opposition knows the terms of reference. What he does not know, though, is once he called the review—and he did not like the answer—in a moment of haste he said that he would spend \$1.6 billion on a temporary facility at QSAC. There is not a single Queenslanders who is not confined to that space who thought that was a good idea. It was a dud idea then, it is a dud idea now. The Leader of the Opposition can yell and scream all he likes but he knows there are seven eminently qualified Queenslanders.

Mr Miles: Donors to the LNP.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection again. As we saw on election night, he does not have an ounce of humility—no grace, no decency—that is why he is the nightwatchman opposition leader.

Community Safety

Ms DOOLEY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier explain what drives the LNP government's commitment to restoring safety where Queenslanders live, and is the Premier aware of any contrasting approaches?

Mr CRISAFULLI: In answer to the honourable member's question, victims drive us—doing right by victims, ensuring in the future there are fewer victims. The reason I am so delighted to take the question from the honourable member is that one of those victims is Michelle Liddle. I want to thank the honourable member for the work that she has done with the Beaumonts after the passing of a brave young boy called Angus. The work that you have done is honourable and it shows the depth of your connections—

Ms Boyd: Through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Excuse me—I am talking about a victim of crime.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, I will look after the House.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Victims drive us: people like Victor White and Cindy Micallef. We know the story of Vyleen. Queenslanders were shaken when that happened. They are people like Chris Sanders, who one year ago today was stabbed in a car park at Alexandra Hills—and the honourable member for Redlands raised that in her contribution—and people like Ravi from Domenico's Pizza shop in Wishart. I have stood with Ravi a couple of times and I have listened to his story of being broken into half a dozen times. It had an impact on his business, on his mental health, on his financial capacity and on the ability of his staff to get a shift and meet their requirements. The member for Capalaba and his family—they are what drives us.

In answer to the honourable member's question about alternative approaches: when your party is led by someone who says that the media is 'obsessed with CCTV', you know that there are wrong priorities. When an interjection comes from somebody who was in charge of the corrective services in this state in a questionable manner, you know—

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker, I find the comments from the Premier—

Mr Bleijie: You have to raise a point of order. Learn the rules. If you want to lecture us, learn them yourself.

Ms BOYD: I find the comments from the Premier personally offensive—

Mrs Frecklington: We found you offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have done well this week but you are now warned. I called for order. I called for silence to hear the point of order.

Ms BOYD: I find the comments from the Premier personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. Further, I find the comments of the Attorney-General personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney, would you withdraw, please?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice on the second point of order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am happy to withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay, that will make it easy.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say to the House that I am happy to withdraw. It is vital that we understand the context by which those opposite sought to demonise whistleblowers and victims of crime—people who were called rent-a-crowd. Another comment was that people are not talking about youth crime. Those last two comments were made by people representing Townsville. Can honourable members imagine our three representatives for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra ever saying that? That is why we stand up in this place: to drive a better outcome for victims. The honourable member asked what drives us. It is victim numbers.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stadiums

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Premier. Before the election the Premier promised there would be no new stadiums no fewer than 10 times. Does the Premier rule out building a new stadium at Victoria Park?

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you can join the warning list. It was a late night last night, but that is no excuse for this.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The honourable member is aware that an independent infrastructure and coordination authority has been appointed. The reason the honourable member is aware of that is that she could not do it. She had 1,200 days and could not find seven Queenslanders who she reckoned could do the job. That was 1,200 days. The guilty party can come in here and say these things all they like. However, the reason we are in this mess when it comes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games—

Mr Miles: You swapped them out for LNP donors.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition because, again, he has besmirched—

Mr Dick: I haven't said anything.

Ms Grace: He hasn't said a word.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am taking the interjection I heard from those opposite. I am going to take the interjection I heard from those opposite.

Mr Dick: Not from me.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am taking the interjection I heard from those opposite who said 'LNP donors'. I am not sure where it came from, but I heard it from over there so I am going to take it. The reason I am going to take it is that one of those honourable members referred to it as 'soft corruption'. I do not think I have seen a more disgraceful comment from a group of people who do not have any humility. The reason I know that is that I, like every other Queenslanders, watched the speech on election night. I saw it. I have never seen a less gracious concession speech—ever. Within half an hour of coming out with the screaming and the yelling, every network had called two things. They had called an emphatic election win and they had called the worst concession speech this state has seen—and he knows it; they all know it.

Mr Mander: Even 'Richo'!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Even the great Labor luminary 'Richo' called it, and they all know it—every one of them. They know that their leader was not up to it then and he is not up to it now. There are people sitting opposite who are up to it—more so than that man sitting there. They know it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). Can the Premier answer the question about a new stadium at Victoria Park?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The honourable member knows what the terms of reference are. The honourable member knows what is in the terms of reference. Let me explain what is in the terms of reference: generational infrastructure, tick; maximising existing facilities, tick; and, the one I am excited most about, a dedicated representative from regional and rural Queensland. I look at the people opposite and the people on this side and I see great people who represent regional Queensland. Those opposite did not want that to happen. They did not want someone like Jamie Fitzpatrick on that board. They did not want someone who knows tourism and hospitality. They did not want someone driving things for Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Mount Isa, Rockhampton and everywhere in between. The guilty party still sits there, and those opposite know that we are cleaning up their mess.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I go any further, the member for Pine Rivers is warned. You were constantly interjecting during that exchange.

Police Service

Mrs STOKER: My question is for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government will ensure that Queensland police are respected and well resourced, and is the minister aware of any approaches that differ?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am mindful that this is her first question in this parliament, but it is not the first time she has put her hand up to serve her community. She is passionate about her local community, particularly when it comes to crime and community safety, and she is passionate about her local police.

Only a few days after being sworn into this job I was lucky to visit, along with the member, the Cleveland police station, where we spoke to police. We spent some considerable time there before visiting other police stations. What they told us and what we have heard across the state in our travels is that our police on the front line are sick of being promised the world and delivered nothing. They are sick of calling for backup that never arrives and they are sick of fighting the crime crisis with both hands tied behind their back, thanks to the weak laws of the previous government.

The Crisafulli government and I will not mislead our police. The following week I visited police in Townsville, and on a Tuesday lunchtime, while I was there, a police car was rammed by a stolen vehicle. The officer was assaulted and ended up in hospital. This was at lunchtime on a Tuesday. This was not in the dark backblocks of the suburbs late at night; on a Tuesday at lunchtime a police car was rammed.

We are hearing from our police across the state, from Cleveland to Cairns, that they were operating on skeleton crews with weak laws. Some stations were operating at 50 per cent. They have been screaming for backup. The worst thing you can do to police when they are calling for backup is not just to not send backup but to promise that you will and not deliver. During estimates we saw the

former minister table a glossy brochure talking about the over 1,800 more police they were delivering. On 12 September, just before the election, the then premier of this state was telling this House about the 3,000 extra police across Queensland, but we now know that was not the case. Our police knew that was not the case. Those opposite might have thought they could mislead this House and mislead estimates, but they cannot mislead our police, who have been screaming for backup. We now know about Labor's 2020 promise of 1,450 extra police by 2025. However, the June 2020 headcount, revealed at estimates this year, was 12,038, and we now know that the October 2024 headcount is 12,303—only 265 more police than in 2020.

In stark contrast to those opposite, who watered down the laws, promised our police the world and delivered nothing, the Crisafulli government and I will ensure the police have all the backup they need. We are committed to providing at least 1,600 more boots on the ground by the next election. We do have the backs of our police—they do have our support—and we will drive down victim numbers and return community safety to Queensland.

(Time expired)

Infrastructure Projects, Funding

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Finance. Did the minister consult with her department before the government decided to include future maintenance expenditure in the cost of major projects, including Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure, and will the minister publicly release the new policy framework?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for the question. Again, this is the same former treasurer who was responsible for all of these blowouts. They all sat around the cabinet table—this former treasurer sat around the cabinet table and made all of these decisions.

Mr Crisafulli: Get someone else to ask. Surely there is a cleanskin who could ask this.

Ms BATES: Exactly. Maybe he could google it, because we know that they are the laziest opposition this state has ever seen. They talk about maintenance when things like the Borumba pumped hydro scheme blew out by \$18.4 billion. Now today we hear about the CASPr IT system—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You have asked the question, member for Woodridge.

Ms BATES:—that has blown out by \$38 million. That is \$7,000 per customer. That sounds very similar to the Health payroll debacle that cost Queenslanders \$1.2 billion. Do not forget the ieMR under the former minister for health that has now blown out to almost a billion dollars. What about the Cairns Marine Precinct that doubled to \$826 million? We are going to restore respect for taxpayers' money and Queensland is open for business.

As I said yesterday, I am still shadow-boxing Jackie Trad. Did Jackie Trad tell the member to ask that? Will the real shadow treasurer please stand up? They have not handed over to this one. This is the same former treasurer who did not want to debate our Treasurer; he ended up wanting to debate a cardboard cut-out—and he would have lost anyway. He did not want to debate our then shadow treasurer, and do honourable members know why? It is because he is the smartest man in the room. He actually does understand the figures.

Is the member another Jackie Trad marionette? Jackie is still pulling the strings, isn't she? The shadow treasurer is a ventriloquist: I can see her mouth moving but it is Jackie Trad's words coming out. Why do those opposite not want to talk about what is going on with the budget? They have not asked the Treasurer a question, but let us have a look at what the general government situation is right now in terms of this budget. This was the single biggest year deterioration in the operating balance—\$12.2 billion—since the start of accrual budgeting.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about the release of a new policy framework. We are yet to hear anything about that after nearly three minutes. Mr Speaker, I would ask you to bring the minister back to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: As I understand it, the question was around modelling in finance, but I would be surprised if anybody heard the response to any part of the question given the noise in this chamber. Minister, you have 26 seconds to round out your answer.

Ms BATES: The answer to the question is that it will be on time and on budget, which is a foreign concept for those opposite. As I was saying before I was rudely interrupted, this year was the biggest single-year deterioration in the operating balance—\$12.2 billion—since the start of accrual budgeting in 2000. That is the record of those opposite. They learnt from Jackie Trad, so it is no wonder they blew out budgets!

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the next questioner, member for Bundaberg, you have quarrelled nonstop across the chamber. You are joining the list. You are warned.

Child Protection

Mr LEE: My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister detail the Crisafulli LNP government's plans to reform Queensland's broken residential care and child safety systems, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches in these critical areas?

Ms CAMM: I thank the honourable member for his question. I also thank him for his service to his community before entering this House, in both local government and the philanthropic sector, in particular with the Salvation Army. I look forward to working with him as he has worked with many vulnerable families in his community. I am pleased to be part of the LNP Crisafulli government that took the most comprehensive reform package for the child safety system and in particular the residential care system to the election. I am very pleased to announce to the House that, as part of the 100-day plan and commitment, I will be convening a meeting with the residential care sector and I welcome PeakCare's engagement with my department as we formulate that agenda next week. I look forward to helping transform the lives of young Queenslanders in this state who are our most vulnerable.

In my travels across the state—in the last month I have visited child safety services centres across Mount Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, the Moreton region and Brisbane—I have met with our frontline workforce and I have been very sad to discover how distressed and upset they are at the number of children in the residential care system. Those opposite have talked and disparaged some of the victims, but some of the children who are in the system created by the failings of the former Labor government are victims of those failures by the former Labor government. Children under the age of 12 in residential care have gone from 142 in 2015 to now 683—a 381 per cent increase in children under 12. There was a residential road map announced by the previous government—a road map to nowhere with no money attached and no funding to support the front line in reuniting children in residential care into other options such as out-of-home care or reunification.

There was one thing that I was most distressed about when I met with my frontline staff with regard to paralegals, the finding kin teams and the case support workers. We hear a lot from those opposite about reunification, in particular with regard to First Nations children. After talking to my frontline staff, I found out that those positions are not funded beyond January in the department that was led and overseen by five failed child safety ministers in the previous government. We are up for the task and we will put Queensland children first as an LNP government.

Cross River Rail

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The minister claims that Cross River Rail will not be completed until 2029. Does the minister stand by this timeline and will the minister release the advice received by his department?

Mr MICKELBERG: I welcome the question from the shadow treasurer; it is a very courageous question. I do stand by the information that I released yesterday that Cross River Rail will likely not be finished until 2029. Who on that side said that it would be finished now? It was the former minister for transport and member for Miller. Look at him! How many times did the member for Miller say that it would be finished by 2024? As recently as 2022—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the member personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask that he withdraw them.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, the point of order is not a personal reflection. If you have concerns about any statements that the minister has made, you know the process. You can write to me.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I found it personally offensive. It is my right as a member of parliament to raise that matter in this House and for it to be dealt with fairly.

Mr SPEAKER: I will just take some advice. Minister, I will ask you to withdraw that statement and then I will make a comment.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: On my first day as Speaker I made a comment about taking offence to things that are very borderline. This is a robust House. If it is a personal attack, obviously I expect you to take personal offence, but just be careful in your judgement of what you are rising to take personal offence to. The member has withdrawn.

Mr MICKELBERG: Do members know who should take personal offence? The people of Queensland: Queensland taxpayers who will pay more because of Labor's mismanagement; Queensland taxpayers who will pay over \$17 billion for Cross River Rail because of the failures of people like the member for Miller, the failures of people like the member for Aspley, the member for Woodridge, the now opposition leader, the now shadow treasurer—all of whom said that this would be completed by 2024 and would come in at \$5.4 billion. Let us have a look at the facts. I have been criticised for suggesting that it will take a considerable amount of time to certify and test Cross River Rail, so let us have a look at the facts. This is the advice that I have received.

Ms Fentiman: Not according to the regulator.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the shadow treasurer about the regulator. How many times do members reckon the former minister for transport and main roads, the now shadow minister, met with the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator?

A government member: Ten?

Mr MICKELBERG: How many times?

Mr Crisafulli: Seven?

Mr MICKELBERG: Ten? I take those interjections. Zero—not once! Let us contrast that with my position. I have already met with the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. Do members know what that advice says? That advice says that the process to test and certify projects like Cross River Rail will take an extended timeframe. Let us have a look at like projects around the world: Melbourne Metro—30 months to certify and test; Sydney Metro—16 months to certify and test, and still not finished I might add; Crossrail in London—24 months to certify and test.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was whether the minister would table or release the advice.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was much broader than that. It also included a timeline, which the minister is referring to.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am happy to provide advice to the House from Cross River Rail in relation to system testing. System testing will take at least 12 months and as long as 21 months. Service testing will take at least nine months and up to as many as 12 months. Total testing timeframe is a minimum of 21 months and could be as much as three years. This former minister said it would be ready to open in 2024. Labor cannot be trusted when it comes to major projects in Queensland. The former minister for transport and main roads is out of his depth.

(Time expired)

Youth Justice

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister provide an update on how the Crisafulli LNP government is hard at work ensuring early intervention and rehabilitation programs are in place for youth offenders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question—his first question in this House. I know how hard the member for Maryborough has worked to ensure there are rehabilitation and intervention programs in his own electorate of Maryborough and for the Wide Bay region. It is about turning young lives around, but it is also about reducing the number of victims of crime in this state.

I cannot let this moment pass without calling out the disgraceful behaviour of the member for Pine Rivers, interjecting and yelling out while the Premier of this state was talking about victims of crime and the pain they have been through. While the Premier was addressing victims of crime in this state, the member for Pine Rivers appallingly interjected and yelled out. That is how those opposite treat victims of crime in this state. It is an absolute disgrace.

In our 100-day plan we said that within 100 days we would begin work on our Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs. I am pleased to inform this House that work is underway so tenders can be opened in early 2025 for nine Regional Reset programs across Queensland and our Staying on Track program. The member for Maryborough has been a strong advocate for this in his region. I thank the member for Maryborough for his support. Once tenders are open, my department will provide advice to the market to ensure all stakeholders who wish to tender can tender and can be involved in the opportunity to turn young lives around. That is what our Staying on Track program will do and that is what our nine Regional Reset programs will do. These programs will ensure that children have a chance and an opportunity to turn their lives around. It will also ensure there are fewer victims of crime in this state. This is the hard work of the Crisafulli LNP government.

What have those opposite done when it comes to hard work to reduce victims of crime in this state? The Attorney-General offered those opposite a briefing to be informed on the youth crime matters that are currently before the House, and did those opposite turn up? They did not turn up. They failed to turn up to a briefing. They come into this House and lecture us when they cannot even be bothered to turn up. Those opposite are all talk.

A government member interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I will take that interjection. They do not care about victims of crime.

Cross River Rail

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The LNP claims Cross River Rail will be delayed until 2029 due to commissioning and testing by the National Rail Safety Regulator for a period of two years, a claim the regulator has refuted. I table a copy of a *Brisbane Times* article. Has the minister misled Queensland?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 11 December 2024, titled "A matter for them": Regulator contradicts LNP Cross River Rail delay claims' [\[272\]](#).

Mr MICKELBERG: Once again, we have another courageous question from the opposition. If I was the shadow minister for transport and main roads and I had never met with the regulator when I was the minister, I probably would not be asking this question. Had the former minister, the now shadow minister, met with the National Rail Safety Regulator, he might have been informed that the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim has a loud voice, but there is way too much noise. The question has been asked, member for Aspley. You were interjecting. I am sure you are interested in the answer to the question.

Mr MICKELBERG: Had the former minister for transport and main roads, the now shadow minister, actually met with the National Rail Safety Regulator, he would have been informed that the testing and then commissioning process is conducted over an extended timeframe and that the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and Queensland Rail are responsible for the testing, which will take a considerable amount of time, and the certification process is conducted by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

Those opposite deliberately seek to twist the truth when it comes to Cross River Rail. Another reason the testing process will be elongated is that those opposite forgot to order the trains that are going to be necessary to drive through the tunnel. The former minister forgot to order the trains that need to run through Cross River Rail. We are not even going to have any trains until 2026.

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

Mr MICKELBERG: Oh, here we go.

Mr BAILEY: I find the comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. They are not accurate.

Mr SPEAKER: There were two former ministers. I did not hear the member for Buderim identify which former minister it was, so I am not really sure. Unless you are saying it was you, I do not know how you can take personal offence.

Mr BAILEY: Clearly it was a reference to me—

Mr SPEAKER: I am ruling it out. It is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

Mr BAILEY:—which is a logical thing to assume.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, are you happy to withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: If it aids the House, I will withdraw. Clearly, the member for Miller has a guilty conscience. I was actually referring to the member for Aspley, but if it aids the House I am happy to withdraw. To be clear, there are five or six different former Labor ministers for transport and main roads and Cross River Rail: Jackie Trad, Kate Jones, the member for Miller, the member for Aspley and Stirling Hinchliffe. There is a cast of thousands who have their fingerprints on Cross River Rail, which is why it is an unmitigated mess: over \$17 billion because of Labor; probably not open until 2029 because of Labor. Even the former minister could not rule out further delays when he appeared at estimates in July. Even the former minister could not assure Queenslanders that it would open in 2026 as Labor had walked back from its promise of 2024, then 2025, then 2026. There is a litany of Labor failures on Cross River Rail. Queenslanders deserve better and only the LNP will deliver a fresh start on major transport projects.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the next member, member for Aspley, you have been interjecting nonstop this morning. You are joining the warning list.

Crisafulli LNP Government

Mrs YOUNG: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Before the parliament breaks for Christmas, can the Deputy Premier advise how the Crisafulli LNP government has delivered the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for across infrastructure and planning, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. As part of the LNP's fresh start, we established the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority; we ended BPIC, the CFMEU tax; we revealed blowouts that Labor hid from Queenslanders; we cancelled the pumped hydro hoax; and we started unlocking church and charity owned new land for housing. That is what we have done in 30 days. It is a pretty good start.

It is Christmas and members know that I love the Christmas spirit. I have a leaked copy of the Labor Party's wish list for Santa. Of course, it starts with Blocker. We know that Blocker is the puppetmaster and we know who Blocker's puppet is. I have looked at their wish list and I can just picture the opposition leader looking up at Blocker the puppetmaster and saying, 'Daddy Blocker, I just want to be a real boy and make my own decisions.'

Both shadow treasurer Fentiman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Dick have asked for a leadership spill. The member for McConnel is on the list. She wants a new racket because the old CFMEU protection racket is worn out. The member for Miller has asked for some anti-inflammatory to take his ego down slightly. The member for Aspley is hoping for a bigger calculator to keep calculating Labor blowouts and release them from opposition. The member for Springwood and the member for Morayfield want a map from Santa so they can find their way back to shadow cabinet. The member for Gaven wants some coal to power her ongoing steamrolling of the councils across the state, which she is well known for.

My favourite item on Santa's wish list is on both former treasurer Cameron Dick's list and mine. We have both asked for the same thing. I am trying to buy from the *Courier-Mail* the cardboard cut-out of me. I note from Labor's leaked wish list for Santa that he has asked for the same thing. I am trying my best, News Corp, to buy that corflute cut-out, which I understand they dress up every day. It is pretty special because, as I said during the election campaign, if you put Cameron Dick and a cardboard cut-out of Jarrod Bleijie in a room then the cardboard cut-out would win, and the people agreed. Seventy-six per cent voted for the cardboard cut-out over the real person. The best thing Queenslanders have for Christmas this year is no longer having a Labor government.

Housing and Homelessness

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. With essential services including housing and general support programs closed over the holiday period when emergency accommodations are non-existent, can the minister advise if anything is being implemented to ensure needed supports are available over the Christmas and new year period?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Noosa for the question.

Mr Mander: Unexpected.

Mr O'CONNOR: It is unexpected; thank you, member for Everton. The Crisafulli government went to the election with a firm commitment to support our frontline housing and homelessness services. That is why we have committed to providing a 20 per cent uplift in funding for specialist homelessness services through to 2027-28. Of course, we led on the commitment to increase those services by 20 per cent over the forward estimates while the former Labor government committed to doing it only within one financial year. Those services are particularly important during the holiday season when the most vulnerable members of our community are often at greater risk.

I can assure the member and her community that our new Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring that no Queenslander is left behind. Anyone who needs urgent housing assistance or support over the holiday period can contact our 24/7 homelessness hotline on 1800474753. Those services are in place to provide immediate support when it is needed most.

I want to give a particular shout-out to our housing service centre staff. They will be working hard over the holiday break. In the Noosa region, Youturn serves as the specialist homelessness service. It is funded to deliver our immediate housing response and enhanced outreach programs. I can confirm for the member that Youturn will be conducting outreach over the Christmas period to ensure that those in urgent need of housing can have the assistance that they need.

Additionally, people who are already in immediate housing response accommodation have been given access to an on-call number if they need help during emergencies over the holiday period. We are committed to providing continuous care at those critical times. For social housing tenants in the region who require emergency maintenance, support is available at our self-service portal or by getting in touch over our hotline. We understand that the holiday season brings unique challenges. As a government we are committed to delivering the housing and homelessness solutions that our state needs and those are the immediate responses we are taking.

Of course, in the longer term we are getting on with the job of fixing Queensland's housing crisis. We have established our Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce. Yesterday, the Deputy Premier made a fantastic announcement about that. We are working on a community housing master agreement to finally lock this in and deliver new supply. We paused BPIC to boost productivity on job sites and, of course, we are fixing the HIF.

Housing Supply

Mr FIELD: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Will the minister detail the importance of funding the delivery of new housing supply and is the minister aware of any previous policies that contrast with this approach?

Mr O'CONNOR: I am copping a grilling today, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. I sincerely congratulate him on his election to this House. I am very proud to be the recipient of his very first question. As someone who has worked on the tools for his entire life, he knows a thing or two about the building and construction sector and about ensuring we have productivity on job sites across our state.

After a decade of Labor's chronic underinvestment in social housing, it has never been harder for Queenslanders to have a place to call home. The numbers I ran through in my ministerial statement speak for themselves. Nearly 48,000 Queenslanders are on the social housing waitlist. Those are not just numbers; they represent thousands of families, individuals and children who have been left without the stability and security that they deserve.

The former and now shadow minister, the member for Gaven, went to market and began negotiating on housing projects under the Housing Investment Fund knowing full well that she did not have the money to get those houses built. How do we know this? In my incoming brief, the department told me they had told the former government that in October—and that is not the now shadow minister's last October as housing minister; that is October 2023. For the entire length of the Miles government, the former and now shadow housing minister knew that she did not have the money to deliver desperately needed social and affordable homes but she pretended she did.

My question for those opposite is: who knew about this deception? Did the former premier know? Did the former treasurer know? Were they in on it? Did the former minister deceive them as well? If this is not a glaring example of abject ministerial incompetence, I do not know what is. We will fix the HIF. We will deliver 53½ thousand social homes over the next 20 years.

Productivity in our construction sector was the biggest handbrake on housing supply. We have talked about the independent Treasury modelling that showed the impact of BPIC, that showed rents would have gone up seven per cent if we had not taken the action that we did to hit pause on the CFMEU tax. That modelling showed that 22,000 fewer dwellings would be built if we did not take the action that we did. One of the other big barriers to getting houses built was the prequalification guidelines around BPIC. Of the 176,000 QBCC licensed contractors, just 204 were prequalified to work on those jobs. We are getting on with the job. We are cleaning up the mess of the former government.

Cross River Rail

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Premier. The opposition has been informed that when media outlets approached the department for information about Cross River Rail they were redirected to the Minister for Transport's office. Has the LNP government gagged public servants from providing factual information to journalists?

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

Ms ENOCH: I can authenticate it. We have received advice from journalists.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, we have often allowed newspaper articles to substantiate questions. You do not have an article at this stage but I am happy to allow the question, and obviously the Premier will have a bit of latitude in his answer.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Ms ENOCH: Point of order, Mr Speaker: there is reference to this very question in the *Brisbane Times* article, which I can table if you wish.

Mr SPEAKER: I could not hear all of that because somebody was chattering up the back. Could you repeat your point of order, please?

Ms ENOCH: For authentication, there is reference to this in a *Brisbane Times* article that I have here. It says—

The Cross River Rail Authority referred questions about the project's budget and timeline back to Mickelberg's office.

It was on the TV news last night as well. I am happy to table it, Mr Speaker.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 11 December 2024, titled "A matter for them": Regulator contradicts LNP Cross River Rail delay claims' [\[273\]](#).

Mr CRISAFULLI: For the sake of the House, the shadow minister mentioned that she would like the opportunity for the question to be put. Not as much as I would like the opportunity to answer the question! I will tell the House why: for the first time, maybe, someone has grasped what ministerial accountability is—maybe for the first time. Just to unpack what has happened, the shadow minister said that a request about a transport matter went to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and it was referred to the relevant minister.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have been giving you latitude but I am afraid patience is running out. Member for Waterford, you are joining the list. You are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will tell members why I am a big believer in ministerial accountability. I had a seat from which I saw what it looks like when there is no ministerial accountability. On the opposition's frontbench exists somebody who had many chances in the way they conducted themselves, and that person was never dismissed from their role as a minister. Despite multiple cover-ups, despite the use of email addresses that should have landed that person in a lot of hot water but did not because they were able to be retrieved, and despite covering up billions of dollars of cost overruns in Maryborough, that person survived—over and over again.

In the dying days of the former government that person was given their leave, but they are back on the front bench. That shows me that the guilty party does not understand the error of their ways, just like the now opposition leader did not understand what contrition looked like on election night. It is the same people. They do not get humility. They do not get grace. Above all, they do not get accountability.


I have been asked by the honourable member about the process of what ministerial accountability looks like. It looks like ministers being across their brief. It looks like ministers meeting regulators whom they are responsible for. It looks like ministers being held accountable for delivering things on time and on budget. It looks like the government of the day having respect for taxpayers' money. The only way to do that is with accountability.

If there is no accountability, taxpayers have to work harder, pay more and get less, and that is what they had. That is what they lived through and things got worse for a decade. They got worse because the former government was focused only on its own survival and, as a result, youth crime ran out of control, cost of living ran out of control, the health system went into disarray, young people did not believe they could own a home and the vulnerable did not have a roof over their head. I say to the honourable member: ministerial accountability means something, and that is why this government will always put it front and centre.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 for particular purposes. 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: Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[274\]](#).

Tabled paper: Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[275\]](#).

Tabled paper: Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[276\]](#).

The bill implements the revenue related measures we announced during the 2024 state election campaign. This bill delivers on these revenue related commitments by amending the Duties Act 2001 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971. Firstly, the Duties Act currently provides transfer duty relief for eligible first home buyers which is available up to certain value thresholds. As part of the 2024 state election campaign, we announced that we would abolish transfer duty completely for first home buyers on new homes to get Queenslanders into their first home sooner. Full transfer duty relief will be provided to eligible first home owners purchasing a new home to live in or land on which they will build a home to live in. This relief will be available irrespective of the value of the property. This will mean that first home buyers who, either alone or with other first home buyers, buy or build a new home to live in will ordinarily not pay any transfer duty. Existing transfer duty concessions up to \$800,000 for first home owners and home owners generally will continue to be available. This means that, depending on the value, first home buyers purchasing existing homes will continue to pay either transfer duty at concessional rates or no transfer duty at all.

The Duties Act currently imposes certain restrictions on recipients of transfer duty home concessions in relation to renting the property during the first year after they move in. Also, as part of the 2024 state election campaign, we announced that we would allow homebuyers to rent out a room without penalty. The bill amends the requirements of the transfer duty home concessions to allow recipients to rent part of their property during the one-year occupation period and retain the full benefit of this relief.

Further, as part of the 2024 state election campaign, we announced that we would provide an exemption for payments to general practitioners, to save Queenslanders paying more when seeing their local doctor and to safeguard access to local general practitioner services across the state. The bill amends the Payroll Tax Act to provide that wages paid or payable by medical practices to general practitioners will not be subject to payroll tax. This will provide the medical industry with certainty about the treatment of these wages for payroll tax purposes going forward. We introduce these changes to address the significant cost-of-living pressures facing Queenslanders, including in housing and health care.

Homebuyers, particularly first home buyers, face increased barriers to home ownership given significant increases in prices, while renters are also experiencing pressures due to low vacancy rates and increased rents. Over the decades, it has been harder and harder for young Queenslanders to get into their first home. Queensland has the lowest rates of home ownership of any state in the country.

In 1971 we had the second highest. The largest decline in home ownership rates since 1971 have been in the 25- to 34-year-old bracket. These measures are aimed squarely at getting Queenslanders into home ownership sooner, with this being one initiative the LNP will continue to pursue to boost the rate of home ownership in Queensland to the highest in the country by 2032. Overseas studies have shown that people whose parents own a house are twice as likely to become home owners themselves. We want to offer hope to young people to start to build intergenerational prosperity.

At the same time, medical practices have been under financial strain, leading to lower rates of bulk-billing and therefore increased out-of-pocket costs for patients. We pledged to introduce an exemption to provide that wages liable to payroll tax do not include wages paid or payable by medical practices to general practitioners from 1 December 2024, axing Labor's patients' tax. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has praised this initiative to make general practice care more affordable for all Queenslanders. RACGP Queensland Council Chair, Dr Cath Hester, welcomed the changes. She stated—

It's also a big relief for GPs across our state, who just want to get on with their job helping Queenslanders stay healthy and out of hospital and reducing pressure on our health system.

Likewise, the Australian Medical Association Queensland's Dr Nick Yim said the implementation of the election commitment gave GPs and patients certainty.

This bill delivers on several important commitments made during the 2024 state election campaign. We are doing what we promised. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.23 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.23 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[277\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes [\[278\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[279\]](#).

The bill amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. Queensland hosts, and is responsible for amending, the national law on behalf of all states and territories. The amendments in the bill were agreed by the health ministers of all states and territories and the Commonwealth in July 2024. The bill also modifies the national law as it applies in Queensland and amends the Health Ombudsman Act for consistency with the amended national law. These amendments ensure the effective and efficient operation of Queensland's co-regulatory approach to regulating health practitioners.

The bill will strengthen public safety protections and increase transparency regarding serious sexual misconduct by registered health practitioners. It aligns with the government's commitment to a safe, strong, well-functioning health system, underpinned by a workforce that is expertly trained, valued and respected.

Members will note that the bill was introduced late in the last parliamentary term—in fact, in September—but was unable to be passed prior to the election. Before turning to the substance of the bill, I think it is important to recognise and thank our wonderful health practitioners for their skill, hard work and dedication to serving the people of Queensland. In the last six weeks, I have been to many of these health facilities. It is my priority to understand the many challenges of the system from our frontline staff themselves, and I will continue to do so.

It is also important to emphasise that the vast majority of health practitioners honour the trust placed in them by providing safe, competent and ethical care. Unfortunately, however, there are some practitioners who engage in professional misconduct, which can have devastating effects on victims and reduce public confidence in the safety of our health services. This is particularly the case with serious sexual misconduct.

This bill will strengthen the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law by improving transparency about serious sexual misconduct by practitioners, strengthening the procedural requirements for practitioners seeking to return to practice following the cancellation of their registration and protecting people who raise genuine concerns about practitioners from retribution. The bill expands the information national boards must include on the national public registers about findings of serious sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct by any health practitioner damages community confidence in the safety of services provided by all practitioners. To attract and retain high-quality clinicians and provide safe health care, Queensland's HHSs and other employers have to have accurate information about employment decisions. Health consumers are also entitled to accurate information to make informed choices about consulting a health professional.

Under the current law, if a practitioner is found to have engaged in professional misconduct, the national register records any related sanctions. These can include, for example, a cancellation of the practitioner's registration or the imposition of conditions on practice such as a requirement to practise under supervision. However, sanctions that are no longer active are removed from the register. That means there is no easy way for consumers and employers to discover if a practitioner has a history of serious sexual misconduct.

The bill addresses this issue by requiring that the public registers permanently include additional information for practitioners found to have engaged in professional misconduct involving sexual misconduct. Only a tribunal may make a finding of professional misconduct, which is the most serious misconduct finding available under the national law. The additional information on the register must also state that the professional misconduct finding was based on sexual misconduct, record the related sanctions and include a link to the tribunal's published decision. Although much of this information is already publicly available, it can be difficult for the public to locate and understand it. It will be more accessible when recorded on the register, which can be searched on Ahpra's website. The bill applies the new information requirement to past professional misconduct findings based on sexual misconduct since the practitioner's profession was regulated under the national law. This will be from 1 July 2010 for most professions. To enable courts and tribunals to protect victims' identities, published information must comply with any court or tribunal non-publication order.

As used in the bill, the term 'sexual misconduct' takes on its ordinary broad meaning. This avoids inadvertently narrowing the scope of target behaviours. However, the national law provides that national boards can issue related codes and guidelines—for example, the Medical Board's sexual boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship. Such codes and guidelines help practitioners to make ethical decisions and are admissible in disciplinary proceedings. Sexual misconduct can include misconduct in the practise of the profession or outside of the practise of the profession that is inconsistent with a person being a fit and proper person for registration in that profession—for example, a criminal conviction for sexual assault. Sexual misconduct can also include a violation of a professional boundary between a practitioner and a person under their care—for example, touching or an intimate examination that is not clinically necessary, making sexually suggestive remarks or engaging in a sexual relationship.

The bill extends New South Wales' current reinstatement order process to all states and territories. It requires all practitioners whose registration has been cancelled by a tribunal to obtain a reinstatement order from that tribunal before they can reapply for registration. This requirement will also apply to any person who has been disqualified from registration by a tribunal. This would include a formerly registered practitioner who surrendered their registration before a tribunal decision was made.

Under the bill, the decision to allow a disqualified person to reapply for registration will still rest with the responsible tribunal in each jurisdiction. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT, will perform this function in Queensland. To support QCAT in undertaking this function there is an existing fund, established by the national law and administered by Ahpra, from which payments will be made to meet the expenses of tribunals performing functions under the national law.

Matters the tribunal may consider include whether the disqualified person is a fit and proper person to be registered in the profession and whether they are able to practise competently and safely. The tribunal must also consider any complaints made against the practitioner. The tribunal can grant a reinstatement order subject to conditions. If the board subsequently re-registers the practitioner, the board must also set the same or broader conditions on the practitioner's registration. If the tribunal dismisses the application, it may also prohibit the practitioner from making another application for a set period of time.

In Queensland, QCAT will be empowered to permanently prohibit a practitioner from applying for a reinstatement order. This will permanently exclude the practitioner from registration under the national law. A reinstatement order allows a disqualified person to apply for registration but does not automatically entitle the person to be registered. They must still apply to a national board for registration, and the board must still assess the application on its own merits against all the usual statutory criteria, including recency-of-practice requirements.

Finally, the bill strengthens statutory protections for people who make, or may make, a complaint under the national law or Health Ombudsman Act. The bill makes it an offence to threaten or intimidate a complainant, take negative employment action against a complainant or cause other detriment to a complainant. The bill expands corresponding protections in the Health Ombudsman Act to cover threatening or intimidating conduct.

To ensure consumers are aware of their right to complain to a regulator, the bill makes it an offence for a health service or practitioner to enter into a non-disclosure agreement with a person that does not clearly state that the person may make a complaint or assist regulators. This offence will not be retrospective. The bill also voids a non-disclosure agreement to the extent the agreement limits a person from making a complaint or assisting regulators. This will apply to existing non-disclosure agreements, including those made before the bill commences. The bill includes strong penalties for the new offences to reflect the seriousness of threats, reprisals and attempts to prevent complaints to regulators.

This bill improves transparency about serious sexual misconduct by health practitioners, ensures disqualified persons can seek re-registration only with tribunal approval and strengthens consumer protections. These reforms represent a significant step forward in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of patients and the community. By addressing serious sexual misconduct and strengthening protections for those who speak out, we are sending a clear message: unethical or harmful behaviour will not be tolerated in our health system.

This legislation balances the need for strong accountability measures with respect for the professionalism and dedication of the vast majority of health practitioners, who continue to serve our community with excellence. Together, these reforms will contribute to a safer, more transparent and more equitable health system, from the cape to Currumbin and from Brisbane to Bedourie. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.33 am):
I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.


I remind the House of the members who are on warnings until lunchtime: the members for Nanango, Miller, Pine Rivers, Bundaberg, Aspley and Waterford.

MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 December (see p. 434), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.33 am): It is an absolute pleasure to speak in support of the Making Queensland Safer Bill, a commitment the LNP took to the people of Queensland to make Queenslanders safe. We know that for the last 10 years under the Labor government Queensland has become more unsafe for people no matter where they live. It started in North Queensland and Far North Queensland and then it travelled throughout Queensland in the last 10 years. That is why the bill we are debating, the LNP's commitment to the people of Queensland to have these laws passed by Christmas, is so important for people's safety, their work and where they live. It is finally introducing consequences for actions for young people in the state. This legislation is also about putting victims before offenders.

Let's go through the history. Incidentally, I do not know if the opposition is in the Christmas spirit, but today the member for Miller admitted—

Mr Minnikin: Did he try to chop down the cherry tree?

Mr BLEIJIE: Without even referencing it, he admitted that he was the one who did not order trains. I would love that spirit of admission to continue throughout the day and for Labor members to admit they weakened youth justice laws in 2015. That is what happened, and as a consequence of the weakening of youth justice laws in 2015 we have had a generation of young repeat offenders.

The Labor Party says that youth justice is so complicated. Let's boil it down and make it not complicated. Consequences for actions, putting laws in place that back our police and give resources to our police, putting victims before offenders and opening the courts so that victims and the media can see what happens in the courts are not complicated. That is government putting community safety first, which is something the Labor government failed to do for 10 years.

I sat in this chamber when former attorney-general Yvette D'Ath introduced the first bill for the Palaszczuk government. It weakened all of the youth justice laws. It got rid of all of the early intervention programs across the state, the country programs. It got rid of breach-of-bail offences. It went further than anything before. The premise of those reforms from Labor's perspective—and it was in their speeches—was their preference to have young offenders in the community and not behind bars. Is it any wonder that over the last 10 years we have seen more serious violent young offenders on the streets? There are no consequences for their actions. In 2024 we are living in a society where these young offenders do not respect their parents, their peers or the police. We have to turn that around, and that starts today if this parliament passes the Making Queensland Safer Laws. It is about listening to the victims of crime.

I want to congratulate the member for Capalaba, because he took on an absolute grub in Don Brown, who was the chief government whip. Are you are going to take offence and interject about Don Brown? He was an absolute grub. He was a disgrace and he served way too long in this parliament.

Ms PUGH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that language is unparliamentary and I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier and members on my left, order! While I am seeking advice, please cease your quarrelling. Deputy Premier, I will ask that you withdraw that unparliamentary language.


Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Don Brown is a horrible human. He was a disgrace. He said to youth crime victims that the youth crime crisis was a media beat-up. He was the chief government whip. Since being defeated at the election he has put up Facebook posts saying that he will hold the new member for Capalaba accountable for his actions because the new member for Capalaba is just a one-trick pony and a one-issue member of parliament.

Mrs Stoker: Shame!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Oodgeroo. It is shameful. That is Don Brown, the Labor former chief government whip. With that attitude of the former chief government whip, is it any wonder the youth crime crisis got out of control over those 10 years?

Strong action must be taken. When the Labor Party elected the member for Murrumba as their opposition leader, he said, 'We will not get in the way of these laws.' Then obviously he went to his shadow treasurer once he appointed her—and she is well known to be on the far left of the Labor Party; like off-the-cliff left, like Green—and she has said, 'No, we don't want to support these laws.' Then they have had to scurry in their caucus rooms. I still do not know what elements the Labor Party are supporting or not supporting, and I am not sure that they do either. If you listen to all of their speeches, they are all over the shop. Some are saying they are supporting it. We have heard whispers that people are going to cross the floor. Which is it? You back victims, you back strong laws or you back the criminals. Unless you vote for all these laws, you are backing the last 10 years of failed Labor government policy. That is what the Labor Party are doing. They are at war with each other, as they have been. They know that they weakened the youth justice laws causing the youth crime crisis, causing victim numbers to soar in the state. That is their record.

The very first bill this government introduced was Making Queensland Safer Laws because that is what our Premier David Crisafulli promised to the people of Queensland. We want to put victims first. No matter where you are in the state of Queensland, we all know victims. In my electorate of Kawana, I have advocated for more police and more resources. There are young offenders causing chaos in parks, streets and communities and stealing cars. It is a huge issue, but Labor are blinded by the issue because they are soft on crime and they will always be soft on crime. When they introduced a measure and said, 'It's a tough law. It's the toughest in the country,' they did not do that to defend victims or put victims first. They did it to take it off the front page of a newspaper and stop it from being a political issue for 24 hours. That will not happen anymore. We will talk about the youth crime crisis for the next four years. This side of the House, this LNP government, will always back our police, resource our police more effectively and put victims at the centre of our law reform, not the offenders.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.41 am): This Labor opposition 100 per cent backs the actions that we need to make Queensland safer. We rightfully feel genuine anger at those who hurt other Queenslanders. We stand on the side of those Queenslanders who have been hurt. We know that this legislation will pass tonight. We know that it would be improved and accountability would be improved if the member for Gaven's amendments were also passed.

Representing Logan, I stand with those who suffer injury or live with the trauma and fear of their house being broken into, their car being stolen or physical injury being done to them. It feels like a particular betrayal when a child I saw a few years ago at a primary school graduation ceremony becomes someone who causes that fear, uncertainty, hurt and trauma in our community. I know this fear is real. I have stood with and been with those who have had to confront these people on their own threshold.

I was particularly moved by residents in one street whom I have spoken about with friends here, where a young teenager had to be confronted not once but twice over three nights in Regents Park. We on the Labor side know that Queenslanders should never have to feel that fear that those in this street in Regents Park felt for months after those two nights. I want to recognise the great work our Queensland police do especially in Logan. I want to recognise the officers of Browns Plains, Jimboomba and Yarrabilba police districts. I back them in the job they do and will push for greater resources for policing our growing area.

We recognise that Queenslanders supported the slogans the LNP put forward with Adult Crime, Adult Time. I know in my community that the hundreds of corflutes on the streets were met with a clear sentiment of 'Well, yes, we do need to do something.' I back Logan residents who want to prevent crime—100 per cent. That is why I need to be, as their representative, someone who looks really carefully into the detail of the legislation to get the real results we want.

Logan people know that longer sentences mean that these youth offenders will be prevented from causing fear and crime at least while they are serving their sentences. They know though that this is no substitute for preventing crime in the first place. They also know that eventually these children are released as young adults or as older children and that their incarceration may not stop them committing crimes and creating fear in the future. They get it because they have Logan common sense. They know that this might have a temporary effect, but then those young angry adults are released. That is why they want to get this right and they know it is only part of the solution. That is why they know that prevention of a crime ever happening is the real answer the community is looking for.

People who work in youth crime prevention or youth courts or spend a lifetime examining policy are often derided. The word 'expert' is thrown around by some over there as an insult. These are genuine people who have seen those hurt by crime face-to-face. They get the profound pain and they devote their careers to preventing crime. To laughingly dismiss these experts is to do a disservice not just to these genuine people who want to help prevent future crime but also to those victims who have already been hurt by crime.

I know the one thing that unites victims of crime is a desire that no other Queenslander should have to feel as they do now. They feel a desire for consequences and incarceration, but most of all they want others not to have to feel the pain that they have. That is why I am on their side. That is why we have a duty to get these laws right. I saw during the debate that these laws were drawn up months ago. That is what the Premier told us in the debate. I cannot for the life of me understand why they were not released then or, at a minimum, just after the election. I am particularly disappointed that in the scant two hearings we could not hear from the police. Their insight into the administration of these laws on the ground would have been really valuable. Why were they stopped? Why?

We know that the representatives of serving police officers, the Queensland Police Union, had significant concerns over the capacity of holding offenders in watch houses. I am not confident, given the rushed and unconsultative nature of this process, that the QPU's legitimate concerns have been thought through. I hope members have read the submissions that have significant and legitimate concerns about the detail of the laws and the rushed nature.

I have spoken to Logan residents who have gone through the restorative justice process. I saw that Natalie Merlehan from the group Voice for Victims asked that restorative justice not be removed. She said—

... 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.

As an aside, I would like to say that I was very moved by Natalie's submission. Her support and her concerns are equally valid, and both deserve proper consideration in this House. The group Thrive and Connect said—

Young people caught in these cycles are not broken. They are often frightened, vulnerable children navigating lives marked by trauma, rejection, and adversity—

While I get that and we know it is true, we must also recognise that so many children—in fact, most—who face terrible childhoods do not want to hurt others as they have been hurt. However, we cannot run away from the fact that when we meet these children who inflict criminal pain on others, they overwhelmingly are not our children. I mean that they overwhelmingly do not come from stable, working households where they experience stability, certainty, consistency and a feeling of love. Legal Aid said—

... children in the criminal justice system are frequently the victims of crime themselves—

and that they also face—

... poverty and homelessness, family violence, mental health and disability ... and drug and alcohol dependency.

These are simply facts. We all know and concede them. These are not the circumstances that our children face. We often are not doing this to our children. It is a hard fact. It may be true that these laws apply equally to any child, but we have to face the reality that they will apply disproportionately to children who did not choose the dysfunctional, unloving, abusive, uncaring family they grew up with. We know that so many children facing adversity do make personal change to avoid hurting others. They are often influenced by a coach, leader or friend. We need to back those children who make that change.


Can I tell the House a story about a young kid who grew up just off Compton Road, streets away from where I bought my first house and we were living with my kids when they were toddlers. He was a skinny young kid who was pretty good at footy. He grew up and, during his teenage years, he broke into cars and sheds and stole lawnmowers to sell. These acts are terrible and his life could have gone in a very bad way. The laws put forward here suggest that he would face maximums of 14 years, 10 years and 10 years for those actions. The question is: how long would the government like him to spend in jail? Their suggestion is to have those adult sentences and for it to be 10 years, 10 years and 14 years.

I get that. I understand that he has done the wrong thing, but I also understand that a young person can turn their life around. He was a young teen and still really a child. He was supported by his caring parents and he made a commitment to change and a commitment to footy. I am inspired by him, by his change and redemption. That might seem soft, but he is someone we all know. We know his name so well that we use only his initials. This is the story that JT bravely shared with the Queensland public to talk about redemption and change. Would his life have been better facing 10 years, 10 years and 14 years?

I am inspired by JT—Johnathan Thurston—and especially inspired that he publicly shared that story. It is not just for his footy playing. I feel honoured to have met him and spoken to him about his commitment to changing young people. How do we make more JTs—little people on the wrong path who pull themselves up, lift themselves onto a different path? JT, in his way, is one of those experts—a lived experience of sliding doors, of opportunity taken and a wrong path rejected.

The bill in and of itself does not have any focus on helping to rehabilitate and lift future JTs from one path to another. I understand that there will be future announcements in this legislation in an attempt to do this, and I urge the government to show at least a modicum of respect to victims to not do this in a way with no consultation or committee process. I also ask them not to be so disrespectful that they disparage experts they might not agree with but who see a different path to a safer Queensland. I am on the side of those who are hurt by crime in Logan. I am on the side of those who are fearful of crime in Logan. That is why we must listen to those who devote all their ideas and lived experience to reducing crime and putting young people onto the right path.

We have to accept that we can make change in young people's lives, and that punitive punishments that further exacerbate the trauma young people face and that ultimately release them into a world that they think is completely uncaring are not the full answer to this issue. I know it is popular—I know it is easy to put on a corflute; I saw hundreds of them—but that does not mean we cannot critically examine these laws and give different perspectives. These laws will pass today. I hope they make Queensland safer, but there is so much more to do.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.51 am): I rise to put on record my concerns and the concerns of the people of the Coomera electorate about the youth crime crisis that has instilled fear into many Queenslanders. The Making Queensland Safer legislative amendments we are debating in this place are intended to hold young offenders, particularly serious offenders, to account by ensuring courts are considering the impacts of offending on victims and can impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations.

There were 46,130 finalised proven offences by young people in 2023-24, resulting in an increase in the number of victims, and there has been an increase in the rate and volume of violent offending committed by young offenders over the years. That rate has increased by 8.3 per cent since 2019, with the number of proven violent offences increasing by 21 per cent, from 2,616 to 3,169, over that time. This violent offending includes murder, manslaughter, serious assault and robbery.

Alarming, the average number of proven offences per young person rose to 14.1 in 2023-24 compared to 7.8 in 2019—almost double. Year-on-year data shows that in 2023-24 there was a 12 per cent increase in proven offences over the previous 12 months, which was an additional 4,975 offences. Looking further back in time, we have seen a 51 per cent increase over the last five years, which was an additional 15,649 offences, and a 98 per cent increase over the last 10 years, amounting to an additional 22,866 offences. Contributing to the overall increase in proven offences were increases in unlawful use of motor vehicle offences—an additional 3,672 offences over five years. That data is for Queensland as a whole.

Closer to home, for the northern Gold Coast residents, when we look at Queensland court registry regional data for Logan-Gold Coast—that incorporates Beenleigh, Beaudesert, Southport and Coolangatta courthouses—for 'unlawful use vehicle count for child defendants' cases' we see a massive increase. To demonstrate that increase, I have compared the 24 months from July 2016 to

June 2018 with the data for the 24 months from July 2022 to June 2024. In the period July 2016 to June 2018 we saw a total of 465 youth defendants. In the period July 2022 to June 2024 that figure has exploded to a total of 1,587 youth defendants, a 341 per cent increase. Why am I comparing unlawful use vehicle offences? It is obvious. As has been attested to in this debate, the unlawful use of a motor vehicle is a major contributing factor in the commitment of serious offending, including causing death and/or serious injury to innocent Queenslanders.

The bill amends the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Criminal Code and the Youth Justice Act 1992 to provide that adult mandatory minimum and maximum penalties apply for 13 prescribed offences—that is Adult Crime, Adult Time—including for murder, manslaughter, dangerous operation of a vehicle, unlawful use or possession of a motor vehicle, aircraft or vessels, and unlawful entry of vehicle for committing an indictable offence. The bill also provides that, for young offenders, the principle of detention as a last resort is removed and primary regard must be had to the impact of offending on the victim in sentencing.

The amendments to the bill also mean that cautions, restorative justice agreements and contraventions of supervised release orders will be placed on a child's criminal history and, for a period up to five years, making admissible a person's child criminal history, including dangerous operation of a vehicle, when they are sentenced as an adult. The amendments to the bill will also expand access to the Childrens Court for relatives of victims and the media, and default to an opt-out requirement for victims on the eligible persons register.

The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act to enable the transfer of youth detention inmates to adult prisons upon reaching 18 years and to ensure 18-year-old offenders who breach community-based supervised youth justice orders and are sentenced to custody, or remanded by a court, are admitted to a corrective services facility rather than a youth detention facility.

Communities across Queensland were let down by the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government, which weakened youth justice laws, creating a generation of youth offenders who see themselves as untouchable. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, workplaces and communities, but in communities across Queensland right now they do not. The Crisafulli government is putting the rights of victims ahead of offenders' rights and making it crystal clear to youth offenders that if they commit an adult crime they will serve serious adult time.

Importantly, the tough provisions contained in the bill complement plans for gold standard early intervention and crime prevention to ensure there are fewer victims of crime. Significant investments include \$175 million for the Staying on Track program, providing 12 months of post-release support where organisations will work with young people while they are in youth detention centres, bridging the transition to community, offering stability and a pathway to education and employment over the year after release.

There will be an investment of \$50 million for nine Regional Reset programs, which are early intervention residential programs to provide 24/7 intensive support for at-risk young people who require a higher level of care than some community-based programs can provide. A young person can be referred to this service by schools, police, Child Safety or parents. The programs will be delivered across Queensland, including the Gold Coast-Logan region.

There is \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing—a three- to six-month court ordered rehabilitation program as an alternative to detention. Two programs will cater for up to 60 young people at any one time. There is \$100 million for gold standard early intervention, to support community-led initiatives focusing on reducing crime and boosting education, training and/or employment. It will include \$50 million for a kick-starter program to fund new ideas and \$50 million to expand proven initiatives, with key performance indicators and regular reporting.


There will be \$40 million for two youth justice schools to divert young offenders from crime, and \$40 million for four crime prevention schools to re-engage students who have fallen out of mainstream schooling and are at risk of falling into crime. One of these schools will be delivered on the Gold Coast by Men of Business, based in Southport.

It is worth noting that the northern Gold Coast is home to two gold standard programs that deserve recognition. First, Everything Suarve, or Esuarve, is a program that has succeeded in turning around the lives of young men whom some considered lost. I know that Esuarve will be a big part of the gold standard early intervention programs that the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to providing for youth in our northern Gold Coast-Logan community.

The second is Toogoolawah School, an alternative or 'second chance' school that has been doing amazing work for 35 years in one form or another. I have seen Toogoolawah grow over the years to now have around 120 students up to year 10, with Toogoolawah aiming to offer years 11 and 12 for students by 2026. Watching Toogoolawah boys over the years become valuable members of our community in their adult life is nothing short of inspirational. Last Friday I had the pleasure—for the 12th or 13th year—to witness the graduation of another 20 boys and to hear their stories, from both the teachers and the boys themselves. Once again, I presented two awards to two of them for their dedicated commitment to the task at hand. That commitment has changed their lives. I also had the opportunity to speak and, with trembling voice, I thanked the school faculty for their passion and commitment. In congratulating the boys, I made the point to the families and supporters in attendance that the successes of this alternative school curriculum not only change the lives of these boys for the better but also change the family dynamic and the community they live in.

I think it is worthwhile circling back to the reasons for our commitment to Queenslanders: the real figures that are on the rise. The most recent available figures are very telling. The number of reported offences committed by juvenile offenders in Queensland from 1 January 2024 to 30 November 2024 was over 50,000 and the number of identified serious repeat offenders in Queensland is only 400, of which 28 are on the Gold Coast and 46 are in Logan City. These youth offenders are the target for some of the gold standard programs. Some of them will pay the price for their crimes. Some of those crimes will be adult crimes and they will serve adult time.

In conclusion, 2022-23 ABS data confirmed there were almost 290,000 victims of crime in Queensland—more than in New South Wales or Victoria who have much larger populations. These victims are not just numbers; they are Queenslanders. They have lost their lives, been victims of assault, had their homes broken into or had their cars stolen in that time. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise today to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. As I begin, let me state clearly: every Queenslander deserves to feel and to be safe in their home, at work and in their community. Whether you are walking down the street, sitting in your living room or sending your kids off to school, you should feel confident that your safety is a priority. I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge all victims of crime. The Labor opposition—indeed, all of us in this House—recognise the often enduring pain and suffering that is caused by crime. One victim is too many and I want to express our collective commitment towards supporting those affected by crime. Queenslanders have spoken. They have voiced their concerns about crime and, as an opposition, we are listening. We understand the desire for stronger measures and we respect the will of the people. Labor will not stand in the way of increased maximum sentences for youth offenders but the bill, as outlined by many stakeholders, goes further than what the LNP took to the election. Even more troubling, it contains elements that could lead to a number of unintended consequences for victims and may serve to work against the goal that I am sure we all share to make Queenslanders safe.

The proposed reasoned amendment moved by the shadow attorney-general made that clear. It did not call for a delay in passing the bill, only for the removal of some clauses to allow more time for them to be given due consideration informed by evidence. However, this bill is being pushed through the House without adequate consultation or proper scrutiny. It ignores the evidence that has been provided—evidence that makes clear the concerns of unintended consequences to victims and community safety. We must be careful not to pass legislation without fully understanding the impact of every clause.

Like many, I am new to this place and, although some months have passed since my swearing in, the idealism with which I entered this chamber has not worn off. I believe that all in this chamber came to this place with a shared vision to achieve positive outcomes for Queenslanders and to engage in a contest of ideas with that very goal in mind. I believe that we must work together to achieve this. I came here with a determination to ensure the decisions we make must be based on evidence. We cannot afford to act in haste or to ignore expert advice. We must listen to the experts, respect the stakeholders and carefully examine the potential consequences of the legislation we pass.

I know firsthand that tragic consequences can and do occur when governments fail to listen and get things wrong. I think back to the closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre which was pushed through without proper consideration of evidence. I will never forget the efforts of the expert panel that warned the then LNP government of the risks to vulnerable young people who would be left without the care and support they needed. I still remember the calls from parents, mental health experts and even the young people themselves begging the government to rethink their decision. They did not, and the consequences were tragically disastrous. The scars of that decision are still felt today. I cannot express

the feeling of absolute despair and powerlessness when you are trying to comfort desperate young people who know that, because of that decision of those in power, they will not survive and being at one funeral after another trying to console parents, family and staff who tried to save them from that decision of government. I will never forget it, and I had hoped the same of those opposite who were involved in that decision—who talk a big game about accountability yet do not follow through.

I had hoped that the tragic outcomes of those decisions would weigh heavily on them. It may have been a decision of the former LNP premier, but it was the current Premier who sat with him. I looked at the faces of those who failed those young people from Barrett, their families and other stakeholders. I am haunted by the Premier's words from yesterday—

The best barometer of how one conducts themselves in the future is how they conducted themselves in the past.

A shudder went down my spine at the very utterance of those words because I am so very well aware of how they conducted themselves in the past, how the Premier conducted himself in the past. I am so disappointed that this government failed to learn from their past behaviour, that they did not take the time to examine and that they have not explored the areas of this bill that they have been warned about by experts. These provisions ought to be carefully examined and subjected to a proper committee process—not just pushed through because of political pressure.

I am also concerned that this rushed bill has failed to effectively consider the critical issue of capacity. Queensland's youth detention centres are already operating at or above safe operating capacity. The government itself has acknowledged that these amendments may lead to children being in watch houses for extended periods. We have heard no details about how this situation will be managed. How will the government ensure the safety of these young people? How will it ensure the safety of the frontline staff who work in these facilities? How will police be trained in time to implement these laws by Christmas? I am proud of the great police training programs that take place in my electorate at the Bob Atkinson Operational Capabilities Centre in Wacol. I want to ensure that police are adequately and safely resourced to act on these new laws.


I have a watch house directly opposite my electorate office. The Brisbane detention centre and many of the prisons and remand centres that will house these young people are located in my electorate. Many of my constituents live near these facilities, and my electorate is home to many of the hardworking police, custodial officers, teachers and other public servants who work in these facilities. I represent a community that will likely be disproportionately affected by these laws. For me, this is not just a question about the broader impacts for Queenslanders; it raises real and significant concerns regarding the impact on the safety of my constituency.

It is crucial that the government explains to this chamber how it plans to address capacity issues. How will the government ensure that those public servants who already work in challenging and complex circumstances in these facilities are adequately protected? Many have raised these concerns with me. Neighbours who are custodial officers are fearful of potential riots.

We are prepared to work with the government to improve this bill. We tried. We tried to move amendments to bring reason to this House, to listen and to take the time to examine just some parts of the bill, yet those opposite failed to listen. We understand the need to address youth crime and we want to ensure that any changes made are carefully considered and evidence based.

I respect those who have shared the stories of victims, many of whom have suffered tragic losses at the hands of youth offenders, and I know that more is needed to be done to prevent these offences. However, whilst this place works to prevent tragedies as a result of crime, it is paramount that the actions of government do not result in their own tragic outcomes—outcomes that can be prevented through proper scrutiny and evidence-based practice.

We want a safer Queensland—that is a goal we all share—but let us not forget the lessons of the past. It is a grave concern that the government has given this House no time to carefully consider these concerns and I will hold its members personally accountable.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise today with a profound sense of duty to speak to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. This bill represents not just a set of legislative measures but also a commitment—a promise—to the people of Queensland that their safety, their security and their peace of mind are at the heart of this government's agenda.

To frame my contribution today, I want to start by sharing a story. During my campaign I made a promise to listen to the stories of the people in my community and today I bring one of those stories to this House. I had the privilege of meeting many remarkable residents who call Pumicestone home. These are people who have built their lives in our community, who contribute to its character and who deserve to feel safe in the places they live, work and raise their families.

One afternoon while doorknocking on Bribie Island I met Heidi and Clint Luck. Their story is a powerful reminder of why the Making Queensland Safer Laws need to be law by Christmas. In the early hours of 11 August, Heidi and Clint experienced a terrifying home invasion, a nightmare no family should have to endure. Awakened by the sound of their bedroom door opening, Clint discovered intruders rifling through their belongings. Thinking at first it might have been his nephew, he called out only to be met with an unfamiliar and chilling voice. Without hesitation, Clint sprang into action.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Excuse me, member for Pumicestone. I want to check that the example you are giving is not going through any court case or under any police instructions?

Miss DOOLAN: No, not at the moment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

Miss DOOLAN: Three teenage boys—three intruders—had forced their way into their home. Clint, acting on pure instinct, chased them out to protect his wife and his three children, who were fast asleep. In that moment, Clint could not stop to consider whether these intruders were armed and how dangerous they might be. His only focus was the safety of his family.

Heidi, still shaken from the ordeal, described the chaos and fear that filled their home. For days they struggled to sleep, feeling vulnerable in the one place they should feel safest: their home. Sadly, Heidi and Clint's experience is not an isolated one; it is part of a growing pattern of youth crime that is leaving families across Queensland feeling exposed and unsafe.

During another visit, this time in Ningi, I spoke with a couple who showed me video footage of their new car being stolen by a 14-year-old. They recounted how the car was eventually found in a pine forest—damaged, trashed and unrecognisable. What struck me most was not just the material loss but also their sense of helplessness. They did not know what consequences, if any, the offender faced; they were left in the dark, unable to get answers or closure. This is unacceptable.

The problem with youth crime has been 10 years in the making and it will take time to turn it around. For the past decade, we have tried the path of simply cuddling young criminals and it has failed. However, it has not failed just us; it has failed the young people as well. We need to shift our approach.

From 2019 to August this year, the number of serious repeat offenders skyrocketed by 58 per cent. This year alone, more than 50,000 youth crime offences have been committed in Queensland communities. These statistics paint the clearest picture of the desperate need for tough laws to fight youth crime. Labor has been hiding the true state of the youth crime crisis from Queenslanders. This data is clear: while youth criminals were rummaging through Queenslanders' homes, Labor was misleading Queenslanders about how bad the youth crime crisis had become.


As Queenslanders grapple with these harsh realities, the conversations have shifted in a way that should alarm us all. Our Premier, David Crisafulli, in a recent speech made an important statement. The conversation about where to leave your keys in your house is not normal. The conversation about whether a road is a known hotspot for hoons or stolen cars and which way to drive to work is not a normal conversation. The conversation about which car park is safer at the shopping centre is not normal, yet these are the conversations people are having not just in Pumicestone but right across the state.

The Queensland youth crime crisis undoubtedly has its origins back in 2015, when the former government proudly boasted about watering down the laws. Victims called for change; Queenslanders voted for change. Our LNP government makes no apologies for delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders before the election that Adult Crime, Adult Time will be law by Christmas. If you murder someone, that is an adult crime; that deserves adult time. If you wound someone: adult crime, adult time. If you violate the sanctity of someone's home and you break in and rob them: adult crime, adult time. If you make the choice to commit adult crimes, you should know that we have made the choice to ensure there are consequences for that behaviour. These laws are tough but Queenslanders have backed them. They have backed the Crisafulli government to take strong action to end the youth crime crisis gripping our state.

The former premier criticised us for committing to lower the rate of youth crime and lower victim numbers and said that it could not be done. That might be his attitude but it was not ours. When his government removed consequences for actions, they created this generation. It appears that everyone but those opposite understands that if the laws are weak then more crimes will be committed. The young criminals know this. For a number of crimes, when a young person turns 18 they stop offending. They know that, depending on which side of 18 they are, there will be different consequences. Punishment does matter. Consequences for actions do matter. We are sending a message that if you do the crime you will be punished.

This bill prioritises victims. It removes outdated principles that place detention as a last resort, ensuring that the rights and safety of victims are front and centre in our justice system. No longer will victims like Heidi and Clint feel unheard. Their stories will inform the justice process and their voices will guide its outcomes.

I urge all members of this House to reflect on the stories of their own constituents. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is a response to these stories—a response to the real, lived experiences of Queenslanders, who are crying out for change. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.18 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker Marr, this is the first opportunity I have had to make a contribution in the 58th Parliament, so I congratulate you on your election and also your appointment to the Panel of Temporary Speakers. I take the opportunity to commend the member for Condamine on his elevation to the very high office of Speaker and I wish him well.

Before getting into my contribution about the bill, I want to acknowledge the significance of today. It is a very sad day for Queenslanders, given it is the anniversary of the Wieambilla tragedy which took the lives of three outstanding Queenslanders, including two police officers. My thoughts are with the families of Rachel McCrow and Matt Arnold. I have become relatively close to them over the years and I know that they will never heal from this tragedy. I think everyone understands why this will be a permanent and terrible memory for them. It has also obviously damaged Queensland, and Matt and Rachel will forever be in our hearts.

I also want to acknowledge that today is my wedding anniversary, so in the interests of getting some brownie points put into that bucket which has a big hole at the bottom of it—the bucket never seems to fill—I want to acknowledge my amazing wife, Holly, the mother of our three boys.

Mr Stevens: She needs a medal!

Mr RYAN: She does—many! We met here at parliament, actually—she was a ministerial media adviser—in 2009, so there are some good things that come from the Queensland parliament.

Ms Pugh interjected.

Mr RYAN: I also thank the member for Mount Ommaney for doing the matchmaking.

Turning now to the debate, I want to acknowledge that this is a very significant issue for Queenslanders. I have often said that we are all on the same page when it comes to community safety. No-one wants to see someone impacted by crime. It is terrible. It is a tragedy. Everyone wants to see less crime, they want to see fewer victims and they want to see safer communities. We are all on the same page when it comes to that. We might have different perspectives about how we get to that same page but we are all on the same page, and that is why the opposition will not stand in the way of the government's proposal around Adult Crime, Adult Time. It took that to the election and Queenslanders made a decision around that particular policy that the government took to the election, but there are some aspects of this bill which go beyond what was taken to the election and those aspects of the bill do need to be scrutinised. They need to be scrutinised because that is our job as parliamentarians. When people vote for us, they do not just vote for the policies that were taken by the relevant parties at the election; they also vote for a robust parliamentary process which includes a proper scrutiny of laws to ensure that there are no unintended consequences or unintended consequences can be avoided, that there are proper processes and that members of this House are allowed to make contributions in a timely way to the committee process as well as to the debates in the parliament.

In the first four sitting days of this 58th Parliament, we have seen how the government has sought to limit the opportunity of members to properly scrutinise bills and to contribute to important issues. Only two days ago we saw the extraordinary and universal gag on members' consciences on a particular and very important issue in that members who feel particularly motivated by the very important issue of

women's health and women's reproductive rights will not be able to discuss that in this parliament—a gag not only on a member's right to speak but also on a member's right to express their conscience. It is quite extraordinary. I was first elected to this parliament in 2009.

Dr ROWAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would just seek your guidance on relevance to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): I will just take some advice on that. After taking advice, we believe that you are talking about the process which the bill has taken, so I will let you continue, but please make sure you bring it back to the bill.


Mr RYAN: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and thank you for listening and for acknowledging that that was the point that I was making. I am talking about the process that this bill has gone through. We see a limit on members' rights to speak on important issues and we see with this bill particularly a truncated committee process which nonetheless attracted over 170 submissions—170 submissions that could not be fully considered by the committee and that could not be fully considered by the relevant departments and responded to appropriately. In respect of the process for this bill, we see a lack of scrutiny, a lack of proper consideration of evidence and expert opinion, a lack of process and a lack of consideration of unintended consequences. I have some significant concerns around that. Whilst acknowledging that it is the government's prerogative to set the parameters around how bills are considered and around how processes are put in place around legislation, we as legislators owe the people of Queensland a commitment around ensuring that there are good laws put in place—good laws that do not undermine proper processes and good laws that do not have unintended consequences.

I am concerned that the issue of unintended consequences has not been fully ventilated. It has not been fully examined by the committee and, more importantly, it has not ensured that departments have been able to provide their full and frank advice to the committee, to this parliament and to the people of Queensland. For instance, there are numerous provisions in this bill which commence on assent. There are significant changes to legal processes here which are commencing on assent. That means that police officers will not have the opportunity to be fully trained or fully appraised about changes to legal processes around, for instance, principle 18. Wherever they might be in the state, police officers need to have an appraisal of what the change in law means for their processes around cautioning people or for taking no action or making an arrest or granting or refusing bail. There is no time for those officers to be trained if these provisions are commencing on assent.

This parliament will pass these laws because the government has the numbers, it will go to the Governor and get assent and there will be police officers on the street who do not know the impact of these legislative changes because there has been no time to train them. This will put police officers in a very difficult position to potentially be acting contrary to this law, to potentially be dealing with offenders in a way which is contrary to law. The unintended consequences are a significant consideration and they should have been properly ventilated through a proper committee process.

Then there are the impacts on watch houses. These laws—again, commencing on assent—will commence in the seasonal peak of arrests and pressures on watch houses. It happens every year. December and January—the hot months—are the seasonal peak. What modelling has been done around commencing these laws in the seasonal peak of pressures on watch houses? What extra funding has been given to the police? Their watch houses will be full. There is no doubt about it because that is what happens in the seasonal peak. The watch houses are full. What is the impact of these laws at the seasonal peak on watch houses? Also, what is the impact on courts? They go into recess over the Christmas break. Has there been any modelling done about that? Are there any additional resources? When is the training going to be delivered to police officers on the front line so that they are aware of the legislation? None of these things have been ventilated.

I would hope that the relevant ministers and the government have received briefings from their department on this. It was a shame that the Queensland Police Service as one agency did not give evidence to the committee for whatever reason. Surely there are some briefings and I would call on the relevant ministers to release those briefings so that the people of Queensland and this parliament can be assured that the proper modelling and preparation has been done. As I said, we are all on the same page when it comes to this issue. The people of Queensland have spoken. The opposition will not get in the way of the government's policies which it took to the election, but there are further matters which require consideration.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (12.28 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. For the 19 months leading into the 2024 state election, one of the most frequently raised issues in conversations with the Redlands community was crime. It is a concern that

weighs heavily on the hearts and minds of families, small businesses and individuals across our electorate. Just yesterday I was made aware of yet another break-in at my local hair salon, the Hair Boutique on the Bay. For the owner, Mark, and his team and the customers who rely on this business this is not just about stolen items or property damage; it is a violation of their hard work, their sense of security and their livelihoods. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident. This is Mark's second break-in for the year. Last week his neighbour Michael and his team at the nail salon just next door also became victims of theft, including property damage. When I visited Michael to offer my support he shared with me the heartbreaking reality that he would not even bother claiming damages through his insurance, fearing higher premiums or the loss of coverage altogether. Michael and Mark both told me the same thing: the best way I could support them is by being here today in this parliament to strengthen our laws and give them hope that things will improve. Just like Queenslanders did back in October, Mark and Michael choose hope over fear. Even when faced with thousands of dollars of damage bills they remain optimistic about their future, because they know that now they have a government prepared to acknowledge the crime crisis and act decisively to address it.

Redlands is far from immune from the crime crisis. Over the past 12 months more than 8,000 offences have been committed in our community. These include 2,800 incidents of theft and unlawful entry and another 640 cases of property damage. Behind these statistics are real people, real victims—like Mark and Michael—who deserve to feel safe in their homes, in their workplaces and in their neighbourhoods. These are the stories that inspired me to run for my seat of Redlands and, as I expressed in my maiden speech last night, that is why I stand here today ready to vote for the Making Queensland Safer Bill. This legislation introduced by the Crisafulli government delivers on promises to take decisive action on youth crime as a direct response to the failures of the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government, which allowed crime to spiral out of control and left communities like ours vulnerable and unsupported.

This bill sends a clear and firm message: crime will not be tolerated and victims will be prioritised. Under these laws, juvenile offenders who commit serious crimes such as murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm will face Adult Crime, Adult Time consequences. The rights of victims will be put first. Courts will have the power to review the full criminal history of offenders including juvenile records for up to five years when sentencing adults. The principle of detention as a last resort will be removed, ensuring dangerous offenders are simply not returned to the streets. Greater transparency will allow the media to report on proceedings in the Childrens Court, holding offenders accountable and building trust in our justice system.

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear! Great decision.


Ms YOUNG: Absolutely. This legislation takes a balanced approach by not only strengthening penalties but also bolstering early intervention programs and rehabilitation opportunities to support at-risk youth. We are addressing the root cause of crime to ensure young people have the opportunity to turn their lives around before they offend. Yesterday morning I spoke with Mark, who also happened to cut my hair on Saturday—I think he did a pretty good job. Thank you, Mark.

Mr McDonald: Nice job!

Ms YOUNG: Thank you. I have reached out to the managers of his salon, located at HomeCo. at Victoria Point, to explore further safety improvements for small businesses in our area. These conversations remind me that safety is about more than just laws; it is about people. It is about business owners, families and individuals who deserve to live and work without fear.

This legislation is a critical step forward in making our streets, businesses and homes safer, but it is just the beginning. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring law and order in Queensland, ensuring our justice system prioritises accountability, fairness and protection for victims. The youth crime crisis has been plaguing Queenslanders for too long and today we take a stand. I am proud to support our Redlands community by supporting these laws.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our local police. Scott Prestidge and his team at the Bayside Patrol Group do an exceptional job in our area. I was advised by the local businesses at HomeCo. this morning that they have supported them by placing a mobile police beat van at HomeCo. That has brought them comfort and I thank the police for taking that action. Together we will restore safety, ensure accountability and build a stronger future for our community.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.34 pm): Over the past couple of days there has been a lot of discussion from both sides of the House, and I wish to add the voice of the Mundingburra electorate. I have some numbers for the House. Behind each and every one of these numbers is a real person. The first number is 289,657—that is, 289,657 victims of crime in Queensland during the last calendar year, the most in all the states across our nation. That is 289,657 victims who had their homes broken into or their cars stolen in Queensland in 2023. We have heard the opposition talk endlessly about the experts and their opinions about how the new laws will not work and they will do more damage. I challenge those experts to get out of their air-conditioned offices and go and speak to each and every one of those 289,657 victims in Queensland. I will back the word of the victims every single day.

The next number I have for the House is 199. There has been a 199 per cent increase in unlawful use of motor vehicles—stolen cars—in the Mundingburra electorate and across the Greater Townsville area since the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act 10 years ago. Then there is the number 150: a 150 per cent increase in unlawful entries—break and enters, enter with intent, burglary—across the Mundingburra electorate and the Greater Townsville area since the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act.

The number 287 is the 287 per cent increase in robbery offences in the Mundingburra electorate and Greater Townsville area since the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act. Next is 1,945, which is 1,945 motor vehicles stolen in the Mundingburra electorate and the Greater Townsville area in 2023. That is, on average, five vehicles every single day in Townsville. That is 1,945 victims who no longer have a car to get to work or to take their children to school, to sport or to dance. Sadly, some of those victims are still paying off those vehicles—vehicles that are sitting burnt out on the side of the road or that have been driven into the Ross River.

The numbers 11 and 12 are the ages of the two boys who set off on their bikes on a Sunday afternoon 18 months ago with their fishing gear and headed down to the Ross River to do some fishing. They were held up on the way by a group of young offenders, threatened with a knife held to one of the boy's throats and had their bikes stolen. The numbers 13, 14, 15 are the ages of the young offenders who robbed the two boys at knifepoint. Let me remind members that robbery has increased 287 per cent in the Mundingburra electorate and the Greater Townsville area since the former Labor government weakened the Youth Justice Act. It has taken 18 months for those two young boys to get the confidence to ride their bikes again, albeit only up and down their street.

The number 19 is the age of a lady who was on her way to the first of the two jobs that she has to work to afford to live. She was confronted by a stolen vehicle coming at her head-on, at speed and on the wrong side of the road. They only missed her because of her swift responses in taking evasive action. They took no evasive action. The numbers 86 and 88 are the ages of an elderly couple who were followed home by youth offenders driving a stolen car. The offenders waited up the road until the elderly couple had parked their car inside their garage. They then snuck inside the home, stole the keys and subsequently stole the car. Sadly, this is a regular occurrence in Townsville. The trauma, the anger and the fear in the Townsville community and across Queensland is real.

I stand proud to outline the LNP's multipronged approach to community safety. We have allocated \$100 million for gold standard early intervention programs and prevention initiatives. We will remove detention as a last resort. A hardcore group of recidivist property offenders are holding our community to ransom and thumbing their noses at the community, the police and the judicial system. The \$175 million Stay on Track program will provide 12 months post-detention rehabilitation support for our young people—12 months, not just the 72-hour intensive support plan that they get now, if they are lucky. We are putting the rights of the victims before the rights of the offenders. We are introducing consequences for actions and Adult Crime, Adult Time. All will be delivered by Christmas.


Townsville was the first city to call out the youth crime crisis. It is at the epicentre of the youth crime crisis. The city is being held to ransom by a group of untouchables created by the former Labor government when they watered down the Youth Justice Act. Not only have we seen an increase in offending rates; the type of offending has also escalated. Once upon a time it was stealing a packet of chewing gum or a sausage roll from the local shop or service station. Now, it is carjackings, home invasions with weapons—

Mr Stevens: Machetes.

Mrs POOLE:—machetes and they are doing it in groups. That is happening because there are no consequences for actions. Through this landmark legislation, the Crisafulli LNP government will be introducing consequences for actions. We have a community that is too frightened to leave their homes.

They are barricading themselves in their homes. They are too scared to go to the shops or to drive at night. Children are too scared to sleep in their own beds in case the bad men come back. That is all because of the youth crime crisis created by the former Labor government.

With 28 years of service to the Townsville community as a proud member of the Queensland Police Service, I have seen firsthand the frustrations of our police officers on the front line who have to deal with a repeat juvenile offender crisis. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, their workplaces and out in their communities, but they do not. Queenslanders have asked for tough laws and, on 26th October, they gave the Crisafulli LNP government a clear mandate to deliver tough laws that deal with hardcore recidivist offenders and also offer significant investments in early intervention and rehabilitation programs. Only a Crisafulli LNP government, through the Making Queensland Safer laws, will deliver safety where you live and deliver the fresh start that the community of Mundingburra and the Queensland people voted for. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.43 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. I acknowledge that we need a circuit breaker in the parliament to get some change. The KAP members of parliament have been identifying this issue at least since 2017 in the case of the member for Hinchinbrook, who came out of the blocks hard. However, even before that the KAP had identified how criminal problems were growing disproportionately worse in North Queensland and that the problems were not being addressed.

At the end of the day, I think there is a cultural difference. In metropolitan areas, a lot more people seem to be interested in human rights and civil libertarians advocate for the kiss-and-cuddle approach to get people back on the right track. From a compassionate point of view, we think the same thing. We would love to see that, but we have to be practical as well given the volume of hardcore recidivist offenders, initially in North Queensland but all around the state now, although we still have the highest numbers. There was never going to be a practical way of adopting a kiss-and-cuddle approach with those kids.

I can speak with authority about the kids in Mount Isa. I have seen firsthand how all of the groups and organisations were tasked with giving support to parents and families, helping kids get to school and making it all about education. They said that that was how we would turn this around and that it is not just about sending kids to prison. That all sounds good. On paper it sounds fantastic. However, at the end of the day the practical reality is that a person will be tasked with driving around town to pick up kids but will spend their eight-hour shift trying to chase the kids in order to get them to school. The hardcore recidivist kids avoid them and are the hardest to find. They have the most broken families. Those service groups are overwhelmed. It is never done effectively so that approach does not work.

We can all look at the evidence and say that the approaches we have had for the past 10 years have not worked. I was trying to add it up in my head. I remember for the 2014 election, so even before the 2017 election, we started campaigning heavily on crime in North Queensland. That is when we first started talking about relocation sentencing and how we need to change the form of sentencing.

Many members have talked about what is happening in their electorates. It is a matter of fact that the worst statistics circulate between Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa, on every metric we have on crime. I ask members to imagine some of the following things. Businesses have to replace glass windows regularly. Most businesses are locked up with Crimsafe on the windows and roller doors so we do not have nice facades and sign writing in the main street. Wanton vandalism is rife, costing businesses and home owners thousands of dollars. Mayor Peta MacRae has had her own business ramraided by a car, twice. Can you believe that that has happened to the mayor of the city, twice? There are daylight carjackings. Elderly ladies have been thrown from their cars in the middle of the day. Multiple cars have been rammed by stolen cars driven by kids. On the busiest weekend of the year, during the rodeo, multiple cars were stolen. Unapprehended kids run wild till morning when they either run out of fuel or puff. Caravan parks have been smashed and the owners have had to hire private security firms. I know that in Brisbane people who can afford it hire private security firms to patrol their streets. We are not talking about Cape Town in South Africa, Tennant Creek or Alice Springs; we are talking about Mount Isa.

In Mount Isa, the steady stream of QPS, child safety and youth justice people who come through my door are all well-meaning people. They will say, 'I don't think you understand, Rob, that things are getting better because we are doing this and I go to all these meetings.' I try to be polite when responding by saying, 'Look, you can say all that but my biggest metric is the people who come through my electorate office door and the stories they tell me.' I am being told such stories more frequently and they are getting worse. Things are getting so bad now that people do not even come to the office

anymore because they say, 'What's the point?' Rocks are regularly dropped off at my office by people who say, 'This is what was thrown through my window today.' They are horrible stories and we should not have to live like this.

The scales have been well and truly tipped against the kiss-and-cuddle approach and towards an approach where we have to look after the victims. I acknowledge that the government has said that we need to do that. While this legislation does not go nearly far enough to address it, it is a good start. The position that the KAP has taken is that this is a good start. We welcome it in that respect.

It is not just Mount Isa, either. According to the crime data, 99 per cent of Queensland suburbs and towns are safer than Mount Isa. QPS official stats show that there are more than 1,000 crimes per month in Mount Isa, and that cannot be accurate because a lot of people are not bothering to even report them anymore. Every month, one in 20 people is a victim of crime. It is just horrible that we have reached a stage now where there is apathy around the subject, where people are saying, 'We've come to expect this.' It has become normalised in these cities and towns in North Queensland—Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville—and the rest of Queensland is starting to get a taste of it all now.

The first big policy change that happened in this place came after events like the Lovell case. The first big triggers for Queensland's state parliament to act on crime were Brisbane events, nothing in North Queensland. None of the deaths and none of what we suffered up there were triggers for this parliament. It was only when things happened in Brisbane that government started to take notice.

I have other horror stories. An elderly lady in Laura Johnson Home had her home broken into and was bashed and sexually assaulted. Kim-Maree Burton, a single older lady, woke up to an intruder lying on top of her in bed—that happened after multiple break-ins. People are just being terrorised. They target the elderly in Mount Isa often because they have cash or they cannot defend themselves. They are a soft target for the kids out there. Last year cars were stolen and driven onto ovals around the beginning of school time. They were trying to mow down kids and parents on the oval. That involved five cars around Mount Isa.

A friend of mine, Councillor Kim Coghlan, roared at one of them in traffic near the hospital in Mount Isa, so they pulled out and started ramming her. They were going around town for about 10 hours before they were caught. These are kids who do not know boundaries and are mostly from dysfunctional families. Undoubtedly, a lot of them have suffered a lot of trauma in their life, but the fact is that they are causing damage and projecting that on everyone else in society. We should not be made to pay the price for that.

We acknowledge that those kids do not know a consequence, and they still do not know a consequence. It appears to us that there is still nothing in here that gives them an effective consequence. The QPS in Mount Isa say that the kids are regularly telling them, 'We want to go to Cleveland. It is Christmas time.' There will be a run of kids in trouble in Mount Isa around Christmas time because they will get a regular feed and a bit of safety at night there. They want to go to Cleveland, so that is not a consequence. That is not a deterrent and that is all we have at the moment.


That has driven people to ask us, 'Why don't you set up camps out there? You could buy an old mining camp.' The town of Urandangi has been effectively evacuated. There is housing, water and roads there. It is very remote. We have to break the sizes up—not have 100 to 150 kids, like there are in Cleveland. We have to try educating. Putting people in those larger groups makes it very hard to provide vocational education and training and to get them to concentrate. Breaking them up into a group of 10 or 20 out in Urandangi, and with the right supervisors, is when you can start to turn these kids around.

I have seen it, and not in a punitive way. When kids are isolated in those communities and they have the right parents, they can turn their life around. The bad kids of Mount Isa at Urandangi were fine; they were good under the right influences. Yes, they still have to be returned to Mount Isa or wherever, but at least there is a circuit breaker. That is a cheap way to do it. Out there, fences and big buildings in a prescribed youth detention centre are not needed—just dongas with bedrooms, a kitchen and a laundry. There are plenty of mining camps like that which are as cheap as chips. Lady Loretta will come online soon and will be available. There are sites at Gunpowder. It is a really cheap option but we need to break up the groups in terms of size. That has not been done. That is not there but we need that element.

We have put that suggestion to the parliament before and it has been rejected. I know that a similar idea in principle is being put by the now government, but we have to be very careful how we do it. If it is not done right, it will be a waste of time. The key parts are: it needs to be a legislative instrument; it needs to be a sentencing option for the magistrate; and it needs to be very remote—not 20 or 30

kilometres out of town, because the kids will still be thinking about stealing the supervisor's car to get back into town. If they are 200 kilometres out of town, that option is gone. There is a good reason we all go camping.

We have introduced things like detention as a last resort into this parliament and they have been voted against. I want to talk about timing. These things should have been acted on much sooner than right now. This problem has been avoided for a long time.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.53 pm): Even after 10 years of being an incompetent Labor government, those opposite are in total disarray when it comes to youth crime. They still cannot decide if they are going to support victims or not. The latest media reports are about an emergency meeting being held. Those opposite have no idea whether the victims of Queensland should be supported or whether they should retain the legislation that they brought in in support of criminals. They are in denial about the damage they have caused to our community—the hundreds of thousands of victims they have created in our community and the increasing cost of insurance.

This disgraceful Labor opposition destroyed our legislative processes when in government and now they are in complete disarray as to what to support. My community has already seen this. We have had people in Toowoomba attacked in their houses with tomahawks. Poor Robert Brown was killed in our main street by a youth offender. When we asked the then premier to come to town, she sent a couple of her ministers who told us that there was basically no problem, that everything would be fine. It was not fine. Crime has been going up. Insurance premiums have been going up.

It is disgraceful that, after all of the consultation, all of the discussions, all of the public scrutiny and all of the media reports this Labor opposition are so conflicted that they cannot decide whether they want to support victims or criminals. We are here to legislate for the benefit of the people of Queensland but what do we see on the other side? We see an opposition so conflicted that they do not know whether they should support victims or criminals.

Whose rights should we be looking after in this place? Should we be putting bars on our windows so we are safe in our homes or should we be putting behind bars the people who are entering our homes, taking our car keys, attacking us with tomahawks and killing people in the main street? These are the crimes that have been committed due to the legislation that the former government brought into this place.

We know that they have failed the people of Queensland. They even failed themselves. They are busy telling us that we should not lock up all of these kids, yet they did not provide for where they were going to put them. They are the ones who have been stashing them in watch houses and who had to change their own Human Rights Act to say that it would be okay. They did not plan. They did not prepare. They did not listen to victims. Even today at the last minute, in the eleventh hour, they still cannot be on the side of the victims of Queensland.

At the election the victims and the community of Queensland spoke loud and clear, but what do we see? We see opposition members having an emergency meeting about this legislation, because they still feel like they should be supporting the youth criminals—that we still need to be wrapping them in cotton wool and making sure their rights are looked after.

We have a plan to make sure they do not become recidivists. With regard to our early intervention programs, we will be investing \$175 million into Staying on Track and \$50 million into nine Regional Reset programs. It is not that we do not care, do not understand or do not support them. Instead of someone getting 72 hours of support when they are released early because of weak sentencing, we will be providing a comprehensive plan to try to reduce the rate of recidivism, down from the 91 per cent that the former government oversaw.

Those opposite are so conflicted that they cannot support these positive early intervention steps. They cannot support making sure someone who has done their time is looked after and reintegrated into our community with a sensible approach. We need tough sentences to make sure people understand that they will be held accountable for their actions.

We will keep our community safe. We will support victims. We will drive down insurance costs by making sure fewer cars are being stolen, fewer houses are being broken into and fewer people are being assaulted. At the same time, we will have early intervention programs. We will support those programs. We will make sure that someone who has served their time has a comprehensive program to help them become part of our community again. We want our community to be functional and safe.

Labor do not know whether or not they should be supporting this legislation. They are in total crisis and are completely conflicted as to how they will deal with this piece of legislation. Ultimately, they have spent 10 years supporting criminals. They have spent 10 years quoting experts. I remember sitting here listening to them quoting the experts and saying, 'As we weaken these laws, everything will be fine.' It was not fine. Members should go back and read what they said in this place 10 years ago and what we said would be the consequence of the actions they took. People need to be held accountable for the actions they take. This Labor opposition needs to be held accountable. That is why they are sitting on the opposition side of the chamber.

Even after hearing from all the victims and even after the election—even after people had their say at the ballot box—those opposite are still not listening to victims. Why is it so difficult for Labor members to support the people who are having their lives torn apart? I do not know. I wonder what is going on in the meeting. Labor have totally weak leadership. I cannot explain to anybody why the Leader of the Opposition, the former premier, cannot support victims in Queensland. Clearly, he does not support them. If he did, they would not be having an emergency meeting right now to try to resolve these issues.


The victims of Queensland need to have their voices heard in this place. This legislation should be supported and the Labor opposition members should hang their heads in shame.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

QBuild

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.00 pm): The new Premier has made accountability of his ministers a key focus of his campaign—the so-called contract they have made with Queenslanders. In the last sitting week of parliament, the Premier said—

I have handed down chartered letters to each minister. In those, I have outlined and confirmed the values, deliverables, goals and KPIs for their respective portfolios.

Clearly, the Premier has placed great stock in these charter letters, so much so that they even had their own dedicated media release. They are publicly available for all to read, though the government has made a virtue of something that has always been the case.


Sometimes it is the omissions that are more telling about a new government's intentions. In my new role as the shadow minister for public works, I have carefully read the charter letter handed down to the Minister for Public Works. The charter letter is broad, with sweeping statements, and, as we have already highlighted in the House, has little to no actual measurable KPIs. There are three references to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, three references to procurement and one mention of productivity, which is surprising. There is one word that is missing. There is not one reference, not one utterance of it in the charter letter. I can tell members that I have done Ctrl+F to that letter multiple times. That word is QBuild—there is nada, nothing.

QBuild is a vital part of Queensland's \$59 billion building and construction industry. As the Queensland government's builder, QBuild plays a critical role across the state in building and maintaining government owned assets. We know that QBuild staff are among the first on the ground to respond to severe weather events and complete repairs and building works to help communities get back on their feet.

We also know that when the LNP were last in power they stripped more than 1,600 jobs from QBuild. They decimated it—destroying its ability to provide safe, responsive trade services throughout the state. It was our Labor government that rebuilt QBuild, employing hundreds of QBuild tradies and apprentices and reinvigorating regional depots in Rockhampton, Cairns, Bundaberg and Caboolture. We also locked in the delivery of 600 modular homes to help relieve housing pressure in regional and remote parts of Queensland through the establishment of the Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centres in Eagle Farm, Zillmere and Portsmith. Importantly, we established QBuild's role in educating and training, with a pipeline of apprentices contributing to a trade qualified future workforce which is essential.

While recently the minister was very happy to don a QBuild cap for a social media opportunity, it is very clear that QBuild is simply not a priority for this new LNP government when it cannot even get one reference in the minister's charter letter. That does not bode well for the government's own builder.

Nanango Electorate

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.03 pm): Most of the Nanango electorate has been soaked by showers and storms this week. Monday night saw the Brooklands area saturated with 144 millimetres and Barkers Creek flats resembled an inland sea. The Boyne and Stuart rivers and Barkers and Barambah creeks have all been rising, leading to multiple road closures.

The northern part of my electorate has certainly not missed out either, with flooding hitting parts of Goomeri. This has resulted in several floodwater rescues. I thank our local fireies, SES and emergency services personnel and neighbours for their efforts in protecting our community. Only part of the way into our wild and wondrous Queensland summer, I urge everyone to stay safe.


I was very pleased to take my good friend the Minister for Education to the Somerset region last week. We were both overjoyed to visit the beautiful Mount Kilcoy State School and Kilcoy State High School. The students at Mount Kilcoy lined the front fence to greet us and principal, Ellen Mead, proudly gave us a tour of what I would say is the most picturesque, beautiful school in Queensland. The students were delighted to show off their diligent work to the education minister.

Just down the road at Kilcoy State High School the community were excited to finally have their brand new multipurpose hall officially opened. For many years I have stood shoulder to shoulder with the community in advocating for this well overdue asset. A special mention goes to Tony Martin, Kim Williams, Sheridan Robinson and school business manager Sally Wright for their tireless work. We had former principals present. We can remember sitting under a blue tarpaulin. The hall is wonderful. It is fitted out with stage lighting and sound equipment. Students will use this hall for their arts program. I know that local mayor, Jason Wendt, was very excited about this because he may be able to use it if there is a disaster this coming season.

I would like to note that volunteers are the backbone of our regional communities. Kym and Denise Modistach are an example of volunteers in my community. I was honoured to have them here in parliament as guests of the Minister for Volunteers. Kilcoy Hospital Auxiliary, Kilcoy Show Society, Hazeldean Rural Fire Brigade, Kilcoy District Progress Association, Friends of the Kilcoy Cemetery and the Kilcoy Rodeo Committee are lucky to have both of them on board. In addition to these valuable organisations I have just listed, if you can believe it, Denise is also a wonderful volunteer justice of the peace.

In the five seconds remaining, I give a big happy birthday to my little brother, Tim. It is his birthday today. Happy birthday.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.06 pm): We have had four days of sitting and six or seven weeks of a Crisafulli LNP government and we have a bit of an idea now of what it looks like. What does an Crisafulli LNP government look like? It looks like any LNP government. It looks like a Campbell Newman LNP government. It is looks like a Bjelke-Petersen LNP government. In fact, the Premier probably did not need to prepare a speech for the valedictory today because he could just read Campbell Newman's speech or maybe even Joh Bjelke-Petersen's.

I will give a dot point summary of what they are doing. Firstly, they gagged their members so that the ones who might embarrass them cannot actually speak. It means that in this parliament we can never talk about women's access to abortion rights. It is not just the pro-choice people who are upset; it is the pro-life people who are upset. Members should see the Facebook page of the member for Oodgeroo—boy, is she in trouble!


We have seen them thwart democracy because it does not matter who people voted for in this parliament; we will not be able to discuss anything unless the Premier says it is okay with him. We have seen them rush through legislation and motions. Last sitting week, the workplace health and safety of Queensland workers was gone in one day. They repealed the Path to Treaty laws which means First Nations people will never have a chance to have a voice and take the journey to healing. It was gone in one day. They had no decency or respect to talk to the people running the inquiry and say that this is the way they were going to do it.

Adult Crime, Adult Time has potentially catastrophic consequences for victims. They were not going to speak to experts. It has to be over and done with in one week without any mandate to do so. The Premier said he was going to listen to the experts. He has ignored them on pill testing, the free flu jab and the evidence around youth crime policies. When the media asked what he thinks about the experts disagreeing with him, he said, 'It is actually their fault we are in this position.' He only listens to the experts if they actually agree with him.

We have seen him ignore the recommendations of the Coaldrake review after they ranted on about it in the last term of parliament. They sacked DGs. They appointed DGs without a merit selection process. John Sosso is a case in point—isn't he a cracker? When they were last in government we heard from Tony Fitzgerald that he was concerned about the likes of Sosso, who, he said, was steeped in the attitudes which led to the need for reform. He was appointed secretary to the inquiry. We know that we cannot take David Crisafulli at his word. What he says is not what he means and is not what he does. Queenslanders have had a taste of it. We are going to hold them to account.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I remind all members about using correct titles.

QMN Manufacturing


 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.09 pm): The Burdekin district is home to many longstanding multigenerational businesses, and one of those is QMN Manufacturing. Recently QMN celebrated 40 years in business, but that will come as no surprise to anyone who knows the Burdekin. QMN opened its doors in 1984 with just five employees under the guidance of Frank, Sam and Charlie Nucifora. Given the Nucifora family's track record in business, it is no surprise that QMN Manufacturing has gone from strength to strength. Today QMN employs 27 staff and their work is in demand across Australia. Dedicated staff and investment into the business means that QMN manufactures a wide range of hydraulic cylinders up to nine inches in diameter for a wide range of industries, including agriculture.

Where QMN differ from many of their competitors is that they manufacture most of the components that make up the hydraulic cylinders. In addition to ensuring unparalleled quality, it gives them the opportunity to innovate. It also means they can deliver the highest levels of service while producing up to 40,000 cylinders per year. As the member for Nanango will attest, the QMN facility is a bit of a hidden gem. Located in the Ayr Industrial Estate, you would not believe what is designed and produced from that facility. Led by Dave and Peter, there is no questioning the skill and dedication of the staff at that facility. They are supported by a wide range of equipment and machinery, including the latest CNC lathes and milling machines and robot assisted machinery.

As the member for Burdekin, there is very little I enjoy more than speaking about the success of businesses and individuals from my electorate. As the Minister for Manufacturing, I share these success stories to motivate Queensland businesses. I put on the record my congratulations to Frank, Sam, Charlie and all of the Nucifora family on this achievement. I also thank the Nucifora family for their role in training apprentices, supporting our key industries and providing an example to other businesses that shows Queensland's manufacturing industry has achieved so much. It also shows that with the right support from government we can translate potential into opportunities. There is no better example than QMN Manufacturing.

The Burdekin was built on the blood, sweat and tears of people like Frank, Sam and Charlie. Anyone who knows the Nucifora family and those three brothers will attest to the fact that they epitomise hard work. They are still working in their business in the Burdekin community every single day of the week. They work tirelessly for that community. We are so proud of what they have achieved. Once again I offer my sincere congratulations.

Health System

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.12 pm): It is fitting that I follow the member for Burdekin because the Moranbah Hospital was recently opened. It is a great Labor achievement in regional Queensland. Labor builds better health services and hospitals. What have we seen from the Crisafulli government, which promised there would be no health cuts? We have seen four cuts already. We have seen them cut into the pill-testing program, which is an important preventive health measure to keep people out of hospitals and emergency departments. There were revelations this week from whistleblowers about the Workplace Attraction Incentive Scheme ending on 31 December. Premier Crisafulli refused to answer a question about it. This is a secretive government that will not answer

questions in question time. It is very clear that cuts have been decided on. This is the scheme that attracts health professionals to rural and regional areas, so I look forward to those members just elected in rural and regional Queensland standing up for their areas and against the cuts of the Crisafulli government. It is very difficult to get health staff into rural and regional areas now—let alone without this scheme—during a global shortage of health professionals. Do not come crying to the opposition when your hospitals and health facilities do not have enough professional staff, because your government cut the scheme that attracts people to your health facilities. You have been told. Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would say to those members: do not toe the party line; stand up for your communities. The cuts are already here.

Transfer initiative nurse positions in emergency departments have been cut. These are the nurses who look after patients when they are brought in by paramedics to allow ambulances and paramedics to get back into the field. They have been cut by Premier Crisafulli. He said that when he gives his word, it means something. It means cuts. It means something else. It is devious and dishonest. We have already seen a lot of evidence of health cuts from Premier Crisafulli and his government, which is consistently breaking election promises. That is four cuts in 46 days. It is a disgrace.

It was interesting to watch the health minister get around to facilities and say almost nothing in his socials. He went to the PA Hospital but did not mention the 249 new beds under construction now funded by the Labor government. He went to Redland Hospital and did not mention the new wing built by Labor or the new car park built by Labor. He did not mention the fact that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital was built by Labor. I went out to the new Toowoomba Hospital in regional Queensland—not exactly a Labor seat—built by Labor. Labor invests in health services and hospital expansion. It does not cut like Premier Crisafulli, who has let down Queenslanders by breaking his election promises on health and hospitals.

Attracting Aviation Investment Fund; Tourism Industry




Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.15 pm): I am pleased to update the House on some major wins for Queensland from our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. We are increasing our connections to the world, helping draw visitors to Queensland and sending our magnificent exports offshore quickly and efficiently.

Last Thursday night I had the pleasure of attending the Delta Air Lines launch party in South Brisbane hosted by AmCham, Australia's largest international business organisation, as well as the Brisbane Airport Corporation and Delta itself ahead of the first Delta flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane which landed the following Friday morning. The Crisafulli government's support of this partnership is expected to deliver up to \$61 million in overnight visitor expenditure per year and up to 80,000 inbound international seats. That is 80,000 visitors to Queensland who are ready to see and enjoy all that our great state has to offer. It also offers millions of square metres of cargo space that are ready for Queensland's fruit, veggies, seafood and meat, enabling delivery to the west coast of the United States of America in just over 13 hours.

A short time ago I came in from the Speaker's Green, where we also announced the commencement of Virgin Australia services between Doha and Brisbane starting on 18 June 2025. Doha is one of the world's biggest aviation hubs and connects Brisbane to more than 100 destinations. That is incredibly appealing to United Kingdom and European visitors, who will now be able to get to Australia with just one stop. It also connects Queensland tourists with not only the UK and Europe but also the Middle East and Africa. The Crisafulli government's partnership with Virgin is expected to bring up to \$91 million in overnight visitor spending each year and deliver more than 129,000 inbound seats per year over two years. That is 129,000 visitors touching down in Brisbane who are ready to see Queensland. From Cairns to Currumbin, we have so much to offer and there is plenty more to come. As I said, there is all that cargo space on returning flights that is ready for our produce, and it is able to get to the Middle East in 48 hours. Qatar is already our 34th largest export destination. This gives us the scope to boost that through the seafood, fruit and meat we know the Middle East loves.

As I reported to the House, the Crisafulli government has already started work on developing a 20-year tourism plan because we want connections to just be the start. We are determined to grow international visitor numbers and increase overnight visitor expenditure, and that means more jobs for Queenslanders through thousands of tourism businesses. We are determined to lay a foundation for Queensland's future tourism industry that will help deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games that leave a legacy for Queensland.

Gladstone Electorate, Health Services


 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.18 pm): As a born-and-bred Gladstone local, I am passionate about my community and I will always stand up for our locals. Over the last few days in this House we have learned that health care and incentives for staff in Gladstone have been slashed by the LNP government. It was a Labor government that committed to, and delivered, a much anticipated nurse-led walk-in clinic for the Gladstone region. I was even happier that under Labor the clinic was going to open seven days a week, from 8 am to 10 pm. I know how important these opening hours are for our shiftworkers in town and our parents and, most importantly, to take pressure off the accident and emergency department at the hospital.

Unfortunately, that is the end of the good news for this new clinic, with its official opening this week revealing that the new LNP government had installed one of its first cuts to services at the Gladstone clinic. This shameful act of this new government has cut the opening hours from seven days a week to six days a week, with the opening hours changed from 8 am to 10 pm to now be 9 am to 5 pm on Monday to Friday and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday. That is a 40 per cent cut to the hours that service was supposed to provide to support the community of Gladstone. This decision is a slap in the face to the nurses in Gladstone and the Gladstone community itself.

That was one of the first two cuts for Gladstone by the LNP this week—the second being that they have axed funding for cash incentives to lure health workers to regional Queensland, including Gladstone. I have met with many of the nurses and doctors at the Gladstone Hospital who were drawn to our region from other states and countries on the back of the financial support that a Labor government in Queensland gave for them to work at the hospital. Everyone knows that there is a global health workforce shortage, and this decision by the LNP is absolutely disgraceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the amazing staff at the Gladstone Hospital who work tirelessly every single day of the week to take care of our growing community. Those workers are truly our health heroes. I will stand up and back them every single day of the week because I know that a Gladstone Hospital that has good staff and good people in it will make a better community for Gladstone.

Wieambilla Deaths, Anniversary; Local Government, Projects


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.20 pm): As we heard earlier today from the Premier and the police minister, today marks a very sad day for my electorate. On 12 December every year in my electorate we take the time to remember two young brave police officers and an innocent neighbour. Those two young police officers were highly regarded in the Dalby and Tara communities, and I know this from the stories from their colleagues and the affectionate stories that I have heard so many times from members of the public at Tara.

Matthew Arnold, Rachel McCrow and local neighbour Alan Dare are remembered on this day. Two years ago the incident at Wieambilla shocked the nation. Today we all remember Matthew, Rachel, Alan and their families who I know miss them dearly every day. We will never forget them, and the communities of Dalby and Tara will never forget them.

The Crisafulli government is working in a partnership with local governments across Queensland, and I was very pleased to join the Toowoomba Regional Council for one of our first sod turnings last week. Whilst I was at the former Cambooya shire chambers, I noted on a plaque that the last minister who had been on site was the Hon. Di McCauley back in 1997, so it appears to have been a long time between visits for this community. I was delighted to join the Toowoomba Regional Council mayor and councillors, the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Southern Downs at Greenmount on the Darling Downs. It was great to have my committee chair there who I work closely with, the member for Southern Downs, and also the member for Toowoomba North, who is the assistant minister for South-West Queensland.

The sod turning was to launch the four communities project to supply permanent treated water to Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton. Currently, these communities are supplied water from bore water supplies. The state government is providing \$15 million over four years to support the council to deliver this important water supply project. It will futureproof the water infrastructure of these communities, providing them with better quality water as well as a more reliable water supply during drought periods. The work on the Greenmount to Cambooya pipeline is due to commence in early October, the second stage will connect Greenmount to Nobby and the third stage is expected to be completed in 2027.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Performance

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.23 pm): In the course of just a few days, this new government and the new transport minister have lost enormous credibility with Queenslanders. Firstly, we have seen the frankly ludicrous claims by the member for Buderim that Cross River Rail will now cost \$17 billion and is due to open in 2029 after he did some pretty sus sums in his own office. In a desperate bid—

Mr Lister: Are you going to write to the Speaker about it?

Mr MELLISH: I will write to the Speaker. In a desperate bid to move the goalposts on Cross River Rail, the Crisafulli government has cooked the books. Today the minister refused to release the advice that he is making these claims on—no advice from the department, no advice from the authority and no advice from the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. On the timeframe claim, we saw embarrassingly that the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, in an unprecedented step, called out the minister's made-up 2029 figure yesterday. The *Brisbane Times* article stated—

"ONRSR does not undertake testing or commissioning for any major project—this is the role of the project manager, so the timeframe for this process is a matter for them," a spokeswoman for the regulator said.

How embarrassing. In a second embarrassment the minister has included the cost of maintenance for the life of an asset in the cost to build the project. He has also included the cost of station upgrades, unrelated signalling projects and even the cost of buses across the whole of South-East Queensland to come to his made-up figure. Will the minister release the breakdown of costs? Of course not. He made the ridiculous claim yesterday that he had legal advice as to why he was able to release a figure to get him on the news but not the actual cost breakdown. I quote from the minister—

I'm not going to split it out into individual elements because, in doing so, it will enable contractors to be able to work back and work out a number.

I call on the minister to table the breakdown or at the very least table the legal advice saying he cannot, but I sadly think it is all made up; it is in his head. This minister does not even know who is funding this project. Yesterday he said, before he walked into a tree on his way out of the press conference—


If Catherine King wants to commit additional funds to Cross River Rail, I will welcome it with open arms.

I have news for the minister. Cross River Rail does not have any federal funding; it is solely funded by the state government, as it always has been, because Campbell Newman and a former LNP government refused funding. I would urge him to do his research before he goes cap in hand to the federal government and embarrasses himself even further.

Fourthly, I did not think it was possible for someone to botch an issue in not one, not two, not three but four ways. The minister claimed BPIC had led to delays on the Cross River Rail project. We have more news for the minister. Cross River Rail is not a BPIC project. What a joke.

This is all just a continuation of this minister struggling with the facts when it comes to major infrastructure projects. In September this year he was found to have misled the House and was forced to apologise when it came to Sunshine Coast direct rail. He claimed that there was no money in the budget in 2024 for it when there was actually \$1 billion. This minister is out of his depth and the Premier needs to consider why he put him in this role.

Sports Awards; Duff, Mr P

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.26 pm): 'Tis the season for sports awards in Queensland. There has been much to celebrate at all levels of our sporting community. Recently at the Annual Queensland Sport Awards hosted by QSport, six sporting greats were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Jim Atkins, Shaun Hart, Darren Thrupp, Emilee Cherry, Mark Knowles and Rugby League legend Paul Vautin, who is an old West Mitchie boy. Mount Isa born tennis champion, Pat Rafter, received the highest honour, elevated to the status of Legend of Queensland Sport. The Brisbane Lions premiership winning coach, Chris Fagan, was named Queensland Sport Coach of the Year and we honoured community legends like Queensland Volunteer of the Year, Kimberly Doyle.

The Queensland Academy of Sport Athlete Awards celebrated the incredible achievements of athletes, coaches and performance support teams during the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic cycle. Australia's youngest Olympic gold medallist, Arisa Trew, was named QAS Emerging Athlete of the

Cycle. The unstoppable Curtis McGrath picked up two awards—QAS Paralympic Athlete of the Cycle and the QAS Athlete Award. The QAS Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success award fittingly went to Australia's most decorated Olympian, Emma McKeon, who recently announced her retirement.


From leading tours on K'gari to providing environmental education and nature play for kids, the Outdoors Queensland Awards celebrated the people and organisations dedicated to making the outdoors accessible and enjoyable for all Queenslanders.

Onto another awards night and the Australian Paralympian of the Year Awards were held on the Gold Coast, with dual-sport gold medallist Lauren Parker claiming top honours. These events recognise the extraordinary talent we have in Queensland. That is why the Crisafulli government is committed to providing the support they need through the Games On initiative, which will invest \$250 million in community sports infrastructure across Queensland. We know the lasting benefits of world-class sporting facilities, and if we want more people involved in sport we must have the best facilities for them.

Last week I announced the establishment of the AusCycling Action and Acceleration Centre of Excellence, a national high-performance hub that will be based at the Anna Meares Velodrome. Hopefully this is the first of many national organisations that will base themselves in Brisbane.

On a sadder note, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to legendary horse trainer Pat Duff, who passed away last month. He was a brilliant trainer, a master horseman and a true gentleman. My thoughts are with the Duff family and the wider Queensland racing community.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance


 **Ms ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (2.30 pm): Leadership literature says that leadership and culture are regarded as two sides of the same coin. Culture defines the beliefs and values shared in a team, and the way the leader behaves and communicates is a reflection of those values. If the first parliamentary days of the Crisafulli LNP government are any indication of the culture and leadership of his government, then what Queensland can look forward to for the next four years is one very bad penny—a penny that keeps turning up to trash the conventions of this place, to fetter the role of duly elected members of this parliament, to attack the most vulnerable in our community and to do it all through a culture of arrogance and hubris.

The very first parliamentary day of the Crisafulli LNP government is when we saw the first signs of this 'bad penny' government. After the Premier said he would approach the cutting of the Path to Treaty Act with decency and respect, we saw the complete opposite. 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 to maybe provide some alternative views, or to perhaps even help find a way whereby certain aspects of the act could be kept to support the government's own work. They say that they want to close the gap when they fundamentally junked the very thing that would meet the priority reform area 1, formal partnerships and shared decision-making.

To have the member for Maroochydore, the minister responsible for this act, rub salt into the wound by not even paying the most basic of respects by picking up a phone or turning up for a meeting shows exactly the kinds of values and beliefs this 'bad penny' LNP government are espousing. For the member for Maroochydore to run and hide, to duck and cover, on such a significant piece of legislation proves that the minister lacks the courage and the fortitude for the job. Why did the Premier's hand-picked minister not meet with the chair of the inquiry or the members more broadly to make clear her decisions? How will the minister frame her relationship with key stakeholders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities—she is the minister responsible for that area—when she has trashed the reconciliation journey in this state? She has a huge job ahead of her, and already she has turned her back on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by supporting this incredibly cruel, politically cruel, way in which they cut the Path to Treaty Act.

If leadership and culture are indeed two sides of the same coin then, just like a bad penny, the Crisafulli LNP government is looking like the unpleasant and unwanted thing we all want to avoid.

Multiculturalism

 **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) (2.33 pm): As we navigate the complexities of our modern world, it is imperative that we embrace the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our society. Queensland is one of the most

culturally diverse states, and multiculturalism is integral to our identity and success. It enriches the state's culture, strengthens the economy, promotes social cohesion and enhances global connections. By continuing to embrace and support multiculturalism, Queensland can build a more inclusive, prosperous and harmonious future for all its residents.

The LNP values freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of association as the building blocks of a robust and fair society. We value the worth and dignity of every individual, the priority of helping the marginalised, public and personal integrity, and a society in which people of different beliefs and cultures live in peace and harmony with each other. Not everyone has to hold the same beliefs, and that is what we say understanding what a multicultural and inclusive community is about. These values underpin the LNP commitment to our multicultural communities.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Pause the clock. The level of interjection is getting out of control. I cannot hear the member on her feet. I ask the House to come to order and cease interjections. The member is not taking any interjections.

Ms SIMPSON: I have hit the ground running since 1 November, attending numerous multicultural events including the Diwali celebration, the African Professionals of Australia dinner, the inauguration of the Consulate General of India, the Jewish Kristallnacht Commemoration Event, the Tamil Deepavali Festival of Lights celebration, the Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament and the Latin American Community Brisbane Fiesta Latina event.

I have met with the Ethic Community Council of Queensland and the National Council of Jewish Women Australia and attended the Global Empowering Women Organisation symposium and official launch. Within about three days of being sworn in I met with TCICA, the Torres Cape Aboriginal elected leaders from some of the most remote communities.

I have also progressed our commitment to delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing. I have been working with my colleague the Minister for Housing, Sam O'Connor, particularly in discrete and very remote areas where disadvantage is rife. Expanding home ownership for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders is such an important issue. It is a priority in our 100-day plan. We know that in communities such as Palm Island residents want to own their own homes and are passionate about it. I acknowledge the strong leadership of Mayor Alf Lacey and also thank our Townsville MP, Adam Baillie, as we fight to ensure there is access to housing, whether or not people want to own their own house, to ensure they have a quality of life where closing the gap is real and people have the dignity of owning their own home.

Renewable Energy


 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.36 pm): It has been just over a month since the state election and Queenslanders have already seen the new Crisafulli government's alarming lack of vision for Queensland's transition to a decarbonised future. The recent scrapping of the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro scheme with no alternative plan only reaffirms the LNP's lack of commitment when it comes to renewables and real climate action. The benefits of the Pioneer-Burdekin scheme were clear. For Queenslanders, the scheme would have delivered a world-leading long-duration energy storage system, ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy supply for Queensland households. The project would have enabled Queensland to meet global and legislated emissions targets by avoiding 5.7 million to 9.8 million tonnes per year of CO2 emissions. The project would have delivered between \$14 million and \$16 million to the Mackay region's gross regional product and generated up to 950 jobs annually as a result of increased economic activity.

Shareholders and customers are increasingly demanding that companies meet carbon reduction and net-zero targets. Jurisdictions such as the EU are imposing tariffs on carbon-intensive imports. The writing has long been on the wall. Continued reliance on emissions-intensive electricity will limit export opportunities and disadvantage Queensland's exports compared to countries moving faster towards net zero.

A coordinated energy transition is critical to supporting local jobs and communities now and having a plan to retain domestic and international confidence into the future—a future that is now uncertain. The big question is: what is the Crisafulli government's plan to meet our legislated targets—targets that those opposite agreed to when in opposition? Of course, we know that the now Premier does not in fact have any plan to transition Queensland—no plan to decarbonise the electricity network and no ambition in respect of real action on climate change—and it is well past time that he was honest with Queenslanders about it.

While those opposite have no plan, their federal LNP colleagues certainly do. We know their plan for Queensland's nuclear future: two nuclear plants, at Callide and Tarong—two plants that would take 10 years to build; plants, to quote the CSIRO, that would be staggeringly expensive to build and make electricity four to six times more expensive for Queensland households. Where would the water come from? Where would the treated water go? What do we do with the nuclear waste? This is a burden that my kids, your kids and every Queenslanders will have to manage for generations. Queenslanders and Queensland's environment cannot afford the government's ineptitude.


Road Safety; Bruce Highway

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.39 pm): We are heading into that special time of year when friends and family gather across our state, some making long journeys and drives to be together. Sadly, far too many do not make it to their loved ones this time of year. As of midnight last night, the Queensland road toll sits at 287 people. That is 287 lives lost on our roads, 287 families who will have an empty seat at the table for Christmas lunch. Each death has a significant impact on not only their families but the whole community, other road users, emergency service workers and first responders. Just as a number of members of this parliament have had firsthand experience of road trauma as first responders, so too has my wife Anna. She shared with me the impact of road trauma on her during her service as a Queensland Police Service officer in Far North Queensland. The impact on those who keep our community safe stays for them forever, and I want to acknowledge the contribution they make to our community.

At this same time of year in 2019, the road toll was 212. Again it is far too many, but there has been a significant increase since then. One of the biggest increases to the road toll in the last five years has been motorbike riders: 44 motorbike riders lost their lives up to the same time in 2019; this year 75 motorbike riders have died on our roads. The toll has worsened over the last five years, with more families torn apart. We cannot keep doing more of the same; we must do something to reverse this alarming trend. The Crisafulli government will invest to deliver safer road infrastructure, which is why I am committed to fighting tooth and nail to reinstate 80:20 funding for the Bruce Highway with the federal government. I will not sit back when New South Wales has a quality national highway just south of our border, while Queensland's Bruce Highway in many places resembles more of a goat track. We are working to address the maintenance backlog that the former government has left us with. Queenslanders deserve quality infrastructure, and that includes maintenance.

Road safety must be at the forefront of every decision a government makes. While we commit to improving Queensland roads, ultimately driver behaviour is up to those who sit behind the wheel. I am asking each and every Queenslanders to have a conversation with their friends, family, their colleague or neighbour about the importance of road safety this Christmas. Tell them to be extra careful on the road. Tell them not to speed. Tell them to rest if they are feeling tired. Tell them to wear a seatbelt. Tell them to put their phone away when they are behind the wheel and tell them not to drink or drug drive. As a government, we will make a change and deliver on our commitment to better Queensland's road infrastructure. I ask Queenslanders to make one commitment: to make it home safe this Christmas and every day before and after.

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.42 pm): It is wonderful to be back in this chamber for the 58th Parliament. I have been reflecting upon what motivated me to first put my hand up to run as a candidate in my community. In 2012 I was sitting around at the table at the Prince Charles Hospital as a spreadsheet from the Newman LNP government was tabled that had cuts on it. Cuts that resulted in funding being stripped out of that hospital and that region; cuts that directly impacted on workers who lost their jobs; and services that were no longer delivered in my community. The LNP under Campbell Newman cut 4,400 workers. The architect of those cuts—the designer of those cuts—is now this state's health minister. This state's health minister cut 1,800 nurses and midwives. I raise this because they are at it again. It was the very first thing that the failed treasurer under Campbell Newman came in here and did and it has been green-lighted by those opposite, particularly the Premier. The Premier said there would be no cuts to health workers, yet here we are in this place in the first full sitting week uncovering the fact that the new LNP government has, in fact, has axed Labor's workforce attraction scheme. This is an important scheme that delivered 1,320 health workers to Queensland Health.

Ms Bates interjected.


Ms BOYD: I take the interjections from the member for Mudgeeraba—the very member who in this place, on the opposite benches, called Queensland Health workers in Queensland ‘duds’. You know it is true.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member for Pine Rivers, the member has taken personal offence, will you withdraw?

Ms BOYD: I withdraw. Around 73 per cent of these frontline workers were delivering high-quality health care in one of Queensland’s regional, rural or remote regions. We hear a lot from those opposite who are now talking about being representatives for the regions and rural Queensland. Why are they supporting this cut, I ask? Of course we know that we need more health workers in rural, remote and regional Queensland—not less. Even the AMA has called this scheme out and condemned it and said they support its expansion—not the cuts that this health minister and this LNP government is delivering. We know there is a global health workforce shortage right now. Queensland needs to step up. I hear a lot of interjections from the new finance minister opposite. She called for more investment to be made in Queensland’s health system and is now sitting there supporting cuts.

Anti-Bullying


 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.45 pm): As a young person, navigating relationships and learning how to handle conflict are essential parts of growing up; however, today we are witnessing a troubling trend where certain behaviours are crossing the line and we are now seeing deliberate actions that are intended to harm others. Unlike my time as a student at Coorparoo, Brisbane and Sunnybank state high schools, bullying in the age of platforms like Discord, Snapchat and Instagram has evolved into more pervasive and insidious forms.

The impacts of bullying can be long-term and devastating. It can also be difficult for schools and parents to recognise and address, especially when large groups of students are involved or young people are afraid to speak up. Schools are on the front line every day working to prevent, respond and address bullying. They need our support; however addressing bullying is not solely the responsibility of schools, it is also a family and personal responsibility. Families play a critical role in teaching respect, empathy and kindness and each of us must model and promote these values in our communities. The Crisafulli government is committed to leading the nation in responding to bullying. I call on parents, teachers and the broader community to stand strong with schools, to work together and to show our children a better way. Our plan to stamp out bullying starts with listening to schools about what they need and hearing from child and adolescent mental health experts about interventions that work.

We all have a part to play in addressing this issue and the Crisafulli government will be marshalling support across government, community and sporting organisations and families to work with schools to prevent, respond and reduce bullying by raising community awareness. We will work with parents, experts and schools leading an anti-bullying campaign here in Queensland and calling for support across the nation to crack down on bullying through social media. Setting clear expectations about discipline in the classroom: we will equip schools with the resources and capability they need to identify and respond to bullying and to provide targeted support and referral pathways to help students who need it and offer services and supports for students and families. We will establish a dedicated support team to respond to bullying incidents, provide immediate assistance and deploy resources as needed. By partnering with key stakeholders and experts, we will ensure students who are affected by bullying have access to the necessary support, advocacy and wellbeing services. We will have much more to say on our plans in the coming months.

Bullying occurs in all elements of life—at work, in our schools, on the sporting fields and on the floors of our greatest democratic institutions. Preventing bullying is not solely the responsibility of schools; it is a shared responsibility that extends to parents, caregivers and communities. The community shares a will to stamp out bullying and we will provide them with a way. Together we can support schools to provide safe, positive and disciplined teaching and learning environments.

Brisbane City Council Libraries

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.48 pm): My office is right next to the Indooroopilly shopping centre, where our local council library is located. When library staff last month had to break the news to parents that the incredibly popular First 5 Forever sessions like Rhyme Time and Toddler Time were being cut, a lot of those parents headed straight from the library to my office. They wanted to know why


anyone would cut a program that teaches babies, toddlers and children crucial literacy skills—a program that provides a community for parents who might otherwise be dealing with social isolation, a program that is so popular that families are regularly turned away at the door because these rooms are full. Why? Why would that be cut? It was because that is what the LNP does. They make these cruel, indiscriminate cuts to public services, regardless of the impact on people's lives.

From December, the LNP council is cutting around a quarter of the First 5 Forever sessions across Brisbane. The petition I started to oppose these cuts received more than 2,000 signatures in the first 24 hours. It now has almost 5,000. Anyone can see that if you care about the cost of living, strong communities and children's development, you would expect programs like this to be expanded, not cut. I know the LNP is going to whine that this is all Labor's fault, just like we have heard them do countless times in the four sitting days we have had so far this term, so let's be clear about what happened.

The First 5 Forever program has had state funding since 2015. The state government reduced its share of the funding to Brisbane libraries about five years ago, so Brisbane City Council contributed more to keep those sessions running. Now the council has cut that money. For the council to blame Rhyme Time cuts on a five-year-old decision—a decision about which they did not say a peep at the time—is just ridiculous and, frankly, no-one is buying it. If the council really wants to blame the current situation, the cuts to the First 5 Forever program, on a five-year-old decision by a former Labor government, I have some really good news for them, because guess what? Guess who is in state government now? It is their mates in the LNP.

I have asked the new arts minister whether he will increase funding for this program to save Rhyme Time and other free sessions at Brisbane libraries and I would love it if he could give me that answer before we reach the maximum 30 days for a response to a question on notice. Those families across the city who rely on and who are now desperately missing those sessions would certainly appreciate that, because this program is far too important and popular to be on the chopping block. It should be a priority. The LNP should prove that they value it, like families across Brisbane do, by stumping up the funds for Rhyme Time right now.

Employment and Training

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.51 pm): The employment and training portfolio has a key role in addressing the critical need for more skilled workers over the next decade. The Crisafulli LNP team took the Right Plan for Queensland's Future to the election. It is a plan that the people of Queensland wholeheartedly endorsed. Employment and training are critical for our state's future—a future where our economy will become even more reliant on our success in building the skills of the Queensland workforce, which is projected to grow by more than five per cent within five years.

In the department of employment and training we are equipping students and workers with the skills they need to build secure, long-term careers in our fastest growing professions: health care, STEM and education. Recently I have had the pleasure of meeting almost all of the dedicated and knowledgeable department team members who work at 150 Mary Street. I asked them to share their ideas so we can deliver even better outcomes together. I will be making regular visits and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

I have some more stories to share with honourable members. We have had the TAFE South Bank jewellery awards, where a young girl called Indigo proudly showed off the incredible craftsmanship of her father, Clint Slogrove, that earned him the Apprentice of the Year award that night. At the Gateway to Industry Schools aerospace awards I heard from Brisbane Airport Corporation just how much the skills being developed by participating students will benefit the aviation industry. Targeted skills development plus relationships with future employers equals fantastic job outcomes. Just last week we stepped in to save the Queensland College of Wine Tourism after Labor failed to secure a pathway after a partnership—


Mr Lister: Hear, hear!

Ms BATES: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Labor failed to secure a pathway after a partnership with the University of Southern Queensland concluded. The university advised the former Labor government of their intent to withdraw from the partnership in October 2023; however, no funds were provided to keep the college open until a new partner could be secured. We will provide support to keep the college operating as it seeks a new operator and works with local industry, business and schools to establish ongoing partnerships.

We have committed to investing a further \$2 million to support recruitment of TAFE educators to better support students while also establishing TAFE Centres of Excellence in Moreton Bay, Rockhampton and North Queensland, ensuring the regions are not forgotten and the pipeline for skilled workers is open across the state.

I am driven and excited by the prospects for Queensland's future under the Crisafulli LNP government. My commitment to all Queenslanders is: unlike those opposite, I will work hard to create the solid foundations upon which our students, apprentices and workers can grow and thrive.

Men


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.54 pm): I rise this afternoon to call on the state government to consider establishing a minister for men in Queensland. Currently, this government has a Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security. Currently, this government is committed to the Womens Strategy 2022-27. Another strategy it is committed to is the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032. This state widely considers and celebrates International Women's Day and also Queensland Women's Week. We have gender equality targets within government, and on government boards we have fifty-fifty gender quotas. Although this is a fantastic outcome for women, problems that plague men continue to grow without any consideration, help or plan to address them.

One such issue is suicide in men. Males are more than three times more likely to die by suicide than females in Australia. Every day 8.6 Australians die by suicide and 75 per cent of those are men. Ninety-two per cent of all prisoners in Queensland are male. Males are also over-represented in homelessness: 66 per cent of all homeless people in Queensland are men. When it comes to health, Queenslanders are more likely to die from cancer if they are male. We are not here to suggest that we should have a minister for men to only help and benefit men in Queensland. We are also not here to start a gender war. It is about trying to support the whole of the community and make things better.

We are constantly being told about the problems women face, but we need help to support men in those areas as well. We hear a lot of negative things about males in the media and in this House, and I want to see things change. Mothers want to see things change. Wives, sisters and daughters want to see change. We want to do better, and a step forward in achieving this could be taken through government support. We can start by supporting men and boys in this state by establishing a minister for men in this place.

We cannot continue to apply a gender lens to fixing all of the problems in the state while only using one set of eyes and a feminist set of glasses. Queenslanders deserve to have a whole-of-state fix. If we are going to address the problems of society in this state, whether it is incarceration rates, suicide rates or inequities faced by men in the judicial system, we must take a whole-of-government approach to this. I call on this government to consider this request on behalf of men in Queensland.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.57 pm): In my capacity as the assistant minister to the Premier, it was my pleasure to attend this week's citizenship ceremony at Brisbane City Hall which was presided over by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Adrian Schrinner. Along with the Lord Mayor, I was delighted to welcome and celebrate our newest Australian citizens. The member for Jordan was also in attendance at this ceremony along with the Lady Mayoress, Nina Schrinner.

The electorate of Moggill has 11 local schools, and each year I am delighted to attend local school graduation ceremonies and also their respective awards nights. I wish to congratulate all graduating year 6 students of our local primary schools as well as the graduating year 12 students of not only Kenmore State High School but also other secondary schools. Across all of our schools, one thing is clear: there is great leadership capability amongst our next generation. Certainly, when looking for future leaders of our state, whether in business, sporting endeavours, the professions or, alternatively, community service occupations and endeavours, there is an absolute wealth of talent.


On the subject of education, our students and their respective endeavours are a result of outstanding educators, teachers and mentors. Recently, it was my pleasure to recognise four such distinguished educators in the electorate of Moggill: Ed Kennedy, who is retiring after 36 years with Education Queensland including 29 years with Kenmore State High School, and Natasha Moore and Robert Pratt of the Kenmore West Kindergarten and Lyndall Hind from the Kenmore District Kindergarten, all of whom have given many years of dedicated service to early childhood education.

I also offer my congratulations to the Moggill Girl Guides on celebrating a remarkable 50 years. This milestone was celebrated with retro party games, a barbecue and a beautiful cake to honour five decades of Girl Guiding in Moggill and surrounding areas. Last weekend it was wonderful to see local residents turn out in great numbers to support the inaugural Bellbowrie Christmas Twilight Markets and Community and Veterans Expo. The Bellbowrie Sports and Community Club hosted this outstanding community afternoon event for residents, complete with market stalls and showcasing great community organisations, including the Moggill Group SES, the National Servicemen's Memorial Band, Mates4Mates and 42 for 42, with representatives also in attendance from the Queensland Police Service. Well done to all who organised the event and specifically members of the Kenmore-Moggill RSL Subbranch.

As we enter the Christmas and new year period, I want to also extend my appreciation to all dedicated emergency service personnel who will continue to support Queenslanders over the holiday period. In concluding, I take this opportunity to wish you, Mr Speaker, other elected representatives, all parliamentary staff and local residents of the electorate of Moggill all the best for Christmas and a happy and healthy new year in 2025.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill by 7 February 2025; the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill by 7 February; and the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 7 February 2025.


The committee has also resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, Auditor-General's *Report 1: 2024-25—2024 status of Auditor-General's recommendations* and *Report 3: 2024-25—Central agencies' coordination of the state budget* be referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee; and Auditor-General's *Report 2: 2024-25—Delivering forensic medical examinations (follow-up audit)* be referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 479, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.02 pm): I rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill—a bill that has intentionally been rushed through this parliament by this new government, to its detriment. The privilege of being here in this place to be a law-maker in this state is a huge responsibility—one that we should feel the weight of every day, one that we should take seriously. It is incumbent upon us to create the settings for this state that provide protections and reduce harm. While we may each have myriad views on exactly what the best adjustment of those settings are, this place—this institution—has built inherent protections to inform expert views and knowledge into the bills we debate.

Through this rushed process it has been highlighted that this bill contains danger, unintended consequence and error. Rather than giving this important bill the time and consideration it deserves, the LNP has rushed it through a committee process and, in doing so, has discarded the respected and informed expert opinions with hubris and arrogance. This LNP government is quickly shaping up as one that is hell-bent on denigrating process, proper process and democratic foundations to ram through its agenda—one that only wants to hear the voices of agreement or none at all. While listening to the debate I have heard the Attorney-General, ministers and indeed the backbench of the LNP respond to caution and alarm with the reply of, 'You've had 10 years.' My response to them is that so has the LNP. If this issue was the LNP's greatest concern—if this is the LNP's key issue—it could have come into this place at any time through those 10 years of opposition and introduced a private member's bill. At any time the LNP could have taken action. It could have provided the community with more than a

four-word slogan. It could have allowed proper community conversation and a proper conversation in this place about its policy detail. It did not; it failed to act. It was a despondent opposition and now it is a crazed government.

The reason it did not do its job in this place—the reason it did not play a constructive role for Queenslanders in this place—in my opinion is twofold. The LNP had no intention of having any experts support its policy platform. It knows that that is non-existent, and why? Because it is bad policy—bad policy that will result in perverse outcomes. knowmore describes it as legislation that will harm victims and survivors and make the community less safe. It provides fewer victim protections, will create unsafe environments for our frontline staff and will result in more dangerous and disengaged offenders. The other reason that the LNP did not do a thing about it in this place was because it only ever wanted to use this issue as its own political plaything—to be provided with an opportunity to run a four-word slogan, to erect billboards across the state, to campaign for more seats to win an election. Its own police minister belled the cat when interviewed by the police union journal. He told us all that his job was to win more seats off the back of crime.

There is no mandate for this bill. I accept that there is community support for a four-word slogan—Adult Crime, Adult Time—but this bill goes further. It overreaches. It has been identified by stakeholders as dangerous legislation and this government does not plan to do a thing to make it better. This is the basis on which the LNP will be measured. In a leaders debate during the election, the now Premier said that these laws had been drafted. Why were they not talked about? Why was there not an exposure draft? Why were stakeholders and the media not provided with this information?

Mr Power interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take that interjection from the member for Logan. The LNP Premier alone set the 'laws by Christmas' deadline and those opposite also set the parliamentary sitting schedule, knowing full well that there would only be two real days on consultation for their signature slogan and all of the other 52 pages of new policy that were not canvassed during a general election. If the LNP government cares so much about community safety, why is it treating expert stakeholders' legitimate concerns with such contempt? The Labor opposition even offered to be here for an additional sitting week this year to achieve the goal Premier Crisafulli committed to in order to allow for more submitters to have more time to be heard on this bill—a request that the LNP opposed. It voted it down.

This is legislation that goes far beyond what Queenslanders were sold at the ballot box this election. I am reminded of the quote to never mistake law for justice; justice is an ideal and the law is a tool. Of course our opposition supports tough action and strong laws. Fundamentally, a law is not strong if it does not achieve its objectives, if it leaves victims behind or it hurts them more. That is the identified consequence of this bill. One crime is one crime too many, and I want to acknowledge the people in this chamber and in my community who have been impacted by crime in all of its forms and I want to acknowledge the phenomenal job that our first responders do when responding to the impacts of crime. I want to acknowledge the phenomenal support groups and services that are there for our communities when they need them. I want to acknowledge the good humans in our corrective services space who deal with offenders and keep our communities safe every day. I want to acknowledge that during the election Queenslanders who voted based on community safety concerns voted on a four-word slogan when a complex issue was politicised for LNP gain.


My daughter is now five. Granted, she is five going on 15—joyous and stimulating in equal measure—but, according to her world view and plan, I am the boss of the house this year and next year it will be her turn. Our children need us to raise them in environments to meet their hierarchical needs, but the thing that I keep front of mind for my child is that I need to be her frontal lobe of her brain until it has developed enough to be able to make the kinds of decisions that she needs to be able to make informed choices—adult choices.

Ninety per cent of her brain right now, at five years of age, is developed. What is left? Heaps. Will she be able to run our home at 10 years of age? Under current bipartisan changes made in the nation's federal parliament she will not be able to run her own social media account at that age. Social media is deadly to her, but jail? Well, that is okay. Science informs me that her brain will be fully developed with this functioning at age 25, yet I know that she can be locked up at age 10, held to the same consequences as an adult under these changes. Under this legislation she could actually be treated more harshly.


Community safety is not a political issue; it is a community issue. Until we take the politics out of this and start using our frontal lobes in this discussion—for our communities, for our children, for a better debate—we will not see improvements in this space. I know that we need to make the kinds of changes that our communities want to see: real, positive reforms in this complex and challenging area. The submission of YFS Legal stated—

The inclusion of children as young as 10 years old under the 'Adult Crime, Adult Time' policy is deeply troubling. Scientific evidence shows that children at this age lack the developmental maturity and decision-making capacity of adults, necessitating different approaches to justice. As stated by the QLD Human Rights Commissioner, Scott McDougall, 'We're talking about children who still have their baby teeth.' Lowering the age to children as young as 10 is deeply worrying.

The challenges Queensland is facing are not isolated—not to our state and not to our nation; they are a challenge right around the world. In a rational debate it would even be highlighted more that the statistics right now are trending down, but this is not a rational debate. We should do everything that we can, everything that we know works when it comes to keeping our communities safe. Queenslanders did not vote for laws that put victims on trial. Queenslanders did not vote for laws to end restorative justice. That is exactly what this bill does. This bill goes further than what Queenslanders were sold at the ballot box, leaving open the question of credibility in the statement that the LNP has a mandate for this bill. No one political party could or should occupy the high moral ground on this topic. It is fraught to do so.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (3.11 pm): The youth crime crisis has affected my community, my electorate and the Fraser Coast region. Recently the courts made a decision about a 15-year-old who, with his actions, killed three people. Another lady has spent many months in hospital and requires extensive rehabilitation. Their families are still suffering and they will suffer forever. Why? Because the former Labor government has failed our community. Queenslanders have spoken. The 13-year-old received six years and after he serves 60 per cent of his sentence he will be out.

Labor's weak laws do not meet community expectations. My community is angry, upset and disappointed with the result. This youth will carry on with his life. His criminal history will be deleted according to the current law which is supported by the Labor Party. Later on in his life this youth could be my son-in-law or maybe yours. Queenslanders trusted the LNP at the recent election to implement new laws. The LNP will deliver these laws by Christmas as we promised. Queenslanders are tired of living in fear. This is why I believe in Adult Crime, Adult Time, consequences for actions, removing detention as a last resort and gold standard early intervention. It will make a difference in people's lives. If those opposite fail to support this bill in its entirety then they are still living in a fantasy world and will be judged accordingly.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.14 pm): 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. I want to acknowledge the impact of crime on victims and the need for there to be a stronger focus on their needs to reflect the individual circumstances of each victim. I also want to acknowledge all victims in this House, in our communities and in our Bundamba community. I want to particularly acknowledge the family of Vyleen White—Victor, Cindy, Julie, Brodie and Brianna—who have joined us in the chamber today. I want to acknowledge their incredible strength and resilience and what they have done for our community—putting our community ahead of their grief. They know that I truly appreciate the time that we have been able to spend together.

At the October general election Queenslanders had their say. The Labor opposition supports strong action and tough laws that have the practical effect of protecting Queenslanders. We have heard from communities across the state and we want to work in a responsible and constructive way with the government on this issue, which is an extremely complex issue, with the aim of making sure the best possible laws are enacted—laws that work, laws that actually deliver the outcomes they are drafted to achieve. At the same time, under the Westminster system of democracy, we as an opposition will hold the government accountable for delivering on their promises and help ensure the best possible evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs are continued where they are working, are implemented when new ones arise and have the effect of preventing and diverting young people from entering the youth justice system in the first place or, if they are already in it, diverting them away from crime.

Debates in this place tend to be so binary. Part of that is driven by partisan politics—you are red, you are blue; you are one, you are zero. Part of it is driven by the system that we have here where we can only vote yes or no on legislation. Sometimes the complex issues, such as the one that we are debating today, need to be explored in a much more nuanced fashion. That is why we debate them. That is why we get up and we make our speeches. That is why we move amendments. That is why we

have a contest of ideas. I implore every single member of this House to take a moment to think about the complexity of the issue we are trying to draft the best possible law for Queenslanders; to take a moment to go away from their partisan position, to contribute in a way where we can collaborate together as a parliament to come up with laws that will achieve safer communities, which is something that we all want. This is not a binary proposition; it is complex and the solutions are complex.

The content of this bill only goes some way to addressing the issues we are trying to confront. That is reflected in the policies the government took to the election. They talk about gold standard intervention, but none of those measures, none of those policies, are in this bill. Only some of the government's election policy platform is in this bill.

I want to talk about the process undertaken in relation to the bill before the House, and I refer to what the government took to the election. Plenty of other speakers have made the point that the bill makes substantial changes to the youth justice system that were not canvassed with the public during the election campaign. This is major reform that goes to the structure of our youth justice framework. Just as we respect the fact that the government won the election, the government has a duty to respect the fact that the constituents of 41 of the 93 electorates in this state did not elect LNP candidates. I hope that the government respects and acknowledges that as part of the democratic process inside and outside of this House, whether on this bill or on any other bill.

In the short time that stakeholders had to consider the 52 pages of this bill, they raised serious and responsible concerns that the bill will have unintended consequences. In fact, the committee report states—

Due to time constraints, not all submissions to the inquiry are reflected in the committee's report...

...


It is noted that no external consultation was undertaken regarding the contents of the Bill prior to its introduction. This was highlighted by some submitters in the evidence provided to the committee.

That comes from the government part of the report, not from the statement of reservation or the dissenting report. By raising these concerns, which I do not need to repeat as part of my contribution to the debate, the Labor Party is giving voice to the many stakeholders who called out the lack of adequate consultation on the bill. They include VictimConnect, the Law Society, the Bar Association, the Victims' Commissioner, the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council and the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group. For me, probably the most compelling evidence came from the Homicide Victims' Support Group. 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.

That is why the Labor opposition has moved some amendments and raised these issues. We have always said that we will not get in front of the government's agenda, which they have a mandate to deliver. However, serious reservations have been raised about the process and the scope of the bill.

Labor's amendments to the bill are responsible. They are moved in good faith to try to improve the outcomes of the legislation and its operation in our communities. I ask the government to seriously consider supporting our amendments and, ultimately, a better outcome for Queensland. The evidence shows that there is no silver bullet to this. We do need targeted prevention, intervention and detention when required. Fundamentally, the government has a duty to do everything possible to protect Queenslanders from becoming victims and to provide support to those who are impacted by crime. That was this government's promise to Queensland. It is what they took to the election. It is what this bill is about. It is what they will be judged on.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.24 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. At the outset, I express my gratitude to our leader and now Premier, David Crisafulli, for his support, encouragement and outstanding leadership over the past four years in opposition and now during this past month in government. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, David Janetzki, the parliamentary team and all others who worked so hard to secure this fresh start for Queensland. Congratulations are also in order to all my colleagues who have been re-elected and to the newly elected members who have joined us here on the government side of the House.

On a personal note, I want to thank Deb Frecklington for her efforts in bringing the Making Queensland Safer Bill to the House so swiftly. I recognise her marathon efforts as a former leader of the opposition. The member for Nanango steered us through the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Her continued hard work and contributions as a shadow minister throughout the last term are significant. One could say that she maintained the foundation that we have built on through the last term to secure this term of government. Member for Nanango, your work ethic and poise are an example for us all. You are not just a great member; you are a true stateswoman and absolutely worthy of the high office of Attorney-General.

This legislation and the Crisafulli government more broadly are committed to restoring safety, justice and accountability across Queensland. This bill reflects the mandate entrusted to us by Queenslanders to clean up the chaos left by the previous government and to address the systemic failures that have led to our current crisis in community safety. For too long victims have been without a voice while offenders have taken advantage of weak laws. These laws declare that we will restore safety to our communities and ensure those who break the law face appropriate consequences.

Under successive Labor governments, Queensland's justice system has been crippled by policies that prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. Looking back to 2015, it is worth noting that Labor has form on soft laws. In 2015, one of their first acts was to wind back the LNP's significant laws that were designed to address the activities of criminal gangs in Queensland. Our election promise is simple: if you commit heinous crimes then you will be held accountable. We are the LNP: a party that believes in consequences for actions; a party that believes in the principle of personal responsibility.

Over the past two years, as I have knocked on doors and met with constituents, I have heard countless stories from victims of crime. One local business owner shared how their bakery has been repeatedly targeted by young offenders. Those offenders are well known to the police. In fact, the entire family is known to the authorities. However, there is no clear legal pathway to take meaningful action. Another of my constituents, Peter Lloyd, had his home broken into in July. He shared with me that not only does he feel unsafe in his own home but also he struggled with the financial burden of repairs as his insurance did not cover all the costs. Like so many other Queenslanders, Peter should not have to pay for Labor's weak laws.


Just three days ago, another constituent, who lives just across the street from my office, told me that their home had been burgled again. It was the third time in less than 18 months. On two prior occasions cars were also stolen. Understandably, they are a little frustrated. Personally, I too have been a victim of youth crime. Over two years ago, a group of eight young people broke into my garage, rifled through my vehicle and stole anything of value. Fortunately, they were caught the next morning after foolishly using my stolen credit card at McDonald's, just half a kilometre away. However, as in so many other cases, the offenders were already known to police. Frustratingly, those young people, well known to police and the justice system, simply walked away with little more than a slap on the wrist.

A few weeks later, a case worker from the Youth Justice Centre at Logan called and asked if I wanted to engage in a restorative process with one of the offenders, a 15-year-old girl from Sunnybank. This young girl, sadly, came from a family that desperately needed help. Labor's youth justice and child safety systems had failed her and her siblings. Queensland's youth justice system is failing young people, victims and the community at large.

Some members in this House have raised concerns about the toughness of these laws, citing human rights concerns—I acknowledge that there have been submissions made to that effect throughout the hearing process. One of my constituents—in fact many of my constituents, constituents like Eric—feels the legislation does not go far enough. He has suggested we should increase and mandate minimum sentences. While the LNP's approach includes tougher laws, it is equally focused on providing early intervention, support and rehabilitation for young people who need to get their lives back on track. I am so pleased to see that the member for Currumbin has been appointed as the Minister for Youth Justice and will be overseeing the policies that we have announced in respect of restorative justice.

I am especially proud of Marco Renai and the team behind MOB—Men of Business—based in my electorate of Southport. For more than 14 years, Marco's dedication has transformed the lives of hundreds of young men through discipline, support, love and encouragement. Each year, the majority of these young men graduate, secure a job, obtain their driver's licence and find a pathway to a better future.

In closing, I just want to say that rules matter. Rules should mean something. The ambiguity and leniency that have characterised our legal system in recent years have been both confounding and confusing for our young people. As a father of four boys I know only too well that young people need boundaries, clear rules, guidance and an understanding of right from wrong. This legislation provides that clarity and reinforces the values of responsibility and accountability. I commend the Making Queensland Safer Bill to the House.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (3.31 pm): Today I rise to represent the voice of Far North Queensland in support of the Making Queensland Safer Bill. Crime in Far North Queensland is one of the biggest reasons that I stepped up to represent the people of Barron River. Crime is damaging the hearts and minds of our residents and the passion and success of small business. Worst of all, it is lowering the standard we expect of the next generation. When children in our community constantly see that their fellow youth can get away with doing the wrong thing, it lowers the standard. When children in our community can commit serious crimes and have no consequences, it shows that the rules do not apply to them. How is that fair? We get what we tolerate and we must not tolerate youth crime anymore.

Far North Queensland has long been dubbed 'the scary place' due to stingers, cyclones, crocodiles and having eight of the deadliest wildlife in the globe. In Far North Queensland, the thing that scares us most of all are 10- to 17-year-olds who are repeat youth offenders. Our tourists are being robbed by day and by night and are cutting short their holidays in Far North Queensland because they feel unsafe. Our bus drivers, taxidriver and train drivers are having rocks thrown at their windows as they drive. A young child visiting from Asia recently ended up with a serious head injury and in hospital instead of on holidays. Our business operators are losing thousands of dollars in revenue and productivity and are constantly worried about the safety of their clients and their staff.

The changes we are making have been developed from speaking and listening to thousands and thousands of Queenslanders who are sick of feeling unsafe in their homes, in their businesses and in their community. All of us on this side of the chamber have spoken to countless victims of crime. We have also spoken to police officers, lawyers, youth workers, teachers, business owners, parents and many experts who are begging for these changes.

A 14-year-old criminal has been committing repeated crimes on one family in my electorate for two years. This youth criminal has a 100-year ban from one of our major shopping centres due to their criminal behaviour. This person has stabbed a bus driver and caused emotional, mental and physical harm to many in our community without the consequences the community expects.

Holloways Beach is a suburb in my electorate that has had eight months of unprecedented crime. One couple leave their home for work at 3 am. They are that scared for anyone to know they have left their home that they leave with the lights of their vehicle off. They drive their car out of the driveway with the headlights off so that the known youth criminals on their street are unaware they have left for the day. If any of the neighbours go to the police they are harassed, abused and intimidated.

Two nights ago, one of our aged-care facilities, filled with our most vulnerable residents, was broken into at four o'clock in the morning by repeat youth offenders. I have had South Africans say that they feel crime is worse here than in their homeland. The fact is: when these repeat youth offenders are in detention, crime in our region drops. When they are released, crime increases again. What more evidence do we need?


There are 78 serious repeat youth offenders in Far North Queensland who in the past 12 months have committed at least 6,829 crimes—the most in the state. That is over 20 offences a day in Far North Queensland for the past 12 months. Most businesses and people do not even report anymore because there is nothing done, so these figures are much higher. It is easy for those in South-East Queensland to think that youth crime is not an issue, but in regional Queensland, especially Far North Queensland, it is destroying our cities. Across Queensland, serious repeat offenders make up 19 per cent of offenders but are responsible for more than 50 per cent of the offences committed. The police desperately want these laws. The small business community desperately want these laws. The community desperately want these laws. The people of Far North Queensland have had an absolute gutful of the soft laws that allow repeat youth offenders to continue to cause pain, damage and trauma to the citizens of our beautiful city.

One of the first lessons parents teach toddlers is that tea is hot or that stairs are dangerous. Children learn the hard way and learn to be cautious when there is a consequence for their action. When there are no consequences and there is a reward for bad behaviour, that behaviour will continue to escalate. This is how we have ended up here. We are creating a generation of kids with no

self-responsibility. These youth criminals know the law and how to get past it. These youth criminals are not scared about breaking the law because they know that the rules do not apply to them. These youth criminals are not scared of the police. Things must change. We must put the rights of victims first and turn injustice into justice.

We are not only making these laws for the children who deserve to do adult time for their adult crime; we are also doing so much that will help Far North Queensland. We have the Staying on Track program; \$50 million for the nine Regional Reset programs; Circuit Breaker Sentencing; and \$40 million for two youth justice schools, one of which will be in Far North Queensland.

The Making Queensland Safer Laws are the laws we need. They are the laws this community expects and they are the laws that will see the change that Queenslanders, especially those in Far North Queensland, all desperately want. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.38 pm): I rise to contribute to this important debate on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. In doing so, I begin by acknowledging all Queensland victims of crime, whether they are in the gallery of the Legislative Assembly or watching this debate online, whether they live in our big cities or in our small country towns or whether even they serve in this chamber, and here I refer to the members for Cooper and Capalaba.

As someone who has practised law, including in criminal and associated jurisdictions, and served as a state MP, as a former cabinet minister and as an active member of my community, I have met regularly with victims of crime, most recently two days before the state election and in the weeks following. I have seen the impact crime has on Queenslanders. I acknowledge the pain, anguish, despair and powerlessness felt and experienced by victims of crime, some of whom live with that pain and heartache for a lifetime. I also want to acknowledge and thank members of this House for their contributions to this debate, particularly members of the state opposition, who have spoken passionately and thoughtfully about crime and its consequences in this state.

For the entire duration of my public life, I have firmly believed that governments should be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. I have not just believed it; I have been part of Labor governments that have acted on that belief. Labor created the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council, which acts to provide advice, guidance and victim perspectives on the criminal justice and youth justice systems. Labor appointed the state's first Victims' Commissioner, giving victims of crime and advocates a real voice—a commissioner whose sole responsibility is to champion the rights of victims of crime, providing a platform for their voices to be heard and their lived experiences to be understood.

As treasurer I was part of a Labor government that provided record funding to support victims of crime. As treasurer I was part of a Labor government that provided record funding to our police and frontline youth justice personnel, giving them the resources they needed to be tough on crime and its causes in our communities. As treasurer I was part of a Labor government that provided funding for the Community Safety Plan—a plan that supported stronger laws in our courts and provided more police boots on the ground, more police equipment in hands and more police choppers in the sky to help keep our communities safe. As treasurer I was proud to be part of a Labor government that prioritised early intervention and prevention to divert young people from crime and antisocial behaviour.

I also want to thank all members of the Queensland Police Service for the work they do across Queensland. In particular, I thank our hardworking police in the City of Logan who work so hard to keep our community safe, including the people of the state electorate of Woodridge and the state electorate of Logan, amongst many others in that great city. I thank them for their hard work and dedication and for their tireless commitment to deep community engagement in our schools and in our many faith and multicultural communities. I acknowledge the work they do to address crime and its causes in our community of Woodridge.

Crime in all its forms is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to all members of this parliament. It is unacceptable to the Labor opposition. It is unacceptable to Queenslanders.

Our responsibility as legislators is to shape the laws that will shape the future. Good law is born from good process. The parliamentary process supporting this bill leaves an enormous amount to be desired. Proper consideration of this bill by the parliament and by the people of this state would have significantly improved this bill, in my view, and if the Premier had not kept secret the bill he had drafted prior to the election—draft laws he should have released for proper public consultation and consideration as early as possible. On 3 October, during the course of the first leaders' debate, the then opposition leader and now Premier said—

I have written the legislation, by the end of the year it will be law.

Unless this was a complete fabrication, at the time of that debate the Premier had not only developed the framework for the legislation; he had in fact drafted the legislative proposal now before the House. 'I have written the legislation,' he said. Premier Crisafulli has, on many occasions, stated that he would treat Queenslanders with 'decency and respect'. The Premier promised on many occasions that he would govern in an honest and accountable fashion. The Premier also stated on multiple occasions that 'when I say something it will mean something'. If any or all of this is true, and if the Premier can be taken at his word, then during the course of an election campaign the Premier kept secret from the people of Queensland legislation he had written, which meant Queenslanders were unable to properly consider the substance, form and effect of the legislation he had prepared. In my view, this conduct by the then opposition leader and now Premier during the course of an election campaign to hide from Queenslanders the legislation, in his words, he had written was not only unacceptable but also unforgivable.

The impact of the Premier's decision to keep secret his legislation is magnified when we consider the submissions lodged with the parliamentary committee. Almost every single submission made to the committee chastises the government for its failure to allow proper consideration of this bill. There were just two business days for community members, victims of crime, health and wellbeing experts and legal experts to provide their feedback on the bill.

In a submission to the committee on the government's failure to allow proper consultation for this bill, Professor Tamara Walsh from the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland spoke for so many when she said—

I wish to express my disappointment that the call for submissions was made on Friday 29 November 2024 with an expectation that responses be received by Tuesday 3 December 2024. This cannot be considered an effective consultation process. Given the gravity of these issues, and the significant ramifications for vulnerable children, this should be considered unacceptable.

As a parliament, we must ensure that the laws we pass do not result in unintended consequences for the people that we represent. Evidence provided to the committee outlines some of the serious unintended consequences for the proposed legislation because of the rushed nature of the process.

Stakeholders have raised serious concerns about such unintended consequences on victims of crime, including the potential for victims to have increased and unnecessary ongoing involvement in court proceedings outside what would ordinarily be required. As I said earlier, the Labor opposition will always support victims and their rights. It is therefore incumbent on all members of this House to ensure that these laws do not negatively exacerbate the experiences of victims within the criminal justice system. As outlined by the Queensland Law Society in their submission, unfortunately the provisions contained within this bill 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'.

In a submission to the committee, YFS CEO Christopher John said—

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.


I thank YFS, who work in and around my electorate of Woodridge, for the work they do to support vulnerable residents, including to support both victims of crime as well as young people and adults both at risk of and in contact with the criminal justice system.

These comments made by YFS on the provisions of restorative justice are supported by further submissions made by other experts and committees, including the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council. The evidence and expert advice is clear that restorative justice has a positive impact within the criminal justice system in Queensland. It is indeed greatly disappointing that the government has made the decision to ignore expert legal advice and other advice and proceed with the removal of restorative justice orders as an option for offenders.

This week in the parliament the shadow attorney-general, the member for Gaven, sought to move reasoned amendments on behalf of the opposition. That is because the scope of this bill vastly exceeds any mandate secured by the LNP at the state election and makes significant changes to the justice and youth justice processes in this state that were not identified by the LNP during the election or indeed until the introduction of this bill in the parliament on 28 November 2024. The amendments to be moved by the opposition were to allow proper consideration for certain clauses of the bill which, in their current form, fail to address fundamental flaws, including those raised by legal and sectoral experts during the two days available to them.

The state opposition, the Labor opposition, will always stand with and by victims of crime. We support the passage of strong laws that support the rights of victims and keep communities safe across Queensland, but we support process and due diligence to ensure these strong laws work for the people of Queensland. As many of my colleagues have outlined—

(Time expired)

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise today to speak on this important and history-making bill. On 26 October Queenslanders were very clear. They voted for change and they voted for a fresh start, with the issue of youth crime being at the absolute forefront of their minds. We listened to the people of Queensland and I listened to the people of Caloundra. The number of people who have been impacted by youth offenders is significant and cannot be ignored. People have the right to feel safe in their own homes and in their own beds and feel like their families are safe.

People have had enough. I will say it again for the benefit of those on the other side: people have had enough. They are not willing to wait until after Christmas or February or June; they were fed up a long time ago. They were fed up with a government that refused to listen to this crisis. The Making Queensland Safer Bill is about putting the rights of victims in front of the rights of perpetrators. We have listened to the other side talk about rights a lot this week—the rights of the offenders.

Being a victim of crime is a traumatic experience for everyone. I spoke to one family in Caloundra who had three cars stolen, but the offenders also stole clothing and other personal belongs. It did not stop there. For weeks afterwards those youth offenders, who were repeat offenders known to police, sent photos to the teenage children of that family through social media and continued to terrorise them.


Another family with three young children asleep inside had a group of offenders ram their electric gate and their garage and disable the tracking device on their car, all in under two minutes. When the car was located the following day some 300 kilometres away, it was the responsibility of the victim to pick up their car and return it home. On top of that, they had to do a house and contents insurance claim and a car insurance claim for the gate, the car and the garage door. It was the cost, the inconvenience and the time-wasting burden that fell to the victim. Once again, those offenders were known to police.

A third family—these families were all within a 500-metre radius—experienced two cars being stolen. Upon reviewing the camera footage afterwards they could see the offenders enter their home not once and not twice but five times. The disrespect for victims is shameful. We all have hundreds of stories. We have stories in Caloundra of sports clubs being targeted, the clean-up being done by volunteers. Businesses incur the cost of this youth crime crisis, which is an extra cost they simply do not need, all whilst trying to make a living. I heard from one mum who, in broad daylight, had four youth offenders attack her front door with hammers while she was inside with her toddler.

We have heard the other side deny the youth crime crisis, deny the facts and ignore the reality. I have one message for them. I was outside my own home on a Saturday night. I walked back inside to find a man standing in my house whilst my children were asleep upstairs. He was not meant to be there. He was bigger than me; he was taller than me. He was standing inside my home. It turns out that this offender was 17 years and 11 months old and therefore he was dealt with by the juvenile system. Despite the fact that there were fingerprints, there was CCTV footage, he was known to police and he was a repeat offender, due to detention being a last resort he was basically free to keep reoffending. No-one can tell me that that offender did not know what he was doing.

The proposed laws are tough, but after weakening the laws for almost a decade the previous government has done nothing but watch the youth crime crisis get worse and worse. All of these victims have something in common. They have worked hard to have a roof over their heads. They love their home but no longer feel safe there. No-one has the right to take that away.

Our government is not proposing these new laws without addressing the reasons some kids fall into a life of crime. We are investing significantly in early intervention programs to give every young Queenslander the chance to succeed. We are setting up a generation to succeed. Accountability—from our Premier all the way down to the individual Queenslander—is exactly what this state is desperately crying out for. There is nothing wrong with every single one of us in this great state being responsible for our own actions.

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.53 pm): I rise to address the Making Queensland Safer Bill. Every Queenslander deserves to be safe and feel safe. I have repeatedly said that, including in this House. I have repeatedly said that crime is unacceptably high. That is what

Queenslanders tell me. It is the message I heard in my travels throughout the state, at community town halls and at the election. Queenslanders voted for the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time policy. They supported increased maximum sentences for young people who commit a range of serious offences.

Those four words, though, have been expanded into 52 pages of significant changes that make Queensland's already complex justice and youth justice legislative landscape even more complex. The legal system, police and stakeholders have not had an opportunity to properly scrutinise these changes. We as an opposition will not stand in the way of the Crisafulli government implementing their Adult Crime, Adult Time policy before Christmas. That is what Queenslanders were promised and voted for. We accept that, regardless, the government is determined to use its big parliamentary majority to ram these changes through.

It is clear from stakeholders that, due to the short window for review and consultation, there may be a number of unintended consequences which could be borne by the people we should be putting first: victims of crime. The unintended consequences of the Making Queensland Safer Bill deserve to be properly fleshed out before becoming law because the damage could be difficult to take back—damage to victims of crime and to Queensland children who, instead of being given opportunities to take the right path, could be unnecessarily criminalised. By and large, Queensland kids are good kids, but the causes of youth crime are as complex as the world they are growing up in. To tackle that challenge we need strong action in prevention, intervention and detention, but we also need to improve access to health care, education, housing and support services. We know that the only real way to turn the corner is with evidence-based solutions.

This bill as it stands takes a punitive approach to what is very much a social issue. It is not unique to Queensland. The Labor caucus will not stand in the way of the LNP implementing its laws by Christmas as it promised, but we will give voice to the concerns of experts like the Queensland Mental Health Commission, which agreed that harsher sentences have little to no effect in deterring youth crime—the very experts the LNP government promised to listen to.

Before the election Queenslanders were told by this Premier that the laws were already drafted. That was on 3 October. Had the LNP government released the laws then, stakeholders would have had 10 weeks to consider their implications. Instead, they did not even get 10 days. The committee held just two public meetings, meaning many important stakeholders—like the Queensland police or the Victims' Commissioner—could not attend. Now these laws will be rammed through the parliament by this government without any regard to parliamentary processes.

A common thread of feedback from stakeholders across the board was the unintended consequences that could come from the bill with such little time to truly understand the implications. Legal Aid Queensland said it was 'unable to provide comprehensive feedback noting the very limited window for consultation and the nature and magnitude of the amendments being proposed'. The Queensland Mental Health Commission said—

It is noted the short timeframe for consultation on the Bill may lead to unintended consequences.

The Victims' Commissioner noted the timeframe was unrealistic for stakeholders, including victims, who, from their lived experience, would have valuable contributions to make. The Queensland Law Society said—

Due to the limited time to review the legislation, there may be unintended consequences that we have not identified.

As outlined in the statement of reservation, we are aware that the bill as proposed will lead to overcrowding in detention centres and watch houses. The Premier admitted in a press conference just last week that his government was aware of this. That leads to both safety issues and workplace health and safety concerns for frontline officers in these facilities.

Queenslanders did not vote for laws that would put victims on trial, and that is what the legal sector is saying will happen with the proposed change to sentencing principles. We will see fewer pleas, more trials, delays to the court process and more victims facing cross-examination—that is, barristers probing over a victim's trauma again and again. As the 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.

The Bar Association—an organisation that represents those who are in the courthouse day in, day out—said in their submission to the committee—

The consequences 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


The Queensland Law Society said it will result in an—

- increased burden on court registries in regards to an increase in applications filed to cross examine victims;
- increase in court time to hear and determine these applications;

For laws that purport to put victims first, it is clear that further work is required to understand how these changes will impact victims.

The amendments that we as an opposition have put forward would allow for the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time policy to become law by Christmas without risking these unintended consequences for victims. I said from day one that we would not stand in the way and we will not. We sought from day one though to work constructively with the government to achieve their objective, but the government chose wedge politics over parliamentary process. The opposition have repeatedly sought to provide greater scrutiny of the impact these laws will have on victims. The government will use their majority to block that. We will be seeking to move reasonable amendments to make the laws better, but the government will use their majority to block that. We will seek to enshrine victim number reporting into the laws—a metric the Premier has staked his success on—and the government will use their majority to block that. We offered to sit longer and later; the government used their majority to make sure they could get to drinks on time tonight.

We want to protect victims from suffering further trauma and support them to recover—not put them on the stand. The government have repeatedly used their majority to block that. We want a proper process to allow experts to have the time they need to properly examine the impacts of these laws and to legislate a review, and it looks as though the government will use their majority to block that. That is a shame and a disappointing way for this new Premier to start this term. It is not a very fresh start, if you ask me.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (4.02 pm): I stand to speak on the Making Queensland Safer Bill, and what a great pleasure it is. I heard every day during the campaign that this is what Mackay wanted—a fresh start. Many in the House will know that I was a police officer and in this role I served the community by visiting victims and assisting them with getting advice and support. Often I was given the opportunity to hear the backstory to the crime. At this point it would be remiss of me not to thank the police officers in Mackay and the support staff in general duties, detectives, commissioned officers in management and the whole of the Mackay police district. To say that they do a wonderful job is an understatement.

Let me describe one lady I visited and I think members will agree that she needs strong laws to protect her from youth crime. Erika is in her late 80s. She lives alone in a modest ground floor unit in the heart of South Mackay and she has been broken into four times recently. I will give a little bit of background. Erika was a Jew in Germany just before the Second World War. Through some careful planning by her father, her family was spared the concentration camps but her father did die during the war. After the war she saw Joseph Stalin while he was organising the blockade of Berlin and the subsequent Berlin Wall was built as a result. Erika and her brother left Germany soon after to seek a better life in the USA. Later they moved to Australia—to Hobart first, then to Katherine in the Northern Territory and then to Mackay where she nursed for at least 30 years.

Erika had never been a victim of youth crime up until this point in her senior years. The first break-in at her house was when she was taking an afternoon nap on her living room chair. Youths entered through the unlocked door and stole cash, her wallet and her phone. She woke as they were leaving as she screamed something maybe not so polite in German. Erika was advised by the police to lock her door from then on. Erika did but weeks later the youths returned and broke through the door, terrifying Erika. This time they left with jewellery worth hundreds of dollars. Erika then organised to have some deadlocks installed and the frame of her door fixed. Erika's next break-in was a month or so later when they forced these new locks. Thankfully, she was not at home this time; she was in hospital.

During one of my visits as a police officer in the crime prevention office, Erika told me that she imagined the next time the youths came to her home she would be killed. When interviewed on 8 August 2024 when the now Queensland Premier was visiting Mackay, Erika referred to her break-in and said, 'Whenever I think of this I start shaking. It is affecting my health.' On the same Channel 7 media bulletin, the current opposition leader and former premier said—

Youth crime has turned a corner and is approaching record lows in most parts of the state.

Well, not in that part of the state where Erika lives, and not in the suburbs of Beaconsfield, North Mackay, Glenella, Andergrove, Slade Point or South Mackay—or Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa or Rockhampton. Do I need to continue?


Even this week, Matthew and Cassandra from North Mackay let me know of an alleged break-in which resulted in the theft of their vehicle. Not only do they allege that their vehicle was stolen, but the offenders allegedly stole the Christmas presents sitting under the Christmas tree that were intended for their grandchildren. These presents had been purchased during the year and were recently wrapped for this Christmas celebration. Cassandra said—

I love Christmas and I love my family and I love putting a lot of time and effort into selecting gifts they will love—and for every single one of them to be stolen by these scumbags is disgusting. Some of these gifts will mean nothing to them—what do they want with a canvas photograph of my daughter's cat. Or size 1 Bluey pajamas?

The laws that the LNP are proposing will protect people like Erika, Cassandra and Matthew because there will be consequences for actions. There will not be a chance for the same youth to return to the same victim and continue the terrorising behaviour.

The Crisafulli government is putting the rights of victims ahead of the offenders and making it crystal clear to youth offenders that if they commit an adult crime they will serve serious adult time. Just because the police are getting better at catching these offenders does not mean we remain with a status quo. We need to strengthen the bail laws, we need consequences for actions and we need to intervene early in the lives of vulnerable children. We need to also break the cycle of reoffending and help the young people reintegrate into the community, giving them every opportunity to turn their lives around and be a responsible member of society. We need the Making Queensland Safer Laws now. We do not need to hear statements like what Cassandra said recently: 'Currently these scumbags know they're untouchable.' I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Just before I call the next speaker, I advise members of the House that television pool cameras will be filming portions of the second reading debate of the Making Queensland Safer Bill this afternoon.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (4.08 pm): I rise to speak to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 on behalf of the thousands of victims of crime I have spoken to since my election in 2015. I have lost count of the number of times I have stood up in this place to speak about this issue, to be their voice in the Queensland parliament. I can say to all those victims that your voices have been heard and today a bill will be passed which takes into consideration your concerns and your issues. This demonstrates unequivocally that the Crisafulli LNP government is taking action and delivering on the promise we made during the recent election.

Time after time, residents have gathered to tell their stories, I have attended protest rallies in places like Townsville, I have been in places like Cairns to hear from victims, and we have heard during the course of this debate many of those stories from members of parliament. This bill—to introduce Adult Crime, Adult Time, to remove the principle of detention as a last resort and to ensure victims are included on the Victim Information Register—is important. It is a first step and there is more to come. Over the coming months members will see the intervention strategies, the programs and the policy rollout which underpins this particular bill that we are debating today.

Let me be very clear: this is the first step of many. While those opposite were in power, there were more than 5,000 charges of assault laid against juveniles in the Northern police region. While those opposite were in power, almost 7,000 charges of unlawful use of a motor vehicle were laid against juveniles in the Northern police region. Again while those opposite were in power, more than 12,300 charges of unlawful entry were laid against juveniles in the Northern police region. These numbers represent real people—real victims—and in many cases they will live with the lifelong impacts of those offences on individuals, families and businesses.


Let's talk about that suffering. There is an undeniable financial effect, but it is more than that. It is about a soldier who served his country who said that he felt safer on the streets of Mogadishu than on the streets of Townsville. The defining moment for me in this whole sorry campaign was that image in Townsville of police vehicles being driven under code 2 authority—lights and sirens—being chased by stolen vehicles. Think about that. How could we get that so wrong? What does it say to that community when police vehicles are being chased by stolen vehicles—when they are being rammed, when police officers' lives are being put at risk? It is about that single mum who contacted my office after her car was stolen and burned who could no longer drive her kids to school. She had to catch a taxi every day to take her kids to school.

Those opposite had multiple opportunities to address this issue. We raised it constantly. We spoke about it constantly in this place. Instead, in just three years we saw the number of serious recidivist offenders increase by nearly 25 per cent. Many will remember the former member for Capalaba describing the youth crime crisis as a media beat-up. What some may forget is that more than eight years ago the police minister told the people of Townsville that they—and I quote from the *Townsville Bulletin*—'had themselves to blame for the sky-high crime'.

The good news is that Queensland has a new government that puts the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders. We know that there is a great deal more work that needs to be done, but this is an important first step and it will send a very loud and very clear message right across Queensland that we are serious about doing something about this issue.

This government is making Queensland safer as a priority, and we are doing that because of consultation with communities across this state and because of the clear mandate given to this government by the people of Queensland on 26 October. This bill is step 1 in restoring community confidence. We have always maintained, since day one, that there needs to be consequences for actions. When these laws come into effect and those first offenders are sentenced under these new provisions, people will soon come to realise that there is a new government in Queensland and that we are serious about doing something about this. We have always maintained consequences for actions, and that is what is underpinning this particular legislation.

I could go on, but I am mindful of time. I fully support this bill before the House. I commend it to the House. I am proud to be able to stand here today and say finally to all those victims that we are doing something about it.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the debate of this legislation. At the outset I have to say that, while I want better outcomes for victims of crime—we all do—I worry about what will be some of the negative impacts of this bill as it stands. Queenslanders have big hearts. We see that every day. We see it when our communities are impacted by natural disasters—flooding, bushfires, cyclones. We see it at Christmas time, when donations flood in for gift hampers and essential goods for families doing it tough. We see it in the giving of care bags and toys for kids entering foster care and in so many other ways. I know that Queenslanders have big hearts. That is why I was not surprised to hear so many reservations about this bill as it was rushed through our parliamentary scrutiny processes—reservations that children may lose the chance for rehabilitation or the chance to atone for their mistakes in a productive way; reservations that children may lose any chance of learning from their mistakes with care and support from their community; reservations about the impact of privacy breaches on children during court processes and, for some children, the trauma of talking about their abuse or neglect as a precipitating factor to crime whilst on the witness stand in front of the media. These are just some of the issues that were raised during the government's brief consultation process.

I heard these same reservations in my own community during the election period. I will never forget arriving to attend Narangba Valley State High School Seniors Celebration Showcase Awards Night and seeing the LNP's big Adult Crime, Adult Time truck parked right outside the school. I do not know what the intention was, and I am sure it was not what it came across as, but I thought it was in poor taste, and I was not alone. Quite a few parents and teachers remarked to me that night on the inappropriateness of it.

No-one ever wants to wake up and find that their car has been stolen—and I have had that happen to me twice—or feel the terror of someone entering their home with ill intent. Nobody wants to be a victim of crime, but, beyond that basic principle, no-one wants to hear of crimes being committed against them by a child. Perhaps we get so outraged when it does happen partly because it forces us to examine how a child could be driven to such desperation—such an extreme measure as committing a crime, especially serious crimes like motor theft, assault or breaking and entering—in the first place.

In this debate we have not heard much from the LNP about the role of parents or families in preventing youth crime; nor have we heard much about the role they might be expected to play in the gold standard early intervention measures promised by the LNP—interventions, it has been acknowledged by the LNP, including in the committee's report on this bill, which must sit alongside this legislation to successfully achieve a reduction in youth crime.

I will read out the KPIs outlined by the LNP on 30 September 2024 for programs which are seeking government funding to deliver early intervention programs. No. 1 is 90 per cent of kids do not commit crime during the program and in the 12 months after completion. No. 2 is 75 per cent school or training attendance rate or, where applicable, holding down employment. No. 3 is 100 per cent of participants engage in community engagement or outreach activities to build connections into local communities. No. 4 is 100 per cent of participants have regular contact with participants each week of the program.

It is unclear to me what that last point actually means, but I am sure the words 'parent' and 'family' are not included in these KPIs or anywhere else in that press release, or in the press release about the LNP's special assistance schools, though there was one mentioned in the Regional Reset intervention announcement where the LNP explained that a parent could refer their own child to the program. Apart from that, there is not one mention of the importance of partnering with parents and families to support kids with challenges or special needs in the education system, in rehabilitation or in intervention processes themselves. Clearly, the gold standard does not require family input.

Through the development of this legislation and its companion interventions, I also cannot see any consideration for the fact that a kid might steal a car because their mum and dad have never driven them anywhere, or a kid might break into a house and steal because they have never had new shoes or steal food because there is nothing to eat at home. None of those are good ideas. None of them are good options. However, how are these kids going to get to their early intervention program? What will they wear? What will they eat?

Furthermore, in the announcement of the LNP's Regional Reset program, the now Minister for Youth Justice and Corrective Services said—

Under the program, at-risk and out-of-control youths can be temporarily pulled-out of their high-risk environments ...

For one to three weeks the LNP will pull kids who are at risk of entering the justice system out of environments the government acknowledges are 'high risk'. They will be given some skills, some wraparound support—I do not know what that looks like—and then what? Are they sent straight back to the high-risk environments that caused these kids to be identified as needing help in the first place? Will the parents and families be notified of their child's participation in these programs and expected to transport them there and pick them up afterwards? Will there be family counsel offered upon the at-risk child's reintegration to the family home as part of the wraparound support, or will the intervention simply be another entry on the child's expanded criminal history record when they are being sentenced later under this legislation? The complexities around youth crime are much deeper than the four-word slogan from which this bill was born and they are unlikely to be solved in one to three weeks, though it is interesting to compare the policy extremes here. Intervention—or helping—takes a couple of weeks but adequate punishment requires locking some kids up for life.


Lastly on interventions: we have heard the LNP, and their mates in the red union, accusing the education system of failing to keep teachers safe in classrooms, usually from kids with behavioural challenges and suggesting this explains teacher turnover. Often it is the kids with behavioural challenges who end up in conflict with the justice system, so I am keen to hear how the government is recruiting teachers for these new special assistance schools. I wonder whether they will put aside their aversion to paying teachers what they are worth for the purpose. As I said, the complexities of youth crime run deep. I do not think they can be solved without at least some examination of common family and other environmental factors among youth offenders such as domestic violence, poverty, disengagement from education, substance abuse and child neglect or abuse.

I have said before in this House that no child is born bad. I do not believe any parent sets out to do a bad job, either. On this side we know it is hard to police what occurs privately in a home. I want to thank every person on the front line of this issue—our early education workers, our teachers, our teacher aides, our hospital staff, our police force and our child safety workers—for the work you do in identifying families—kids in particular—who need intervention and support. It is not an easy thing to take that first step in probing into personal lives, but it is an incredibly important one in regard to reducing youth crime.

When we talk about the statistics on victims of crime, it would be interesting to explore how many youth perpetrators have been counted as victims themselves, and how this factors in the application by magistrates and judges for the elevation of consideration for victims in cases where they are essentially faced with victims on both sides. I want to thank the committee for acknowledging on page 15 of its report that the rate per population of young people offending since 2019 has decreased. It is interesting that any discussion about the effect of population growth on crime statistics—youth crime or otherwise—was shut down during the election, although it is a pretty natural assumption that where there are more people there will be more crime. Those parameters were reset once the now Premier said if victim numbers rose under his leadership that he would resign.


In my electorate of Kurwongbah we have heard directly from Queensland police officers that crime numbers were decreasing in our region. I have had to get police out to reassure aged residents in some of our manufactured home parks they can sleep through the night without terror, despite what they see on the news. Our police do a great job and I commend them. I look forward to seeing the transparency the LNP's promised will be the hallmark of this new government when we examine the efficacy of Adult Crime, Adult Time over the months and years to come.

There are some elements of this bill I would like to see amended. We have suggested sensible amendments to get some parts of the bill examined further by stakeholders. These amendments were informed by stakeholders' submissions. They were literally shouted down and voted down yet, I see some amendments come in now—with not long to go—that we are expected to be all over. They look quite substantive. Anyway, stakeholders wanted our amendments; the government does not want them. The government's promise of transparency and listening to Queenslanders seems to have failed at the first hurdle. I do not think that this legislation can work without strong intervention and I hope the work around the intervention measures is not rushed like this bill. I would like to also see parts beyond the four-word slogan and election pitches examined further for the sake of victims and Queenslanders.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.24 pm): I simply rise to make a contribution to a very important bill that, on 26 October this year, Queenslanders very much supported. It is a testament to what has happened in this parliament that the then government—now opposition—lost power because Queenslanders are sick to death of crime. They are sick to death of seeing on the evening news and hearing on social media about crime in their local areas. We all heard harrowing testimonies in this place—today, yesterday and the day before—about the crime that is affecting our local areas and our local constituents. Hardworking mums and dads, single parents, young people—all these families are being touched by it. That is why Queenslanders on the 26th voted for change. They voted for a Crisafulli government to come into this chamber to make a difference, to take action on crime and to take action to deal with this behaviour which is not acceptable in our society.

Yes, it is not an easy fix but there have to be consequences for actions—that is what our constituents are demanding of us. We need to do something about it in this chamber. The Liberal National Party is making those changes. They wanted these individuals to be held to account for their actions. They are sick and tired of individuals with rap sheets which go for pages continually being put out on bail and placing innocent people—our constituents—in harm's way because of their actions. We are debating this in this chamber because for nine years, Queensland has been going down a slippery slope in dealing with this crime crisis. Today we will draw a line in the sand to say 'enough is enough'. I constantly see on my local social media feeds the crime which is affecting my local area. Time and again, my office is contacted by people who say, 'Mark, we need to get tough on these individuals. They are doing whatever they like, whenever they like, and that is not acceptable in our society.'

Yes, we need early intervention. We need programs that deal with their antisocial behaviour but when you have a situation in society when there is no punishment for crime and there is a continuous revolving door, then people—our residents—become fed up. We have been debating this bill for the last three days. Whilst my contribution will be short to allow other members to have their say, I want to say to this chamber and to the people of Queensland: the Liberal National Party, the Crisafulli government, is drawing a line in the sand to take action today because enough is enough.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.28 pm): I rise to speak on the Crisafulli LNP government's so-called Making Queensland Safer Bill. The question has to be—does it? There is no doubt that Queensland, like a range of other states and territories, has been impacted by youth crime. That is well known. The impact of crime on people is a terrible thing. Many members in this debate have covered specific terrible cases, including tragedies that are just horrific. I acknowledge all those who have been victims of crime, especially those of violent crime.

When I was a teenager, our house was broken into and robbed while we were not there. We did not have much so our losses were not substantial, but there was that awful feeling that someone had invaded your space. It takes time to shake that fear and to leave it behind. While reforms to laws to address youth crime have been made by previous Labor governments, there has been a view in the community that more needs to be done to bring the rate of offending down further. That sentiment in the community was reflected in the results of the 26 October election, where seats changed hands and, indeed, the government changed hands. I certainly acknowledge constituents in my electorate of Miller who have raised with me instances of crime and youth crime that have occurred to them.

I acknowledge that the new Premier and his LNP team have a mandate based on their four-word slogan of Adult Crime, Adult Time and they have made an election promise to fix youth crime via this bill in a self-imposed timeframe of passing laws before Christmas. It is important to note that, while Premier Crisafulli has a mandate to act, he does not have a blank cheque from this parliament to wave through anything he and the government choose to put forward.

While the Premier currently enjoys a majority and leads a government, he is a leader, not a dictator, although his successful unprecedented motion without notice to gag his own party room for four years on the issue of abortion belies that, but I digress. Premier Crisafulli has already made Queensland less safe with many broken election promises in the less than six weeks since the election.

Mr Nicholls: Were you for or against it when you scurried back to the room? Another secret meeting.

Mr BAILEY: He said there would be no health cuts or Public Service job cuts, yet we see nurse-led clinics being cut. The very person who is interjecting is the person who is cutting the nurse-led clinics: the 'Clayfield cutter'. More than 40 per cent—

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. We are debating the bill and somehow health got into the mix.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I would ask you to stay relevant to the bill.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly. I am talking about whether we are making Queenslanders safe or less safe. We have seen the cutting of the Queensland Health Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme that has been successful in placing many staff in health facilities, making Queenslanders less safe. When we look at the record we see that they also cut the transfer nurse initiative in emergency departments that allows ambulances to return to the field while those nurses care for patients, making Queenslanders less safe—and that is what this bill is called. I am looking at the record of the current government, which has consistently made Queenslanders less safe.

Mr Nicholls: It's not the long title of the bill. Put it within the long title.

Mr BAILEY: I know from the number of interjections that those opposite are very sensitive. They have broken so many election promises it is very clear; it is very obvious—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly not speaking to the long title of the bill. I would ask you to bring him back to the long title of the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: I am having trouble knowing what the member for Miller is talking about due to the level of noise because I cannot hear him. Member for Miller, return to the long title of the bill.

Mr BAILEY: It has been such a shambolic process that we have seen pages of amendments at the last minute from a government making it up as they go along. There are 11 pages of explanatory notes to the amendments and 10 pages of actual clauses that have been introduced at the last minute, from a government that has rushed this bill through with a minimum amount of consultation. They are not interested in consulting Queenslanders properly across the state. They are not interested in listening to stakeholders who have raised substantial issues with this bill. That is their record on commencing this government. It is just another repeat of the Newman government's arrogance and hubris. That is what is happening here.

On their very own timetable they said that they wanted this bill to pass by Christmas. Okay, let's accept that. They said that before the election; I acknowledge that. Then why are we not here next week debating this bill to allow for another week of proper consultation with stakeholders? Why are we not doing that? It is because this government does not want to hear evidence. They do not want to hear the experiences of people in the field. They just want to ram their bill through this House. We could have had this debate next week and we would have had another week of proper consultation when stakeholders could have submitted and made their submissions.

We have seen a wide range of submissions from stakeholders, from the legal fraternity and from community organisations. However, what we did not see were submissions from the Queensland Police Service to the parliamentary committee. They are the people at the coalface of this issue and the government would not allow the Police Service to come to the parliamentary committee to present and to answer questions. What a joke. What a joke of a government that is uninterested in having the Police Service present to the parliamentary committee. How can they say they support police when they deny them that opportunity? It is a terrible start by the Attorney-General and a terrible start by Premier Crisafulli. They could be holding that next week. They could have run the parliamentary committee for a number of days in a number of different locations to consult properly and to allow stakeholders to submit.

I might add that the criticisms are not just from the legal fraternity. Dr Terry Goldsworthy was really clear in his submission about this. He 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.


Dr Terry Goldsworthy is not exactly a raging leftie. He has been very critical of this side and even he is condemning this government for rushing this through. In the feedback from stakeholders we are seeing that unintended consequences is a consistent theme being raised.

Mrs Frecklington: Which way is the member voting?

Mr BAILEY: They do not like to hear it. We hear the interjection from a member of a very insecure government. They say they are for victims, but they would not allow the Queensland Victims' Commissioner to present to the parliamentary committee. They do not want to hear from the Victims' Commissioner. If they say they are interested in victims, why was the Victims' Commissioner not given that opportunity? It is because this is an insecure government trying to ram things through. They have not changed since the Newman government. Is that leadership? Is that listening? Is that integrity? It certainly is not.

Premier Crisafulli has shown that, now he has power, it is out with the election promises and out with governing and behaving in a way that is responsible. Even on their own timetable we should have had another week of scrutiny of this bill to allow stakeholders the time to go through what is a very complex bill to ensure there are no unintended consequences. Premier Crisafulli has said that he will fix this issue. We will see, because when they rush in 25 pages of amendments at the last minute that tells me they are making it up as they go along, that there are holes in this bill that an incompetent Attorney-General, who was taken out of her old portfolio, is trying to fill at the last moment.

We know the record of those opposite. They are the same old people—the same old faces with the same old style as the former Newman government. Early in this government's term they are making the same mistakes they made last time: the arrogance and the lack of consultation. When we are talking about safety, that is the question: will this make Queenslanders safer? We will see. Time will tell and time has an integrity. They have failed to mop up the knowledge of stakeholders who are experienced in the many facets involved in this field. They have failed to consult and work with them. There will certainly be unintended consequences as a result of that. They will be coming back to this chamber to patch it up, to fix it up, to mop it up, because it has been sloppy, it has been pathetic and it has been done in a way that is arrogant and out of touch.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (4.38 pm): My 10-minute speech is now down to about a third of a page, so I will say the most important part of it and we will see how we go. Over the last three days nobody in this debate has made any mention of any Indigenous community in Queensland that might be impacted by youth crime. There are 10 Indigenous communities in my electorate which are all suffering from the impact of crime every day. A former mayor of NPARC, an elder and a father of children sent me a text today which said—

Vote for the bill for offenders. I'm in full support.


Tania Major, the 2007 Young Australian of the Year and now mother and business owner in the community of Kowanyama, sent me a text yesterday which said—

Youth crime is out of hand. My store has been broken—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cook, I am sorry to interrupt you, but I will have to ask you to resume your seat. The time has expired. Under the provisions of the—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is one person who has the call, and that is me. Under the provisions of the motion agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.40 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Whilst I stand here we are still no clearer on the divided opposition and where it is going to land, so I will take the 20 minutes to sum up this bill and those opposite may consider their position because we on this side of the House are very clear. Earlier today the Premier, Minister Gerber, Minister Purdie and I met with victims of crime. Today this bill is about them. It is about every Queensland victim of crime who has been let down over the last 10 years. At the state election the now Premier promised Queenslanders that tough new laws targeting dangerous youth offenders would be law by Christmas. We promised that it would be the very first bill of the 58th Parliament. I am proud that the Crisafulli government has kept this promise and delivered on its key commitment in the first 100 days.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill delivers on our promise to Queenslanders to restore community safety and to turn the tide on youth crime. I acknowledge the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, stakeholders and members of the public who contributed throughout the committee process. I make special mention of the many victims of crime who came forward to share their lived experience to contribute to this landmark bill. I make particular mention of the member for Capalaba for his contribution to this bill. Those of us on this side of the House have been calling for stronger action to tackle the youth crime crisis for years. For years we have heard the former Labor government downplay and diminish the lived experience of victims of crime in communities right across Queensland. Let us not forget comments such as those from the former member for Capalaba who said that the youth crime crisis was a 'media beat-up'. No wonder the people of Capalaba put a better member into this House.

It smacks of hypocrisy to hear the contributions from those opposite about what action should be taken to address youth crime in our communities. Members on this side of the House have for years taken calls, we have knocked on doors and spoken to our communities about the impact of Labor's youth crime crisis. I acknowledge the member for Thuringowa's contribution and thank her for her tireless advocacy for her community. She spoke about meeting with local police in Townsville after the election who dared hope for change, who were exhausted from dealing with the same group of repeat hardcore youth offenders. We heard from the member for Glass House who spoke about a 15-year-old boy assaulted 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 found him bleeding and unconscious. This is the reality of Labor's youth crime crisis.

The member for Southern Downs said that the people in Goondiwindi and other places are traumatised and fearful for their lives. The member for Buderim shared the story of Gillian and Kerry Taylor left broken after a terrifying home invasion by three teenagers armed with knives. We heard the story of Emma, a local GP in the member for Townsville's electorate who was dragged out of her car by her hair on a Sunday morning by a youth offender well known to police. The member for Hervey Bay said a local business owner told him that they sat through three restorative justice agreements with the same youth offender with no outcome. The member for Burdekin spoke of the soldier who said that he was safer in Mogadishu. We heard about the elderly couple from Toowoomba in the Treasurer's electorate who would sleep in shifts so that one could stay awake to stand guard. This is Labor's Queensland. This is the mess Queenslanders have asked us to fix up.

Mr Stevens: And we will.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: that is exactly what we are doing. This is the first step today.

I will now address some of the matters raised by members during the course of this debate. I will start by responding to comments made regarding the constrained timeframes. Well, what a joke! Seriously! We took Adult Crime, Adult Time to the state election with a clear promise to Queenslanders that this bill would be introduced as a matter of urgency by Christmas. We told Queenslanders that we would completely remove the principle of detention as a last resort, not just reword it like those opposite. We told Queenslanders that we would put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders. We told Queenslanders that we would allow judges and magistrates to consider a youth offender's full rap sheet, including police cautions, restorative justice agreements and breaches of supervised release orders. We told Queenslanders that we would open up the Childrens Court.

Queenslanders voted and provided the Crisafulli government with a clear mandate to act. The member for Morayfield's contribution, the opposition leader's contribution and so many other contributions from that side on this point are truly remarkable. What short memories those opposite have. It was the member for Morayfield who faced criticism from his own when he introduced and passed the Strengthening Community Safety Bill in just three weeks last year. It was the member for Morayfield who made amendments to the Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that overrode the Human Rights Act. They had not been subject to any consultation or committee process, yet he dares come into this chamber this afternoon to lecture us about process. Like I say, short memories indeed!

The committee received over 176 written submissions from stakeholders and members of the community, as well as oral evidence by witnesses in public hearings in both Brisbane and Townsville. The committee was able to consider a comprehensive body of evidence in order to complete its report. We listened to Queenslanders. They told us that Labor's youth crime crisis requires urgent attention. Queenslanders should not have to wait any longer. In his contribution to the debate, the member for Hinchinbrook asked why other offences are not captured under Adult Crime, Adult Time. As the Premier advised this House on the introduction of the bill, a panel of experts will be established early next year to advise our government on further offences which could be included in the future. This panel will include representatives from law enforcement, legal sectors and victim groups.

During this debate we heard from multiple members on the opposition the overblown claims about the impact of the bill on the victims' experience in court. I raised this with the victims whom we met with this morning. There has been some commentary regarding victims being subjected to cross-examination as a result of providing a victim impact statement. I said in my second reading speech that nothing in this bill changes the process relating to the provision and the use of a victim impact statement. Rather, it elevates the existing sentencing consideration about the impact of the offending on a victim and does not change the judiciary's discretion on this impact.

We heard the member for Gaven make, quite frankly, extremely deceptive claims on this issue. I do not know how long it has been since some of those lawyers opposite, including the shadow minister, have been in a courtroom, but this criticism just highlights their lack of knowledge on these practical, important issues.

Let me educate the shadow attorney-general and those in the opposition who have peddled these mistruths. Part 10B of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 governs how victim impact statements are given in the court. Under that act, victim impact statements are given for therapeutic benefit and not generally read under oath by the victim. Victim impact statements are provided by prosecutors to defence at sentence or prior to a matter which is already settled. Under the current laws, which we have not changed, shadow attorney-general, there is no mandatory requirement for the court to hear from a victim. The court must only take into account the impact that an offence has had on a victim.

We heard from those opposite a ridiculous argument that those victims who are less articulate than others would be disadvantaged in court. These are blatant mistruths and once again demonstrate the complete lack of understanding of the procedure and the process in these matters. Under the police Operational Procedures Manual, investigating officers assist victims of crime and make referrals to support them with their victim impact statements. This entire process is designed to help victims have their voices heard.

The bill prioritises the rights of victims over offenders. Unlike those opposite, we make no apologies for this. It is acknowledged that there are two aspects of the bill that are incompatible with human rights. Those aspects which have been identified as incompatible with human rights were clearly articulated as part of our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy prior to the state election. Queenslanders voted for these reforms. In this bill and the associated statement of compatibility and override declaration, the government has confronted the choice squarely. I find it somewhat hypocritical from some members, like the member for Cairns and the member for Cooper, having raised concerns about human rights compatibility and the bill's override of the Human Rights Act, when we know it was a Labor government that first overrode the Human Rights Act. In fact, they did that not once but twice.

Mr Purdie: You put kids in watch houses!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They did keep kids in watch houses.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, some of your own colleagues are making it very difficult to hear your contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There was commentary, including from the shadow attorney-general during the course of this debate, that the tougher penalties may mean that there is less incentive to plead guilty to an offence and that this will in turn lead to more trials. This government has committed to restoring consequences for actions and that includes adult time for adult crimes. We have these penalties in place already for adults and we will implement them for youth offenders as well. We make no apologies for that. With the exception of murder, just as occurs for adults, the court is still able to consider an early plea of guilty as a mitigating factor at sentence for youth offenders convicted of the Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. As is the case for adults convicted of murder, youth offenders convicted of murder will be subject to the mandatory minimum: life in detention. Recently we have seen too many examples of youth offenders being handed sentences that simply do not meet community expectations. We make no apologies for introducing tougher consequences for youth offenders who take Queenslanders' lives. That is what those victims and their families deserve.

I note the member for Gaven's comments about the stakeholders called by the committee during their inquiry, specifically in relation to the Queensland Police Service. Those matters, of course, are entirely a matter for the committee, but I would say to the member for Gaven: if she was so concerned about the stakeholders that the committee was calling to appear, why did she not speak to her colleague the member for Bulimba, who had a role in developing the committee's hearing program? One would think it is pretty simple.

Mrs Gerber: Or turn up to the briefing.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She could have turned up to the briefing as well.

Ms FARMER: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take some advice. The member has taken personal offence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I have been working extremely closely with not only the chair of the committee, who is a former serving police officer, but also the police minister, who was a detective. Six former frontline officers sit on this side of the chamber, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the service of all former police officers throughout this House. It is important that we acknowledge them, especially today.

The Making Queensland Safer Bill is an important part of our government's plan to restore safety where people live. We know that this is only part of the story, and that is why we are committed to addressing the youth crime crisis in Queensland at every stage: prevention, intervention and rehabilitation—something those opposite have chosen to completely ignore when they have been talking. We have committed to gold standard early intervention and to giving every child a 12-month individual rehabilitation program after detention.

Importantly, the Making Queensland Safer Bill will put victims at the heart of youth justice and ensure their voices are heard and listened to. The bill, together with other aspects of the Making our Community Safer Plan, will work in concert to restore safety where Queenslanders live, reduce victim numbers and reduce youth crime.

The government committed to removing detention as a last resort, and this bill delivers on our promise to Queenslanders. Imprisonment as a last resort remains in the Penalties and Sentences Act for nonviolent offences. That is not changed by this bill. The bill is focused on responding to the youth crime crisis created by those opposite when they changed the laws 10 years ago, creating a generation of youth offenders running riot across our streets. Today they sit in this chamber or they sit up in their office dithering about whether to keep Queenslanders safe and put victims' rights first or whether to back the offenders. It is a simple question. I thank the 16 members opposite who are considering voting with us on this side. Seriously, those 16 are the only ones who can sleep easy tonight knowing that they have fought the good fight for victims in Queensland—knowing full well that they are on the right side of history, that they came in here and voted with the Crisafulli government to keep Queenslanders safe, that they made sure their communities are kept safe.

Mr Nicholls: Where is the member for Miller?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Where is the member for Miller? Who knows? He is probably up there still trying to caucus. There is so much more that I want to say.

Mr SPEAKER: You have three minutes 20 to do it in.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Every member in this House has stood up and talked about the pain that their community is going through because of the generation of youth offenders that have grown up in the system over the last 10 years. I can recall standing in this chamber when those opposite changed the laws and we predicted this. I talked about the time when I was representing young kids in the Murgon Courthouse and they would come back and talk about the laws that they had learned in juvie.

It does not make sense that, for 10 years, they have been educating a generation of criminals who now believe that it is okay to commit offences against their fellow Queenslanders. Today we take a stand. Today we say victims are put first. Today we say Queenslanders are put first. Today the Premier delivers on the commitment that he took to the people of Queensland. Today is the day that we can make history for the justice system in Queensland.

I thank the 16 members opposite. Thank you for standing up for the rights of victims. Thank you for standing up for Queenslanders. I plead with you to do the right thing on behalf of your communities. Hold your heads up high because over the Christmas break you can say, 'I stood behind Premier Crisafulli and I am keeping my community safe.' That is exactly right.

The Crisafulli government took this to the election. We pleaded with our communities to keep Queenslanders safe. We have to put victims first. We have to say to the justice system that we need to restore the rights of Queenslanders. I say to the member for Capalaba: thank you for coming to this House. For what you have done and for the time you have taken from your family to be here with us to make this law happen, we all thank you.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the sessional order. The time allocated for the minister's speech concluded at 5 pm.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is valid. It is five o'clock.

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

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

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.



Ms SCANLON (5.07 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 40:

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.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Ms SCANLON (5.13 pm): The LNP are trashing democracy by not even allowing us to move an amendment that would allow victim numbers reported by police to be disclosed to this House. We have just seen a not-insignificant amount of amendments circulated, with just 20 minutes notice, that will effectively mean that the amendments put forward by the opposition around a review period will not be considered in this House. I think that is a shame on behalf of Queenslanders.

The clause before us deals with complex matters that may impact the operation of the Queensland Police Service. It is a shame that the government did not give the police the opportunity to give evidence before the committee. We do not know why. We respect our police. We value them. We want to hear from our police. We want to know how they will operationalise these laws. We want to ensure the LNP government has provided them with the resources and training they need to implement and be compliant with these laws. As such, I ask the police minister, the Attorney-General—frankly, anyone on that side who can answer a basic question—to answer the following questions. How will the omission of principle 18 impact arrest and bail decisions by police officers? Has the impact of these changes been modelled as against watch house capacity? Can the government assure Queenslanders that police will be trained on complying with these new laws from the moment of assent, and if not when?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It gives me such pleasure to stand in this House and talk about the impact of these laws on our hardworking police officers in Queensland. If the members opposite took the time to talk to their local police officers they would hear them say, 'Give us the laws so we can keep our community safe.' Are the police okay with being trained in these laws on how to arrest offenders? I think yes—tick. They are already doing that.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. Our police already know how to locate and arrest. They already know that. This is the difference: we on this side of the House support our hardworking police officers. Those on that side of the House—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection.

An opposition member: From your own side!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My own side; I will take that interjection. It is this side who are united and who are rock solid in backing our police officers. We did not need an emergency vote today to work it out. We did not need to caucus about it. The chair of the committee is a former police officer. The police minister, whom I am sitting beside, is a former detective. He is a former copper! The members for Lockyer, Mundingburra, Burdekin and Mackay are former police officers. Are we being informed by police? You bet we are.

We are taking these laws seriously. The shadow minister was offered consultation by the department on these laws. The shadow minister and maybe even the shadow police minister might have liked to come along to that consultation to ask some questions. Instead, they just did not show up.

The public servants who have worked on this bill need to be congratulated and thanked, and I thank them very much. A lot of work has gone into this. We on this side of the House support police officers. Are we backing the police officers? Yes. Are we supporting the police officers? Yes.

Ms Scanlon: When?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. The honourable member wants to know when we are going to support police officers. I think today. I think yesterday. I think the day before. I think from 1 November, when the police minister was sworn in as police minister after he took over from the Deputy Premier, who was the police minister for six or seven days. That was the day that the police in this state said, 'Do you know what? It is the LNP government that supports us.' If the shadow minister wants me to continue and take the time to talk about our support of our hardworking police officers, I am more than happy to.

A government member: Talk about their division.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will talk about their division. There is a former police officer on the Labor side and I thank her very much for her service to the Queensland Police Service.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is okay, police minister. I thank every former police officer in this House for their service. I also thank the future police officers who want to work for the Queensland Police Service. They know the reason the former government failed to increase police numbers in this state is that the former government did not back them. That is why the real increase in police numbers that the police minister talked about in this House this morning was only 226, as opposed to the number they committed to in the 2020 election.

We have to ask why police officers were leaving in droves—and not just to put their hands up to run for the LNP. They were not supported. The shadow minister asks me in consideration in detail how we are going to resource and support our police officers. We will do that by being a good government, by being a government that puts our police officers first and by ensuring our police officers understand that we as a government are putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders.

I spent this morning with the Premier, the youth justice minister, the police minister and a group of victims. I pay homage to those victims in the gallery today. Amongst the group are two hardworking detectives who have stood side by side with Vyleen White's family. I thank those police officers very much for their service. Thank you for supporting that family from day one. We will support you and we will continue to do that.

I note in the member for Capalaba's contribution to this debate that he thanked former police commissioner Katarina Carroll. It was Katarina Carroll, as the former commissioner, who took the time, unlike the former premier, to stop and talk to the family.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And they got rid of her. I will take that interjection. I say to those detectives, who are hopefully still sitting in the gallery, 'You have led by example and we thank you. You have helped that family.' I spoke to Vyleen's family. It is a taxing time and the support and courage of those detectives really assisted them.


I have answered the shadow attorney-general's questions. Will we support police? Yes. Are we going to continue to support police? Yes. Has the police minister contributed to this bill? Yes. Has the Minister for Youth Justice worked with the Minister for Police, the Premier, the Minister for Child Safety and me? Yes. Have we worked with the Treasurer of this great state to make sure we have the resources coming? Yes. Are we going to continue to pay our police officers? Yes. Are we going to continue to consult with our police officers? Yes. Are we going to continue to support our hardworking police service in this great state? You bet we are. The reason so many of former police officers are in this chamber on the government benches is that they know that change has to happen in this state. They know that the rights of victims should be put first. They know that there is a group of youth offenders who are lost. That is why we have said for the 13 most heinous crimes that if you do those crimes you will do adult time. That is exactly what we have said.

The police officers know that because we have been working with them. The police minister has reassured me about the conversations he has had with the Police Commissioner on this and about the training required. Like the police minister says, these police officers know what they are doing. They know how to find the criminals but they just need the laws to back them up. That is all they need. I spoke to the Cross-Border Commissioner the other day about what is going on in terms of crime in the Goondiwindi region. He was talking to me about the support that is required for police officers, shadow minister.

A good government consults, listens and works together. I know that that is a foreign concept for those opposite. The shadow attorney-general, the former housing minister, probably did not understand that she could open the door and talk to a minister on the same floor as her.

Mr Mander: No, wrong faction.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The wrong faction. Guess what, shadow minister? We are not in factions. We did not have to have a vote today about how we are going to vote on this. We are here today for the victims in the gallery. That is exactly whom we are here for today. I was asked questions about clause 10 which amends section 13 and the police officer power of arrest preserved in particular—

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the motion agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the Attorney-General, without further amendment or debate.


Question put—That clause 10, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Attorney-General to table the explanatory notes to her amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

An opposition member interjected.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (5.25 pm): The member wants me to be quick.

Mr SPEAKER: You are just tabling the documents.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I table—

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. The member for Jordan wants to get to drinks. I think this is a little bit more important. This is for the victims of crime. We are making Queensland safer and you want to go to drinks.

Mr SPEAKER: We are almost there. Please table the documents.

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

Tabled paper: Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments [\[280\]](#).

Tabled paper: Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments [\[281\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: I note the Attorney-General's amendments Nos 2, 3 and 5 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the Attorney-General's amendments Nos 1 to 12, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

1 Clause 19 (Insertion of new s 175A)

Page 18, lines 3 to 6—

omit, insert—

(b) order that the child be detained for a period not more than—

(i) if the court is not constituted by a judge—3 years; or

(ii) if the court is constituted by a judge—the maximum term of imprisonment that an adult convicted of the offence could be ordered to serve.

2 After clause 22

Page 21, after line 4—

insert—

22A Amendment of s 186 (Reference of case to Childrens Court judge for sentence)

Section 186(3), after 'section 175'—

insert—

or 175A

3 After clause 25

Page 21, after line 28—

*insert—***25A Amendment of s 214 (Limitation on cumulative orders)**

Section 214—

insert—

(1A) Subsection (1B) applies if a court constituted by a Childrens Court magistrate—

- (a) makes 1 or more detention orders under section 175 and 1 or more detention orders under section 175A against a child on the same day or in the same proceedings; or
- (b) makes 1 or more detention orders under section 175A against a child on the same day or in the same proceedings.

(1B) The court is not to direct that a detention order be served cumulatively with another of the detention orders if the total period of the detention orders would exceed 3 years.

4 Clause 26 (Amendment of s 227 (Release of child after service of period of detention))

Page 22, lines 8 to 12—

omit, insert—

(3A) If a court orders a child to serve a period of detention under section 175A—

- (a) subsections (1) to (3) do not apply; and
- (b) the court must order the child to be released from detention after serving the proportion of the period of detention that the court considers appropriate, subject to any requirement under the Criminal Code mentioned in section 175A(5) that relates to the offence.

5 After clause 29

Page 23, after line 11—

*insert—***29A Amendment of s 249 (Matters relevant to making further order)**

Section 249—

insert—

(2A) If the community based order is a community service order made under section 175A(9), the court need not, when resentencing the child for the offence for which the order was made, make another community service order.

29B Amendment of s 252D (General options available to a Childrens Court magistrate on chief executive's application)

(1) Section 252D(4) and (5), '1 year'—

omit, insert—

the prescribed period

(2) Section 252D—

insert—

(6) In this section—

prescribed period means—

- (a) for a sentence imposed under section 175A—3 years; or
- (b) otherwise—1 year.

29C Amendment of s 252E (General options available to a court if child found guilty of indictable offence)

(1) Section 252E(3)(b) and (c), '1 year'—

omit, insert—

the prescribed period

(2) Section 252E(6)—

*insert—***prescribed period** means—

- (a) for a sentence imposed under section 175A—3 years; or
- (b) otherwise—1 year.

6 Clause 38 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 37, lines 10 to 12—

omit.

7 Clause 38 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 37, lines 16 to 18—
omit.

8 Clause 39 (Insertion of new s 6)

Page 38, lines 15 to 22—
omit, insert—

- (d) all decisions, findings and orders made, and actions taken, by a court, Childrens Court judge, Childrens Court magistrate or other judicial officer—
 - (i) under section 245, 246 or 246A in relation to the child's contravention of a community based order; or
 - (ii) under section 247 on an application made by the child or the chief executive in relation to a community based order made against the child; or
 - (iii) under section 252D, 252E or 252F in relation to the child's contravention of a supervised release order.

9 Clause 39 (Insertion of new s 6)

Page 38, after line 29—
insert—

- (4) In this section—
 - action** includes a decision to take no further action.
 - child**—
 - (a) in relation to a child against whom a community based order has been made, see section 236; and
 - (b) for a child on release from detention under a supervised release order, see section 252A.

10 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 150 (Sentencing principles))

Page 43, lines 4 to 8—
omit, insert—

50 Amendment of s 150 (Sentencing principles)

- (1) Section 150(3)(e), as renumbered by this Act, 'previous offending'—
omit, insert—
criminal
- (2) Section 150, as renumbered by this Act—
insert—
 - (8A) Without limiting the matters a court may have regard to in sentencing a child for an offence, the court may have regard to any relevant matter on the child's traffic history under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*.

11 Clause 58 (Insertion of new ss 438—440)

Page 48, line 10 to page 50, line 18—
omit, insert—

58 Insertion of new ss 438—440

After section 437—
insert—

438 Admissibility and use of childhood criminal histories in sentencing adults

- (1) This section applies in relation to a proceeding against an adult for an offence.
- (2) The former Act applies to a proceeding for an appeal from a sentence that happened before the commencement.
- (3) Subject to subsection (2) and section 438A, the new Act applies in relation to a proceeding for an offence—
 - (a) whether the proceeding was started before, or is started after, the commencement of this section; or
 - (b) whether the offence was committed before, or is committed after, the commencement of this section.

- (4) In this section—

former Act means this Act as in force immediately before the commencement of the amending Act, part 4, division 3.

new Act means this Act as in force from the commencement of the amending Act, part 4, division 3.

438A Admissibility of childhood findings of guilt against an adult for particular purposes

- (1) New section 148B applies to a proceeding before a court in relation to an offence under the Criminal Code, section 328A only if the offence is committed after the commencement.
- (2) In this section—
new section 148B means section 148B as in force from the commencement of the amending Act, part 4, division 3.

438B Application of new s 150

- (1) New section 150(3)(e) and (8A) applies in relation to the sentencing of a child for an offence—
 - (a) whether the offence was committed before, or is committed after, the commencement of this section; or
 - (b) whether the finding of guilt against the child for the offence occurred before or after the commencement of this section.
- (2) In this section—
new section 150(3)(e) and (8A) means section 150(3)(e) and (8A) as in force from the commencement of the amending Act, part 4, division 3.

438C Application of new s 150A

- (1) New section 150A(2)(c)(i) and (3)(e) applies in relation to the sentencing of a child for a prescribed indictable offence—
 - (a) whether the offence was committed before, or is committed after, the commencement of this section; or
 - (b) whether the finding of guilt against the child for the offence occurred before or after the commencement of this section.
- (2) In this section—
new section 150A(2)(c)(i) and (3)(e) means section 150A(2)(c)(i) and (3)(e) as in force from the commencement of the amending Act, part 4, division 3.

439 Criminal histories

- (1) In new section 6—
 - (a) a reference to a caution does not include a caution administered to a child before the commencement; and
 - (b) a reference to a finding of guilt includes a finding of guilt against a child that occurred before the commencement; and
 - (c) a reference to a restorative justice agreement does not include a restorative justice agreement—
 - (i) made by a child before the commencement; or
 - (ii) made by a child on or after the commencement as a consequence of a referral of an offence for a restorative justice process that was made before the commencement; and
 - (d) a reference to a decision, finding, order or action of a court, Childrens Court judge, Childrens Court magistrate or other judicial officer in relation to a community based order or a supervised release order for a child does not include a decision, finding or order made, or action taken, before the commencement unless—
 - (i) an order was made for the resentencing of the child for an offence; and
 - (ii) the court ordered that a conviction be recorded against the child in relation to the offence as part of the resentencing of the child.
- (2) New section 6 applies in relation to a person—
 - (a) whether the person is a child or an adult on the commencement; and
 - (b) whether an offence committed by the person as a child was committed before, or is committed after, the commencement of this section; and
 - (c) whether a proceeding for an offence against the person as a child was started before, or is started after, the commencement of this section.
- (3) For applying section 11 of the Act in relation to a child after the commencement, a reference to a child's criminal history is taken to include any previous cautions administered to the child for an offence.
- (4) In this section—
new section 6 means section 6 as in force from the commencement.

440 Release of information to eligible persons

New part 8, division 7 applies in relation to detainee information about a child whether the violent offence or sexual offence for which the child has been detained was committed before or after the commencement.

12 Clause 59 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 50, lines 19 to 22—

omit, insert—

59 Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary)

(1) Schedule 4—

insert—

criminal history, of a child, see section 6.

(2) Schedule 4, definition *applicant*, 'section 282A(2)'—

omit, insert—

section 282BA(1)

(3) Schedule 4, definition *nominee*, 'section 282A(4)'—

omit, insert—

section 282BA(3)

Question put—Clauses 11 to 60 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (5.32 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 18 February 2025.

Valedictory

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (5.33 pm): I rise for the final time this year in this place to do two things: firstly, to wish everyone all the best for the festive season; and, secondly, to thank everyone for their contribution this year and today, on what is an historic day in the presence of some great Queenslanders here to see what has just occurred.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for accepting the role of the Speaker of this parliament. In your opening speech we saw the kind of person you are and the values you hold. The way you have conducted yourself in this House in your short tenure in the job has reinforced our views of the sort of person you are. Your Deputy Speaker and Panel of Temporary Speakers hold important jobs because this place must function as a house of good debate, robust debate and respectful debate, and I thank you and your Deputy Speakers panel for providing that.

To all of the 24 new MPs to this parliament, 22 for the first time, I say welcome. In the opening of the parliament we saw the historic tradition that is the first sitting of this place. It was wonderful to see the families of the new MPs join those who are returning to this place in marking this special occasion.

I will go through a couple of the milestones that Parliamentary Service staff have reached. It is poignant to do that and to reflect, because without their service we do not have a functioning parliament: Michael Caisley, Morayfield electorate office, 15 years of service; Gail Easton, Office of the Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison, 15 years; Patricia Griffin, Coomera electorate office, 15 years; Annemarie Groth and Kelli Longworth in Committees and Michelle Yoon in Financial and Administrative Service, all 15 years; Michelle Dippelman, Payroll, 20 years; Margaret Telford,

Committees, 20 years; Jo Mathers, Chief Hansard Reporter, 30 years; and Azra Besic, Cleaning Services, 40 years. I also acknowledge Andrea Musch, Angie Jones, Rob Hansen and Michael Watkin, who retired from the Parliamentary Service this year. We know that Michael is enjoying his retirement. All of them have 30 to 35 years of outstanding service to the parliament. They are a credit to this House.

I will firstly address the 93 members in this place. All of you are here because you have a special connection with your community. Whilst we all serve in different capacities, in the end our respective communities have seen something in all of us. We are all part of a really important institution, and every one of you should understand the weight that you have on your shoulders in serving your community and, when we come together, in serving the state. I congratulate all of you on that.

To the opposition leader and his team I wish all the best for Christmas, particularly to you and your family. I do hope you take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family. It is an important time of year to do that.

To my team, both the returning and the new: thank you for the way you have started this term. The energy that you have all displayed in your respective roles has been nothing short of amazing. I was listening to the contributions of the new members, and I am very confident that your communities have made great choices in all of you. I am very proud to have those members of the LNP on our team and to listen to the diversity of their skill sets. Their passion for their electorates is something I am particularly proud of.

I do not have a favourite MP but my dad does. He was watching and he took great pride in seeing a migrant from Greece stand up in this place. It is a great shame for the member for Gympie, because the member for Gympie was my dad's favourite as a farmer, but he has been replaced. Dad is particularly pleased there is someone in the House who can pronounce his surname correctly, which is quite marvellous.

Deputy Premier, your strength and resolve, the way that you shepherd the team—we would not be here if it were not for your contribution. It was a tough four years, and so much of the way we stayed unified and focused rested on your shoulders. We are very different people. We have very different interests. It took me a quarter of an hour to explain to him what a nightwatchman was. Alas, he may not have the same sporting interests, but we do have the same interests for Queensland and I want to thank him very much.

Leader of the House, you are an ideal person to do this job. Your knowledge of the standing orders and your understanding of the chamber and the way you are respected by this place puts you in a stead to do that very well.

To the staff in the Premier's office and indeed all ministerial offices: thank you for your service. To the staff in my electorate office who do an amazing job—and in all of our electorate offices: we are all in this place, yet the show goes on in our respective electorates, and that shows the kind of people who operate in them.

To the Public Service, my message to you is one of thanks. The way the transition to government has happened has only been possible because of you, and we respect and value what you do. Whilst it is important for everyone to get a break wherever possible, there are many public servants who will not get that opportunity this Christmas—whether they work in a hospital, on the front line wearing a blue uniform, as a firefighter or indeed as someone who will have to be there to pick up the pieces when Mother Nature goes through. Whoever you are, whatever you do, Queensland is a better state because of the quality of the Public Service we have in this state.

To the media gallery—

A government member: To Hayden there on his own.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Hayden, there are times that we agree with you. I remember both of them. To everyone in the gallery, thanks for what you do in keeping the democratic institutions alive and well.


A government member: Madura has come in.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Madura, one of those two times belonged to you. To Lydia Lynch, who will be leaving us, we wish her all the best as she goes to enjoy life in a wonderful country. Kate McKenna and Rachel Riga are remaining with the ABC but will not be in this place. They will be going to general rounds and we wish them all the best.

To my family: I made the point on election night that I am far from the best parent in my household. The best parent in my household joins us today and I want to welcome her here today. Thank you, Tegan. We do a really good job of keeping two daughters as normal as they possibly can be, despite their father's choice of profession. We are very proud of the young women they are. Campaigns are pretty tough but they are pretty tough kids.

Finally, to Queenslanders: we are here because of you, but we are here for you. There are some pretty special Queenslanders sitting in that gallery tonight. They were brave Queenslanders and they called for change. That is never an easy thing to do, but they had the strength of resolve to call for change and Queenslanders listened. Tonight, you helped shape a pretty special part of history.

To every single person who wants more from their government, to every single person who wants more for your family, to every single Queenslander whether you were born here, whether you are part of the longest running continual culture in the world or whether you have migrated here to start anew: you are special to us. We live in a really special state. Tonight is an opportunity to thank every one of them for the contribution they make and for every one of us to make a contribution on their behalf in 2025. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.43 pm): It has been a big year for every one of us—one way or another. We started the year demonstrating what it really means to be a Queenslander, as we banded together to recover from Tropical Cyclone Jasper and severe storms across the south-east. Collectively, we picked up the pieces and built back better. We ended the year with a change of government. I again congratulate the Premier, his deputy and the LNP team on their victory.

Twelve months ago I took on the job as Premier of Queensland, and I am proud of what we were able to do in that 10 months. Obviously that will make the last 12 months memorable for me. When I look back, I am filled with great pride at the things we have achieved on behalf of Queenslanders. I finish the year as leader of the party I love—something that kid catching the train from Petrie could have only ever dreamed of.

I want to thank my deputy, the member for Woodridge, for his resolute support and tireless work on behalf of Queenslanders. I would also like to acknowledge my leadership team—the member for McConnel and the member for Waterford—for their support, frank advice and friendship. I thank the leader of opposition business for that same support, frank advice and friendship. To the entire Labor team: thank you for your work. It is an honour and a privilege to be your leader. Together we are all working out what our new jobs look like—something that has inevitably brought us closer together because there are so few other people around.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the members who did not return to this chamber after the election. These are funny jobs. Very few people get to decide when they start or when they end. I know how tirelessly they worked for their communities, and I want to put on record my thanks. I wish them all the best in their next chapter. I welcome the new MPs elected this year.

As well as MPs, our team farewelled a great many fellow travellers after the election. Electorate officers and ministerial staff are not often recognised for their service and contribution, but I want to thank all those who staffed our Labor team, especially those who worked with me over the last 10 years. The policies, achievements and legacies of Labor were made possible by each of you and your passionate work. To those who keep posting on social media about your so-called 'fun employment', stop rubbing it in. You are going to have to start applying for jobs soon.

To my electorate office staff—Rachel, Pete and Tim—thank you for the work you do to support the people of Murrumba. While the office is in its infancy, I thank the staff and volunteers who have supported the Labor caucus through the new opposition office over the last month or so since the election. Transitioning into opposition is not always smooth, but you have assisted us to do just that, to ensure we are equipped to continue our work on behalf of Queenslanders.

I have been fortunate in my roles to have travelled the length and breadth of Queensland and had the opportunity to meet many amazing public sector employees. When I came to government in 2015, I really marvelled at how professionally the Public Service was able to transition to a new government. It really is something very special. I have seen the Premier make similar remarks of respect of his more recent experience, including just now in his address. Queenslanders are supported by a dedicated Public Service workforce and to that amazing workforce I say two words—thank you.

We know that many of our public servants will be working over the holiday season—doctors, nurses, wardies, hospital staff, police, fire, public transport workers and many more. We know that you are giving up your time with family and friends to help your fellow Queenslanders, and for that I am sure this entire House says thank you. I was reminded again of the dedication of our Queensland police today when we laid wreaths at the police memorial. I say this here now because I have not had the chance to elsewhere; I would like to thank the police who serve in the dignitary protection team. They were all kind, courteous, helpful and professional, especially during the election campaign.

On behalf of the Labor opposition, I thank all members of the parliamentary media gallery, and to Marlina as president. The work you do is important for democracy and for Queensland. A special thanks to Lydia Lynch from the Oz and Chooks, who will soon be leaving the gallery and heading overseas. Lydia has been with us longer than many and I will miss her sassier questions. To Rachel Stewart and Kate McKenna from the national broadcaster who are leaving the gallery after a four-year stint, I wish you all the best in your next chapters. I am particularly looking forward to seeing who will win the hotly contested ballot for press gallery social convenor between Brendan and Tim. I am sure whoever wins will do us very proud.

One thing I know we share in common is a deep appreciation of the staff here at Parliament House. During sitting weeks, we sometimes see you more than our own families. While 2024 has been a big year for politicians, it has also been a big year for the parliamentary staff who have had to reset this place and prepare and undertake an opening of the parliament ahead of the end of the year. We hope you all got some penalty rates for the overtime this week.

Our thanks goes, as always, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie. We hope you get some downtime over the Christmas period, Neil, and that your back gets better, too.

There are so many who make this place work. Our thanks go to Michael Ries, Craig Atkinson, Monique Harmer, Peter Morris who makes sure we are all paid on time, Di Hone, James Robertson, Kelly Baker, Andrew Hawkins, Mark Richardson, Kate Reilly, Bernice Watson, Jo Mathers, Robyn Moore, Cecelia Ryan, James Rasmussen, Travis Hall and Nadine Davidson-Wall. To you and your teams, we say thank you.

As parliamentarians we know the importance of legislation that works, and a step in our democratic process is the committee process. While Queenslanders usually see politicians on a committee asking questions or arguing with each other, they do not see the secretariat and the team of people working in the background, analysing the legislation and assisting developing reports. So, on behalf of Queenslanders, I want to thank the committee office and the various secretariats for their continued work. Thank you also to the Hansard team, who have to listen to us each sitting week and ensure that every word we say, important as it is, is recorded for posterity.

There is a group of people I want to especially single out and that is the mighty cleaning staff here on the precinct, who keep our offices and the precinct clean. To the core cleaning staff—Azra, Sanja, Kitty, Stergoula, Denisa, Duska and your colleagues: thank you.

To the chamber attendants, who ensure this chamber of debate functions like clockwork, distribute papers and motions and lock us in when the bars close: thank you for your work. We know that, while Angie was small in stature, she was a force to be reckoned with and ran this chamber with efficiency, and those who have stepped up in her place have ensured this chamber continues to run like clockwork.

We acknowledge the long-term parliamentary staff who retire this year: Angie, as I mentioned; Rob Hansen from committees; Michael Watkin, our former Sergeant-at-Arms; Thelma Humphries, an electorate officer who served four different MPs starting in 1973; and Andrea, who worked for the Deputy Clerk. We wish you all the best in retirement. While I mention Andrea, it would be remiss of me not to mention and thank Sandy in the Clerk's office, who not only ensures the Clerk is kept in order but is a wealth of information and always on hand to assist us. To all the parliamentary staff, whether in this precinct or across Queensland: on behalf of the Labor caucus, thank you.


To the Premier and his government and crossbench members: I wish you all a great Christmas and new year. Politics is tough business. It takes us away from the people we love on a regular basis. While we sign up for these roles, our families do not. They are conscripts to the democratic cause. Premier, it was a pleasure not only to get to know you better this year but also to meet Tegan. I know that you will want to work every day, but I do hope you get some time with your family.

I thank my partner, Kim, and my three kids for their support throughout this year and indeed throughout my public life—sometimes reluctant but always with love. On behalf of everybody else, I thank all of the families of members of parliament for letting us do what we need to do to serve Queenslanders. Their act of supporting us is also a service to Queenslanders.

Times of reflection like these are also times to remember what drives every one of us in this place, and that is making Queensland an even better place. As we close the book on 2024, my team and I look forward to the next chapter. I am energised by the strength and commitment of the Labor team and the entire labour movement to hold this government to account over this term of parliament and to deliver a strong alternative vision for this state, because that is what is good for democracy.

I hope all members and, indeed, all staff get to spend some time relaxing and recharging with their family and friends over the Christmas period. I know I will be. In fact, if you cannot find me it is because I intend to relocate as an itinerant resident of the Sunshine Coast for at least some of the break.

We are truly blessed to live in Queensland, in the best country in the world. It is time to enjoy what makes our state great and charge into 2025 with the drive to make it even better. See you all back here in February.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.53 pm): It is my honour again to represent the crossbench regarding a year in which we saw and experienced so much—to reflect on the challenges as well as, importantly, express gratitude for what has been achieved and look forward in excitement to the year ahead.

We congratulate Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP members on forming government, welcome back all returning members from both sides and welcome our newest MPs. It has been wonderful to meet all of you and we look forward to working with you over the coming term. To those who did not return we send our very best wishes. Thank you for your service to your communities. We trust that we will see you on your new journeys.

Even though the 2024 election saw the crossbench reduced with the loss of Steve Andrew and Amy MacMahon, our diversity has not changed. For our newer members, the crossbench represents 26 per cent of the land mass of Queensland. Our electorates range from having one person every 16 square kilometres to 1,000 people every square kilometre, with Traeger about 1,000 kilometres from edge to edge and Maiwar about 10 kilometres across. It is lucky that Robbie, the member for Traeger, has a plane. We represent bush to beach, with the disparities clearly articulated by the Katter party with ongoing calls for a separate North Queensland state. Now we have to ask the question: who would end up being Premier up there? Regardless of our differences on the crossbench, commonalities remain. Of course, we share those with everyone, whether it is electricity prices, food, insurances or crime—both youth and adult—with a reduction of crime a priority and the reasons behind.

Eight crossbench bills were either introduced or debated. The Greens tackled school cost pressures, proposing to ban school fees for state schools; put forward amendments to planning rules to expand community and social housing; and addressed the climate transition. The Katter's Australian Party covered some very different topics: requiring Mount Isa Mines to get government approval to change its operations, increased crocodile control, protecting babies born as a result of termination procedures, and the ability to defend one's home through the Castle Law bill. That a bill was finally passed this year to ease the impact of the blue card system on Indigenous kinship placements was welcomed and would not have occurred without the working with children check bills over many years by the Katter party. One Nation sought greater transparency by government in awarding public-private partnerships and addressing in part the issues raised by the Coaldrake report, though the introduction of a minister for open data is a welcome addition to transparency by the new government.

From Noosa, I had private member's motions on the needed end to the lack of transparency regarding those reply-paid envelopes for postal vote applications, and an independent inquiry into our response to COVID. May our new government play Santa and deliver these, as well as the ability for all MPs to speak through the new sessional orders.

There were many moments celebrated by crossbench MPs. For Noosa, Six Mile Creek Bridge No. 7 was completed, there was funding for the detailed design of the Tewantin Bypass stages 2 and 3, there were wonderful election commitments of \$30 million for construction and, of course, our decommissioned TAFE, after nearly a decade, will have a new lease of life as a school of design, amongst many others.


In the Katter country, the Forrest Beach Telstra macro tower was completed, funding was committed for the Hinchinbrook sewage treatment plant, the first sod was turned for the Mount Isa base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the new government continued the commitment to the CopperString powerline, which is welcomed.

For the Greens, Maiwar students are looking forward to the new school buildings promised at Indooroopilly and Toowong state schools, although more funding is needed to deliver facilities at Indro. They had successful campaigns, whether it was the Indooroopilly bikeway or the saving of the East Brisbane State School and Raymond Park from the Gabba demolition, with everyone now benefiting from the Greens' longstanding policy for almost-free public transport.

To finish, I express gratitude to our communities and all Queenslanders, to our incredible not-for-profits that are always there when needed and to our awesome frontline workers. I could go on and on, but our gratitude goes to our fabulous teachers, nurses, police officers, rangers and retail and hospitality staff. May everyone across our communities remember that these are our fellow Queensland residents and neighbours and that it is unacceptable for anyone to be disrespectful or show aggression to any of those who serve us.

To the Premier, all ministers, departmental and agency staff, as well as shadow ministers and staff: our congratulations and gratitude goes to you all. We look forward to working together for the betterment of our communities in Queensland. Thank you to the incredible parliamentary teams, from the chamber attendants, security and housekeeping to Hansard and the many others. You make our world and our work all the better. To our new Speaker Pat and deputy speakers: congratulations and, as always, we deeply appreciate the hard task that you have in reigning in the passion of MPs. I thank outgoing Speaker, Curtis Pitt, for his many years of service and our Clerk, Neil, for continuing to do an incredible job especially with the outstanding restoration of the annexe. You must admit, from our office and our rooms—everything is fantastic. I thank all of those who worked on this transition.

To all, and your families and communities, we wish you a wonderful break over Christmas. We look forward to seeing you bright and chirpy in the new year of the 58th Parliament. I will join you at the Christmas tree, which I know everyone is eager to get to. Member for Glass House, did you put a timer on me tonight? Blessings.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is now my turn to say a few words as we conclude the last sitting day of 2024. I will give a brief run-through some of the notable events and achievements of the year, while acknowledging that most of these occurred before my recent election as Speaker.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all returning members after the recent election, and to welcome all new MPs to the Queensland parliament. A number of electorate offices have been transitioned to accommodate new members and staff as well as offices and bedrooms in the parliamentary precinct. I extend my thanks to Holly Van Blerk and Paul Wood for the work that they have done in that space. I am sure all members will welcome the completion of the refurbishment of the annexe. Whilst there are still some works continuing in a few areas, the bedrooms and offices are once again in use. I would like to thank members for their patience while this work was underway and to thank Micheal Griffiths for his work in coordinating this large project.

We continue to see schools from across the state visit the parliament. I am told that there have been 14,000 students this calendar year, which is great. I would like to report that all members were on their best behaviour during these visits but I think there is probably some work to do in that space! For many MPs, this parliamentary precinct is essentially a second home—so much time is spent here. I will not going to go through a long list of names, as I will surely miss some, so I will mention the teams and staff that make our stay here as pleasant as possible. Kelly Baker and the catering staff are appreciated by all members, I am sure—they are always friendly and welcoming. Azra Besic, and all the cleaners who keep the precinct clean and tidy, do a wonderful job and always greet you with a smile. I thank James Rasmussen and the entire IT team for their continued work in supporting members and Parliamentary Service staff. Thanks also needs to go to Sean Neagle and gardeners Meagan Wilkinson and Mick Hayes for the job that they have done, particularly in having the Speaker's Green looking green again for the opening of parliament. I understand that the green will be getting a full turf replacement during the Christmas break.

I could not mention the opening of the 58th Parliament without making a special mention of project coordinator Kit Kowol, who was ably assisted by Briony Johnston and Tamara Vitale. I also welcome Andrew Hawkins as the new Sergeant-at-Arms to the parliament. Andrew and I are finding our way in our new jobs together. I would like to thank Deputy Speaker, Jon Krause, for his support and the rest of the panel of temporary speakers: James Lister, the member for Southern Downs; Jim

McDonald, the member for Lockyer; Natalie Marr, the member for Thuringowa; David Kempton, the member for Cook; Mark Furner, the member for Ferny Grove; James Martin, the member for Stretton; Chris Whiting, the member for Bancroft; and Barbara O'Shea, the member for South Brisbane.

I cannot conclude without thanking Clerk, Neil Laurie, and Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, for all of the support that they give—not only to me but to all of us. I thank Craig Atkinson, Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison, and Monique Harmer, the Director of Property and Facility Services and their respective teams. Thank you to all the chamber attendants and the Hansard staff, who make our speeches look so good. My thanks also to the media gallery, led by president Marlina Whop, for the job they do in informing the public of the proceedings of the House. I thank the staff in the Speaker's office, particularly Coral-Leah Kemp, whom many of you already know. Without her knowledge and experience in the role, I am not sure how I would have managed. Thanks also to Jennifer Chubarova for coming to the rescue at short notice in the Speaker's office: it was very much appreciated.

I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas. I hope that you are able to spend some time with your family and friends over the break. I look forward to seeing everyone back here, fully refreshed and ready for the 2025 sitting year. As there is a protest happening outside where we were going to the Christmas tree, we will move to the Speaker's Green.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.05 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.05 pm.

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