



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Subject	Page
<b>ASSENT TO BILL</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 18 February 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor, advising of assent to a certain bill on 13 December 2024 .....	
	1
<b>ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF STAFFORD</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Member Sworn</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater .....	
	2
<b>REPORT</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Register of Members' Interests</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Thirty-Eighth Report on the Register of Members' Interests .....	
	3
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Visitors to Public Gallery</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events</b> .....	<b>11</b>

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 18 February 2025

North Queensland, Weather Events .....	12
North Queensland, Weather Events .....	12
North Queensland, Weather Events .....	13
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery .....	14
<b>JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Office of the Information Commissioner, Report .....	15
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Information Commissioner Report 2: 2024-25—Administrative access to medical records: Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) .....	15
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	15
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	16
Crisafulli LNP Government .....	17
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	18
Crisafulli LNP Government .....	18
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photographs, undated, depicting the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Steven Miles MP, in an airport lounge and on board a flight .....	19
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	19
State Finances .....	20
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	20
Health System .....	21
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	22
Youth Justice, Programs .....	23
Hinchinbrook Electorate, Road Repair .....	23
Community Safety .....	24
Youth Crime, Legislation .....	25
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order .....	25
Child Protection .....	25
Expert Legal Panel .....	26
Public Transport, Fares .....	26
<b>LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Division: Question put—That leave be granted .....	27
Resolved in the affirmative .....	27
<b>MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to .....	27
Resolved in the affirmative .....	28
<b>Safer Families, Safer Communities .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Division: Question put—That leave be granted .....	33
Resolved in the affirmative .....	33
<b>MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to .....	33
Resolved in the affirmative .....	34
<b>Member for Stafford .....</b>	<b>34</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to .....	39
Resolved in the affirmative .....	39
<b>QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Message from Governor .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 18 February 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 .....	40
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 .....	40
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, explanatory notes .....	40
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights .....	40
<b>MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Labor Party .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of correspondence from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Chief Executive, Infrastructure Australia, Mr Adam Copp, regarding the Australian Government's Infrastructure Priority List .....	44
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Wangetti Trail .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Burleigh Electorate .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance .....</b>	<b>50</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from an article, undated, titled 'Advice from nobodies: Trouble recruiting for "Adult Crime, Adult Time" panel' .....	50
<b>Sport, Streaming Services .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Hinchinbrook Electorate, Weather Events .....</b>	<b>52</b>

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 18 February 2025

<b>QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>TRUSTS BILL .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Trusts Bill 2025.....</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Trusts Bill 2025, explanatory notes.....</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Trusts Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.....</i>	<i>59</i>
<b>First Reading .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Leave to Move Motion.....</b>	<b>66</b>
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.....	66
Resolved in the affirmative.....	66
<b>Declared Urgent .....</b>	<b>66</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.....	71
Resolved in the affirmative.....	71
<b>REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (MARINE SAFETY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Disallowance of Statutory Instrument .....</b>	<b>72</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.....	78
Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).....	78
<b>REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 1, 58th</i>	
<i>Parliament—Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, government response.....</i>	<i>81</i>
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Cost-of-Living Relief .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Townsville Electorate, Weather Events .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Evans, Mr B, OAM .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Zmuda, Ms C.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Cooper Electorate .....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Redcliffe Electorate, Award Recipients .....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Queensland Economy.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Youth Crime.....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>North Queensland, Weather Events.....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>108</b>



## TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### ASSENT TO BILL

Messenger admitted to the House and presented to the Speaker a message from Her Excellency the Governor.



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

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

QUEENSLAND

#### Message

The Governor informs the Legislative Assembly that the Bill intitled:

"A bill for an Act to amend the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Criminal Code, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes"

having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on 13 December 2024.

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

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM

Governor of Queensland

18 February 2025

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 18 February 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor, advising of assent to a certain bill on 13 December 2024 [\[78\]](#)

### ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF STAFFORD

#### Member Sworn



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I note that the member for Stafford was unable to be present for the opening of parliament and swearing in of members on 26 November 2024. The member for Stafford is present today. I now call the honourable member forward to take the oath of allegiance and of office and to sign the Roll of Members.

Mr Speaker administered the oath of allegiance and of office to Mr Sullivan, who then signed the Roll of Members.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


#### Acknowledgement of Country



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, earlier this morning we were joined in the Premier's Hall by traditional owners including Auntie Deborah Sandy, the daughter of Uncle Des Sandy, from the Yagara Chepera people and her family for a welcome to country ceremony and dance to mark the first

parliamentary sitting day of 2025. This was followed by a performance by the Mura Biri Gururu Aboriginal dancers, who travelled from the electorate of Condamine to be here today. I thank Auntie Deb and her family and the Mura Biri Gururu Aboriginal dancers for coming to parliament to share their culture with us. I also thank our First Nations liaison officer Peter Yagmoor for his work in coordinating today's ceremony along with all members and staff who attended.


### Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 31 January 2025 the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Mr Michael Woodford, resigned his position to take up appointment as the president of Parole Board Queensland. Arrangements to appoint an acting commissioner were put in place pending the appointment of a new commissioner, and the House was advised out of session by tabled documents on 7 February 2025. However, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the House to thank Mr Woodford for his service to this parliament as an officer of the parliament from 2021. I am sure the House would agree with me that Mr Woodford discharged his role diligently and admirably.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 December 2024 the member for Waterford wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for Veterans deliberately misled the House on 28 November 2024. The matter relates to answers by the Premier to questions without notice. I consider the Premier has made an adequate explanation; therefore, I will not refer the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater [79].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable members,

On 16 December 2024, the Member for Waterford (member) wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for Veterans (Premier) deliberately misled the House on 28 November 2024.

The matter relates to answers by the Premier to Questions Without Notice.

Specifically, the Premier stated:

*'The member asked a good question about that vaccine program and whether or not it should be delivered for free...*

*I make the point that that service will need to be delivered in March or April—an important time—so it would be contained in the current Queensland budget. The minister went looking for that, but I am afraid I have to report to the House that those opposite did not leave one dollar for it—not one dollar!*

...

*The fact that the same member who omitted the money in the budget for the flu jabs asked a question about a rebate that is not in the budget that the former government handed down will tell us everything we need to know.'*

The member argued that these statements were false and provided excerpts of the 2024-25 publicly available budget papers as evidence that funding had been set aside for free flu vaccines.

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

The Premier provided an excerpt from the same budget papers which showed that the estimated \$40 million in funding for the free flu vaccines was to be sourced internally by Queensland Health. There was no funding allocated in the 2024/25 budget, or ongoing in the forward estimates, for the vaccine program.

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

I accepted that the Premier's explanation was consistent with the evidence that he provided.


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

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

## REPORT


### Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 38th report on the Register of Members' Interests.

*Tabled paper:* Thirty-Eighth Report on the Register of Members' Interests [\[80\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by Peta MacRae, Mayor of Mount Isa. Members may be aware that the original roof of Parliament House was made of zinc; however, during renovations undertaken in the 1980s a new copper roof was installed over the original using copper from Mount Isa.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Marymount College in the electorate of Burleigh, Shorncliffe State School in the electorate of Sandgate, Mount Nebo State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers and Citipointe Christian College in the electorate of Mansfield.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition sponsored by the Clerk, and the following e-petition sponsored by the honourable member—

### National Fire Ant Eradication Program

3,287 petitioners, requesting the House to reassess the strategy of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and to move towards a suppression program [\[64\]](#) [\[65\]](#).

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

### Pumicestone Passage, Water Quality and Flushing

511 petitioners, requesting the House to address the communities concerns for the water quality and flushing of the northern section of the Pumicestone Passage [\[66\]](#) [\[67\]](#).

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

### Great Dividing Range, Renewable Energy Development Assessments

8,850 petitioners, requesting the House to cease processing renewable energy development assessments along the Great Dividing Range and call for a moratorium until a comprehensive review with proper community consultation is undertaken [\[68\]](#).

### Ferny Grove to Samford Village, Bikeway

1,133 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the bikeway along the disused rail corridor from Ferny Grove to Samford Village [\[69\]](#).

### Age of Criminal Responsibility

1,116 petitioners, requesting the House to change the age of criminal responsibility to match the Federal social media age of 16 [\[70\]](#).

### Wood and Coal Burning Fires and Stoves

292 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of wood and coal burning fires and stoves in all our towns and cities [\[71\]](#).

### Government Housing, Smoking

436 petitioners, requesting the House to ban smoking in all government housing [\[72\]](#).

### Biosecurity, Cats

1,049 petitioners, requesting the House to include cats in the *Biosecurity Act 2014* [\[73\]](#).

### Parliamentarians, Right to Introduce Bills, Amendments or Motions

1,529 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure parliamentarians have a right to introduce bills, amendments or any motion that seeks to express a view on any matter [\[74\]](#).

### COVID Deaths, Release of Data

1,305 petitioners, requesting the House to release COVID death data weekly with the normal COVID case and hospital admission data [\[75\]](#).

### Residential Properties, Taxation

792 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a scheme in Queensland where any residential property that is not used for full time residential purposes is taxed at 100% of the property value each year it is not used for full time purposes [\[76\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

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

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

13 December 2024—

- [282](#) Auditor-General Report 5: 2024-25—Preparing for the Brisbane Games
- [283](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2023-24
- [284](#) Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Queensland and the State of New South Wales—Management, Operation, Maintenance and Repair of the Tweed Sand Bypassing System
- [285](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4169-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,107 petitioners, requesting the House to relocate the proposed Brisbane Arena and to maintain the viability of Roma Street Parkland as a social, economic and environmental asset in perpetuity

16 December 2024—

- [286](#) Auditor-General Report 6: 2024-25—Protecting students from bullying

17 December 2024—

- [287](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2023-2024: Erratum
- [288](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to an ePetition (4091-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,160 petitioners, requesting the House to address the conflict of interest between law enforcement services and rescue services by separating Marine Rescue Services from the management of the Queensland Police Service

18 December 2024—

- [289](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Report on subordinate legislation tabled between 20 August 2024 and 10 September 2024
- [290](#) Auditor-General Report 7: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's regional water quality
- [291](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4180-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 559 petitioners, requesting the House to address the problems experienced by voters in the 2024 local elections and ensure all elections are conducted in a professional manner; people have reasonable opportunity to vote; and votes be recounted until an outcome is clear
- [292](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Annual Report on the operation of Queensland's Human Rights Act 2019, 2023-24

19 December 2024—

- [293](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4176-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,734 petitioners, requesting the House to refuse the development applications for 194 residential units in Noosa Junction and 40 units in Tewantin Village which exceed the size, scale and height development allowance under the Noosa Plan 2020
- [294](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Veterans (Hon. Crisafulli), to an ePetition (4052-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,138 petitioners, requesting the House to put forward a referendum to amend our current laws to address the imbalance in power wielded by elected representatives and government in the period between general elections
- [295](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2023-24

20 December 2024—

- [296](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4172-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 791 petitioners, requesting the House to apply the proportionality formula of 45% in local government elections to protect communities from control by groups and to amend local government laws to limit any party or group to a maximum of 45% elected councillors in any term of the council



- [297](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4175-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 669 petitioners, requesting the House to alter the Local Government Act 2009, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the relevant Brisbane City Acts to include electronic petitions
- [298](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4081-24) sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 2,892 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to protect Victoria Park in perpetuity
- [299](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Computer Society Incorporated Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2024, No. 252
- [300](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Computer Society Incorporated Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2024, No. 252, explanatory notes
- [301](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Computer Society Incorporated Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2024, No. 252, human rights certificate
- [302](#) Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW): The Australian Computer Society Incorporated Professional Standards Scheme
- [303](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade mission to Japan and the Republic of Korea by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Hon. Bates), 1-7 December 2024
- [304](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4130-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 495 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Associations Incorporated Act 1981 to restrict unfair practices within some incorporated associations
- [305](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4138-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 829 petitioners, requesting the House to reframe the Respect at Work Bill in a way that allows faith communities free speech, free from the threat of litigation and does not undermine fundamental human rights for beliefs and moral convictions
- [306](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to a paper petition (4182-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of standing order 119(3), and an ePetition (4158-24) sponsored by a member, from 801 and 2,864 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call in the development application for Hervey Bay Esplanade (MCU23/0090 Material Change of Use—Multiple Dwelling, Short Term Accommodation and Hotel) and refuse it or amend it to comply with the Fraser Coast Regional Planning Scheme
- [307](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4164-24) sponsored by the member for Mansfield, Ms McMillan, from 222 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Brisbane City Council refuses the sub-division application of 15 Eucalypt Close, Mackenzie
- [308](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2023-24

## 6 January 2025—

- [1](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Veterans (Hon. Crisafulli), to an ePetition (4146-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 816 petitioners, requesting the House to declare which members own short term rentals, how many they own; and for the list to be published regularly
- [2](#) Office of the Public Guardian—Annual Report 2023-24
- [3](#) The Public Advocate—Annual Report 2023-24
- [4](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2023-24
- [5](#) Public Trustee Advisory and Monitoring Board—Annual Report 2023-24
- [6](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4092-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 831 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate regular tenant meetings for Housing Commission tenants

## 7 January 2025—

- [7](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4099-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 260 petitioners, requesting the House to install traffic lights and upgrade the roads leading to the intersection of Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road at Belivah Road and Bannockburn Road, Bahrs Scrub
- [8](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4149-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 700 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the number of safe over-taking lanes to the Peak Downs Highway, west of Nebo

## 9 January 2025—

- [9](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4173-24) sponsored by a member, from 900 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure claims made under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme are reimbursed within 30 working days as set out in the guidelines
- [10](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4177-24) sponsored by the member for Noosa, Ms Bolton, from 314 petitioners, requesting the House to install pedestrian zebra crossings on Factory Street and on Hill Street, Pomona

13 January 2025—

- [11](#) Letter, dated 18 December 2024, from the Chair, Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Board, Mr Selwyn Button, to the Minister for Education and the Arts, Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, presenting the financial statements for the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA) and Audit Closing report
- [12](#) Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Pty Ltd—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024
- [13](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4183-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 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

15 January 2025—

- [14](#) Auditor-General Report 8: 2024-25—Health 2024

20 January 2025—

- [15](#) Auditor-General Report 9: 2024-25—Major projects 2024

23 January 2025—

- [16](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2024

28 January 2025—

- [17](#) Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 May 2024 and 11 June 2024, government response.

29 January 2025—

- [18](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2023-2024: Erratum

30 January 2025—

- [19](#) Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee: Report No. 17, 57th Parliament—Trusts Bill 2024, government response

31 January 2025—

- [20](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024

3 February 2025—

- [21](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4125-24) sponsored by the member for Ferny Grove, Mr Furner, from 1,269 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Brisbane City Council conduct fair and accurate community consultations to amend the Ferny Grove-Upper Kedron Neighbourhood Plan

4 February 2025—

- [22](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management: 2023-24 Severe Weather Season Review—Report 1: 2024-25
- [23](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management: 2023-24 Severe Weather Season Review—Report 1: 2024-25, government response

5 February 2025—

- [24](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, December 2024

6 February 2025—

- [25](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 20 August 2024 and 10 September 2024
- [26](#) Office of the Commissioner (Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa)—Annual Report 2023-2024

7 February 2025—

- [27](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 and Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024
- [28](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024
- [29](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 10 September 2024—Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024
- [30](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 10 September 2024
- [31](#) Notice of appointment—Acting Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Mr Mitchell Kunde, dated 7 February 2025

[32](#) Oath for appointment as Acting Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner of Mr Mitchell Kunde, dated 7 February 2025

[33](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

10 February 2025—

[34](#) Education and Care Services Ombudsman and National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioners—Annual Report 2023-2024

[35](#) Child Death Review Board—Annual Report 2023-24

[36](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2023-24: Deaths of children and young people Queensland

14 February 2025—

[37](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 10 September 2024

[38](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Remuneration Determination: Home security allowance for Members of Parliament—Determination 33/2025, 14 February 2025

17 February 2025—

[39](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 June 2024 and 20 September 2024

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

##### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005:

[40](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 250

[41](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 250, explanatory notes

[42](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2024, No. 250, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

[43](#) Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 251

[44](#) Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 251, explanatory notes

[45](#) Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024, No. 251, human rights certificate

Electrical Safety Act 2002, Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

[46](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2024, No. 253

[47](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2024, No. 253, explanatory notes

[48](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2024, No. 253, human rights certificate

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018:

[49](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 1

[50](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 1, explanatory notes

[51](#) Plumbing and Drainage Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 1, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

[52](#) Planning (Wind Farms) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 2

[53](#) Planning (Wind Farms) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 2, explanatory notes

[54](#) Planning (Wind Farms) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 2, human rights certificate

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017:

[55](#) Proclamation repealing previous proclamation [SL No. 16 of 2023], No. 3

[56](#) Proclamation repealing previous proclamation [SL No. 16 of 2023], No. 3, explanatory notes

[57](#) Proclamation repealing previous proclamation [SL No. 16 of 2023], No. 3, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

[58](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps) Amendment Declaration 2025, No. 4

[59](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps) Amendment Declaration 2025, No. 4, explanatory notes

[60](#) Fisheries (Effort Caps) Amendment Declaration 2025, No. 4, human rights certificate

Economic Development Act 2012:

- [61](#) Economic Development (Revocation of Moranbah PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 5
- [62](#) Economic Development (Revocation of Moranbah PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 5, explanatory notes
- [63](#) Economic Development (Revocation of Moranbah PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 5, human rights certificate

#### MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Burnett (Mr Bennett)—

- [77](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the installation of turning lanes from the Bruce Highway at Miriam Vale on to Dovedale Road, Miriam Vale

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): Areas of North and Far North Queensland have been devastated by a combination of tropical low pressure systems and monsoonal rainfall in recent weeks. For many towns in North Queensland, February 2025 is now the wettest month in history, with record rainfalls. Paluma received over two metres of rainfall in February. To put that in perspective, that is double what Sydney gets in an entire year. Ingham—the town I was born and raised in—was among the worst affected areas. I saw water in places that I never thought I would see. Tragically, two people have lost their lives in Ingham and our thoughts are with their families and loved ones in what is a really tight-knit community.


Homes, businesses, community assets and critical infrastructure have been flooded, damaged or destroyed. Many communities were isolated for long periods of time, with no power or water, and roads were cut off. North Queenslanders have again shown us their resilience and the strength of their communities. They have banded together, with neighbours helping neighbours, mates helping mates and strangers helping strangers. On Thursday the government will move a motion to acknowledge those who have assisted in the recovery.

To our emergency services workers and their interstate colleagues who worked long and hard in difficult conditions responding to incidents and helping with the early recovery efforts, thank you. I would like to acknowledge all of the mayors and their staff in local government for their tireless efforts, not only to keep their communities safe but also for the help they gave to other neighbouring communities. I also thank the team in the State Disaster Coordination Centre who continue to work around the clock to support the response. I also commend the efforts of all the utilities workers, our community recovery staff and the volunteers who were often the first into many locations and then worked around the clock to restore power, water and communications and support the residents of impacted communities. Assistance from the Australian government has been critical to support evacuation, rescue and resupply of communities right across North Queensland. The Army's rapid deployment of the temporary bridge over Ollera Creek was nothing short of incredible, reconnecting Ingham after only days of isolation.

There will be tough times ahead but our government will continue to work closely with all communities through the long recovery from this event. I also want to support the people of North Queensland to make their own homes more resilient. We are already in negotiations with insurers and other levels of government to deliver a package to support home owners affected by the floods. I have spoken to impacted mayors and local MPs about a resilience package to get people back in their homes sooner. If we are to embark on this plan, we must secure agreement while people are in the early stages of recovery.

We must also make our infrastructure capable of withstanding events like this. I want to see our damaged bridges, roads and other infrastructure rebuilt to a better standard so it will be more resilient to future events. Discussions are well underway with Canberra for a betterment package of some substance and some size. Some good must come from this heartache. We know that recovery from this event is going to be long but we are doing everything we can to help North Queenslanders back on their feet. We will be here until the job is done.

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.43 am): The Crisafulli government has left no stone unturned through the disaster coordination channels on vital resupply efforts in response to the floods in the north. Natural disasters test the strength and resilience of our state, but Queenslanders always prevail with an even greater character and spirit. It is why our government had a laser-like focus on being ready to answer the call and step in to bolster the response and recovery efforts.

Following the unprecedented rainfall over recent weeks as described by the Premier, key inland freight routes as well as the Bruce Highway have proven unreliable in ensuring vital food supplies can get to the supermarket shelves. Not only was the Bruce Highway cut off in multiple locations, but rail was down and all inland freight options were cut off due to the widespread flooding.


Events such as these should remind us all of the importance of properly funding major infrastructure in regional Queensland in particular, such as the Bruce Highway, so we can keep people and communities connected. We stand with all Queenslanders affected, our producers and our supply chain partners in getting livelihoods restored and essential services back up and running as soon as possible. The recovery and restocking process will take time, but I want to reassure Queenslanders we have been working around the clock with local mayors and our disaster coordination teams across the north and the Far North to look at every resupply option that is open to us.

Working with the federal government we responded, and between 5 and 8 February three charter flights carrying essential food were organised for Cairns as part of the state's emergency resupply efforts. The government also prioritised heavy vehicles, when they could, carrying essential food and other goods with the reopening of the Ollera Creek Bridge on 10 February. Hundreds of trucks went across as soon as they could. With the ongoing closures of key freight routes, an additional six charter flights carrying essential supplies to Cairns were scheduled by the government between 13 and 15 February, delivering an additional 250 pallets of food into local supermarkets. This is in addition to emergency planning declarations for 29 local government areas that allow around-the-clock, 24-hour resupply efforts under the 'applicable event' declaration.

I want to thank Far North Queenslanders for their support of our frontline workers, logistics workers and truckies and for their patience through these challenging times. The government will remain in contact with grocers to ensure food supplies are replenished as quickly as possible, and over the longer term we will look for opportunities for grocers to build greater resilience into our supply chains.

As many of our Far North and northern region members know, disasters are not uncommon. The community, small businesses and local governments are often preparing for periods of isolation and again demonstrated remarkable resilience during this disaster event. I pay particular thanks to our emergency personnel, SES, police, QBuild workers, truckies, freight and logistics workers, volunteers and other community organisations for the mountain of work in getting our communities back on their feet. I also pay respect to the two Queenslanders who tragically lost their lives and pass on my condolences and prayers to their family and friends.


### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.46 am): I rise to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our frontline workers and volunteers who responded to this month's devastating flood event in North Queensland. Ergon Energy crews, SES volunteers, emergency services personnel and the ADF worked tirelessly in challenging conditions to keep communities safe and connected. Their efforts were nothing short of extraordinary.

I also want to acknowledge the resilience and community spirit I witnessed firsthand, especially in Ingham. Some locals there told me they had never experienced devastation like this, not even during the 1967 floods. The impact and heartbreak were clear. More than 33,000 homes and businesses lost power across North Queensland during the weather event. Ergon crews worked around the clock and power was fully restored within eight days. It was an all-hands-on-deck restoration effort, ranging from rebuilding the backbone of the high-voltage network at Ollera Creek to dispatching generators by barge and air. Ergon's tireless efforts ensured the Ingham Substation was re-energised within just 28 hours of crews gaining access. Never has a substation been re-energised so quickly in these conditions. This was an outstanding effort, and crews should be commended.

While it is too soon to determine the overall economic loss from the North Queensland floods, early information suggests it will be less than recent major weather events including Cyclone Jasper. Federal Treasury has suggested that it will drag the March national GDP back by 0.1 per cent. Queensland is built on resilience and community spirit. Time and again we see Queenslanders standing together in trying times, and recent weeks have been no different. I extend my sincere thanks to every frontline worker who stepped up to help, especially the Ergon Energy team. Queensland is stronger because of you.

### North Queensland, Weather Events


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.48 am): North Queensland has been devastated by a severe weather event that has seen more than two metres of rain across parts of the region. Unfortunately, it claimed two lives, and I extend my condolences to the family and friends. Flooding has left many facing damaged or destroyed homes and business premises. In Ingham and in other communities, on the streets you can see the piles of heartbreak from the businesses and family homes that have been flooded. However, there is one thing that our North Queensland communities can rely on: we have their backs.

Disaster arrangements have been activated quickly to unlock funding and support for those communities that have been impacted. We have also worked in a partnership with local governments to get North Queenslanders back on their feet. Part of this was the Mutual Aid Coordination Cell, a group of water operators who come together in times of disaster to lean into affected communities to provide support for water and sewerage operations. I know that mayors, councillors and council staff were working around the clock and also working alongside the LGAQ in their council-to-council program. I know that some mayors and councillors slept for many nights in their council chambers, being there to look after their communities. That included Mayor Raymon Jayo and Deputy Mayor Mary Brown in Hinchinbrook. Local governments know their communities best and they are crucial to getting clean water back in these communities.

The government stood up the community recovery hubs throughout the region for face-to-face support and for the 24/7 Community Recovery Hotline. Local governments were crucial in delivering this support and continue to be, as we move from disaster response to disaster recovery as part of this work of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. I am pleased to advise that the Premier has appointed Andrew Cripps as the State Recovery Coordinator to spearhead recovery efforts. Mr Cripps is a North Queenslander; he is an Ingham local through and through. He brings a wealth of local knowledge and experience. The previous deputy state recovery coordinator has unfortunately stood aside, and I am pleased to advise that Inspector Paul Algie has taken over the role.

I want to give special thanks to the mayors, the councillors, the tireless council staff, the public servants, the support workers and the thousands of volunteers involved with this disaster recovery. They have been inspirational in their efforts to get those communities in our state's north back on a path to recovery.

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.51 am): As communities across North Queensland begin their recovery from the recent severe wet weather event, I acknowledge the significant and ongoing efforts of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, other agencies and local governments to restore our vital road and transport networks throughout the region.

The unprecedented flooding caused widespread damage across the state controlled road network and rail links in North Queensland. The Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Rail have worked tirelessly to reconnect North Queensland communities. While rail is still cut between Townsville and Cairns, along with Hughenden and Charters Towers, the Bruce Highway and many other vital road links have now reopened to traffic.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work done by so many people to reopen the Bruce Highway at Ollera Creek between Townsville and Ingham. This was achieved firstly through the use, as noted by the Premier, of an ADF temporary bridge structure, then through repairs led by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. There are too many people to thank individually, but in particular I want to thank the ADF, RoadTek, the TMR Structures Team, the PDO team, including Regional Director Ross Hodgman and District Director Kylee Petersen, as well as the many local

subcontractors that helped reopen the Ollera Creek Bridge in just 11 days. I also want to acknowledge the constructive and proactive engagement of the Queensland Trucking Association and the trucking industry, which dealt with many challenges as we sought to reopen the state controlled road network.


I want to acknowledge the work done by Queensland Rail to ferry people across Ollera Creek using the rail bridge, delivering a vital link for the community. I am not sure if the 2,900 people carried across the creek will be included in the Queensland Rail official patronage numbers, but it is important that we recognise their contribution in this House. Reopening the road was a long, difficult and very wet task. It involved 13 cubic metres of concrete, over 1,600 tonnes of rock, 90 tonnes of sand, 400 tonnes of recycled crushed concrete and 88 tonnes of asphalt.

Roads across Queensland have been impacted by this weather event, and the department have been out managing road closures, clearing debris, inspecting and assessing damaged roads and bridges, patching potholes and undertaking emergency repairs to reopen roads, and they continue to do so. The work is not yet complete, and I note that there are many roads, such as Mount Spec Road, that have been significantly impacted by extensive landslips and remain closed to all traffic due to debris on the road. Further assessments are being carried out at this time, and my department will continue to work towards reopening this and other roads as soon as possible.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to secure extraordinary assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to enable Ollera Creek Bridge and other priority sites damaged by the recent flooding to be built back better. Details of this package are still being finalised. As noted by the Premier, the focus of the package will be on increasing the resilience of key road infrastructure.

As we transition from the emergency response to recovery and restoration, our focus remains on ensuring the safety of all road users, maintaining vital freight movements, and supporting the economic recovery of our regional communities. This work is made possible by the dedication and hard work of TMR public servants, with ongoing assistance from other agencies and local governments, and once again I acknowledge their continued efforts to reconnect Queensland.

### **North Queensland, Weather Events**

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.55 am): North Queensland is emerging from another significant flood. Communities have been shaken, homes and businesses have been inundated and, worst of all, two lives have been lost. However, what has been evident is the stalwart response of North Queenslanders in the face of this adversity. I spent time on the ground with the Premier in the past two weeks to assess the level of damage and offer whatever assistance possible. I cannot praise highly enough the work of SES personnel and volunteers, local police and fire, all of whom have worked tirelessly to help local residents in their hour of need. It was in the most challenging of circumstances that I saw just how dedicated our volunteers and professionals were in the face of insurmountable odds.

I met residents who had been displaced and who had faced isolation, the loss of vital power supplies and the prospect of losing their homes. I visited Reid Park, where hundreds of police and SES volunteers were based and, when they got the chance, were sleeping on the floor. I spoke to police recruits who were due to graduate from the academy but have been deployed to assist in the flood response. A visit to the Townsville Sports Precinct and evacuation centre demonstrated the extent of the community response as local organisations and residents came together to help those in distress.

The Premier and I travelled to Ollera Creek where the Bruce Highway had been washed away and entered Ingham the only way we could—on foot. It was here that I met two Water Police officers who had not been out of their wetsuits in days and had been sleeping on the floor at Ingham police station or in their car, when they got the chance.

The following week, the Premier and I visited Giru, a town that had been flooded twice in two weeks. There I met SES volunteers Peter Gorman and Frank Scarabell. Although their own houses had been impacted, both worked tirelessly to ensure all locals were able to reach safety. In Ayr, I took the opportunity to visit the Ayr police station, where I met two first-year constables who had only been in the job for seven weeks. Both reckoned that Ayr was the best station in the entire state.


The State Police Operations Centre, SPOC, was activated from 30 January, coordinating an extraordinary effort. Beyond locally facilitated deployments, the SPOC organised and deployed 312 staff across impacted areas including 69 to the Far North region, 214 to the Northern region and 29 to



the Central region, some at just a few hours notice. This response also marked key firsts for the QPS, with SES and Marine Rescue Queensland, MRQ, now under one umbrella. MRQ played an official role for the first time, with 11 volunteers from South-East Queensland deployed and two vehicles assisting. Additionally, the SES deployed 35 staff and 389 Queensland volunteers, supported by 287 interstate SES volunteers.

What was achieved and continues to be achieved could not have been accomplished without a concerted effort by all concerned. We offer our thanks for their courage, commitment and determination. Record numbers of police were involved in this massive task and we thank them for their significant contribution. Never have we as a state been better prepared to face a natural disaster and more efficient and effective in responding. We are there for the long haul and will continue to support our fellow Queenslanders.

### North Queensland, Weather Events


 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.58 am): While North Queensland is no stranger to natural disasters, it does not make the devastation from this month's floods any less. It has devastated crops, destroyed infrastructure and cut transport corridors. People watched their livelihoods wash away. As the water subsides and paddocks begin to dry, we will be able to get a better picture of the full scale of impacts to primary industries. Nine local government areas have been declared disaster areas, with more under consideration.

We are in constant contact with industry to assess the impact on our primary industries. There is damage to cane and banana crops, disruption to horticultural harvest, waterlogging and root rot of crops, loss of cattle and damage to fish and prawn farms. I saw some of these impacts firsthand with Mayor Ramon Jayo, the member for Hinchinbrook and Major General Jake Ellwood at the Accornero's cane farm just north of Ingham. I went to the Burdekin where I met with canegrowers and horticulture farmer representatives. I met with banana growers' representatives to discuss the ongoing challenges. It is clear the impact will be felt for years. We will have the back of farmers. The region is heavily reliant on the success of its primary producers and the impact will be felt right across the communities and towns that support them.

The Crisafulli government, in partnership with the federal government, has rapidly mobilised financial assistance for primary producers. Disaster assistance loans of up to \$250,000 are available. Disaster assistance grants of up to \$25,000 will cover costs for the hire or purchase of equipment and materials to clean up, remove debris, replace fencing and meet the other costs that are associated with recovery. This ongoing assessment will continue to make certain the assistance meets the need. For the first time, Queensland farmers will be able to use disaster funding to replant destroyed crops. The Crisafulli government has answered years of desperate pleas from farmers for assistance to replant crops destroyed in natural disasters.

Growers asked; we listened. We fought for their interest. This is the kind of support producers have been crying out for for years from their state and federal governments. This is a huge win for primary producers who deal with significant challenges. My department will now begin co-designing, with industry guidelines governing how replanting and reseeding can be carried out using this disaster assistance. I encourage growers to have their say as a part of this process. We owe it to growers to ease some of the sizable stress they are under. North Queensland growers can look forward with confidence, knowing the Crisafulli government has their back.

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.01 am): The impacts of the recent flooding in North Queensland have been profound, including for our school communities. Across the course of this severe weather event, more than 100 state, independent and Catholic schools were closed in North Queensland. Last week I visited impacted schools in Townsville and Ingham to inspect the damage and make sure we are doing everything possible to assess, clean and reopen schools safely for students to return. This is not only about minimising the disruption to students' education but also returning normalcy to young people's lives due to uncertainty or displacement in the early weeks of the school year. This was especially the case for young preppies at Bluewater State School, who had only been at school for about four days when their first year of prep was interrupted. Over the course of this event, 69 state schools were closed due to water inundation or road access issues that affected an estimated 21,000 state school students. More




than 70 schools reported some level of damage. This ranged from minor impacts that required general cleaning or the removal of debris through to moderate or significant damage where a building was rendered inoperable, or where water inundation required significant repairs.

Despite this level of impact, thanks to the efforts of our teams, I am delighted to report that, as of this morning, 18 February, only two state schools remain closed. The first, Toobanna State School, experienced up to 1.5 metres of water inundation. Toobanna students are now being temporarily accommodated at Ingham State High School until such time as the students are able to return. The second is Paluma Environmental Education Centre which, at this stage, remains inaccessible due to a nearby landslide. The actions of our teams across the Department of Education at a school level, regional level and central office level have been nothing short of outstanding. My department and QBuild will continue to work together to ensure the safe return of these two remaining schools to normal operations at the earliest opportunity. Schools will only be opened when it is safe for students and teachers to return.

I extend my thanks to colleagues across the Queensland government: in Transport, Minister Mickelberg; in energy, the Treasurer and member for Toowoomba South; and, of course, in housing, Minister O'Connor. At Toobanna State School I saw Ben from QBuild who told me that up to 50 QBuild workers had come from all over the state. They were there with the BSM, Londa Murray, the principal and the cleaner. They were all devastated about what had happened but they were determined to get back on their feet. The QBuild workers were doing a remarkable job. I also want to thank those responsible for water infrastructure—all of whom work collaboratively during these events to ensure the school's entire ecosystem is up and running. I pay special tribute to Bluewater State School, Mundingburra State School, Townsville Community Learning Centre, Toobanna State School and Ingham State High School for sharing your remarkable student spirit with me during my visit last week. I thank all of those who were involved in this massive recovery effort. We will continue to support you until the job is done.

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.04 am): The people of North Queensland are tough, they are resilient and they are always ready to help their mates in times of adversity. We have seen that spirit on full display, once again, as communities rally together to get back on their feet after this devastating weather event. But some challenges are just too big to face alone, and that is where government must step in.


I spent a few days making my way around flood impacted communities across North Queensland. From Townsville to Palm Island, to Cardwell and to the ground zero of the devastation—Ingham—I saw the outstanding response efforts firsthand. I met again with Mayor Alf Lacey of Palm Island and with Mayor Teresa Millwood of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to listen to their community's needs and ensure our response is targeted and effective. In Cardwell, alongside Mayor Millwood, I had the great privilege of welcoming the Chinook helicopter which was delivering essential goods to that isolated community. This was a powerful example of cooperation in action. I sincerely thank the Australian Defence Force for their outstanding efforts in partnering with the Queensland government and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to make this delivery possible.

Our message to everyone who is impacted is clear: if your home has been damaged or destroyed, we can help whether you are a renter, a home owner or if you are living in social housing. Right now we have more than 137 housing and QBuild staff on the ground across the affected regions working day and night to get people safe, secure and back on track. So far, we have provided temporary accommodation for over 180 people, and we stand ready to help. Our QBuild crews have completed over 231 rapid damage assessments and we are working through 873 maintenance requests for Queensland government assets—mostly roof leaks, ceiling repairs and clearing debris. Our critical response teams are out in the community going door to door, meeting people where they are and offering practical support.

I cannot overstate how impressed I was with the dedication of our housing and QBuild staff—both from the local area and from across Queensland. Whether it be in recovery hubs, housing service centres or out on site doing urgent repairs, their hard work and compassion are making a real difference. To everyone in North Queensland: we are with you in the long haul; we will stay with you until the job is done. That is why we continue to partner with the Queensland disaster recovery partners like Givit, the Red Cross and St Vincent de Paul that will work with us over the entire recovery process so that when people can return to their homes they are supported with the whitegoods, the furniture, the school and work supplies that they need to rebuild their homes and their lives.

If your home has been impacted, do not hesitate. We can help you with a place to stay in the short term; we can help you to get back into your home; we can help you financially through payments and grants; and we can help you get food, clothing or essential items. I urge anyone who needs help in North Queensland to call us on 137468, to visit a recovery hub or your local housing service centre, or go to [qld.gov.au/housing](http://qld.gov.au/housing). We will not simply rebuild what was lost; we will rebuild better and stronger. Every disaster represents an opportunity to ensure we do not reconstruct the same infrastructure to the same standard in the same location and expect a different result. We are committed to embedding resilience and betterment into everything we do, particularly in housing. That means delivering homes that are more flood resilient. North Queenslanders are no strangers to challenges and, with this support, we will get through this, as we always do—together.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.09 am): When Queenslanders voted for a fresh start they voted for a new government to get the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games back on track. They voted for a government that is focused on delivering a world-class event for all Queenslanders that all Queenslanders can be proud of. They voted for a government that delivers a games that benefits all of Queensland, including rural and regional parts of our great state. They voted for a government—

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You wait! They voted for a government that has a vision for generational infrastructure, not the glitz and glamour, the red carpet, the parties or the Labor blowouts they had come to expect from the former Labor government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do not think they heard me, colleagues. They voted for a government that has a vision for generational infrastructure, not the glitz, not the glamour, not the red carpet, not the parties, not the Labor blowouts that we had come to expect from all the Labor members sitting opposite.

The former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government wasted 1,200 days after Brisbane was named the host city. Labor were more focused on stadium wars without a plan including the farcical idea to spend more than a billion dollars of taxpayer money on temporary grandstands at QSAC. That was not even Palaszczuk's idea; that was his idea.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, please use correct titles.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It was the opposition leader's idea, and the Olympic and Paralympic farce and chaos sits at the now opposition leader's feet. Labor could not even appoint an independent board of experts to advise on games delivery. After caving to political pressure and the reality that they needed one, they set it up but forgot to appoint the board.

**Ms Grace:** That's misleading and you know it.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Who were they? Who were the board members? Did I miss something? Where was your press release? Who were the board members you appointed?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection about misleading the House. I am sorry: who were the board members appointed by the Labor Party? I did not see a press release. Who were the board members appointed by the Labor Party? It was a ghost town; they had no appointed board members. When we appointed GIICA and we went down to the hardworking members of the old GVLDA, the public servants said, 'Thank God we have leaders in this building now,' because the Labor government had appointed no-one.

For the first time Queenslanders could have their say on the games, and they certainly did. I am advised that over 5,000 submissions were received by GIICA during the 100-day review process. In 18 days time the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority board, GIICA, will deliver me their final report. I want to use today's ministerial statement to set out the next steps.

I can announce to the House that GIICA will deliver their final report to the government on 8 March. Between 8 and 23 March we will work with our partners in hosting these games to deliver the world-class event that Queenslanders were promised. The IOC, the president of the organising

committee, our local government host city and the Commonwealth government will be briefed on the proposed delivery plan so that we are in lock step on the journey ahead to 2032. Following that consultation, cabinet will then sign off on the delivery plan on 24 March.

The government response and the final report from GIICA will be publicly released on 25 March and provide a way forward to deliver the games and generational infrastructure Queenslanders were promised. On 25 March, all will be revealed. Our delivery plan will provide a new way forward and get the games back on track. After three years of Labor delays and wrong priorities, there is little time to waste. Queenslanders no longer want to be embarrassed on the world stage. We will deliver a 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games our state can be proud of and showcase on the world stage what makes us a great state.

This government, this new Liberal National Party government, will deliver the generational infrastructure required for the 2032 games and beyond, as promised to Queenslanders when Brisbane won the host rights 1,200 days ago. What we saw in the ensuing 1,200 days since Queensland was awarded the host rights was nothing but Labor chaos, Labor crisis, Labor failed leadership, Labor bungled plans and Labor budget blowouts. Everything they announced they re-announced, they terminated, they abolished, they cut; it was complete dysfunction.


**Mr Lister:** Shame!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the honourable member. It was a shameful exercise. For 1,200 days they concentrated on parties, the opening and the closing ceremonies, the red carpets, what events they could all go to, how many announcements they could all be at, the glossy brochures and the flash website. They were Labor's priorities. They are not this government's priorities.

This new government was voted in by Queenslanders for a fresh start, and a fresh start to the games we will make. This government was elected on a platform of generational, transformational infrastructure. That is why we appointed people who know how to build infrastructure. That is why we appointed the GIICA board. This government will put in place a legacy that all Queenslanders can be proud of.

## JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Office of the Information Commissioner, Report


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (10.15 am): As chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table of the House a report of the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Administrative access to medical records: Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*. I table the report in accordance with the requirements in subsection 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009 and subsection 193(5) of the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Information Commissioner Report 2: 2024-25—Administrative access to medical records: Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [\[81\]](#).

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

### Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Mr MILES** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. When the Premier told Channel 9 in October he had already drafted his crime laws, did his personally drafted laws include attempted murder and rape and, if so, when did the Attorney-General remove those offences?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the opposition leader for the question. The opposition leader should be pleased to know that they referred to everything we promised Queenslanders—every single thing we promised to Queenslanders. I understand that it is a strange concept for those opposite but here goes. As we promised before the election, we went to Queenslanders with a couple of things when it came to dealing with Labor's youth crime crisis. There are a few things that I would imagine those opposite do not want to talk about, but I reckon at the top of the list is the 10 years of generational failure when it comes to youth crime in this state.

We went to the people of Queensland and we said we would do a couple of things. The first was that we would implement the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We outlined what those changes would be. We also said we would appoint an independent panel to look at future changes, and there will be future changes to the Making Queensland Safer Laws. That is important for two reasons. It is important for Queenslanders to know that the job is not done. It is also important for the Leader of the Opposition so that he can have time to try to get everybody on one page, because what happened last time was nothing short of embarrassing. We had a member threaten to leave the caucus. We have had people of different factions jump from one to another. We had nothing short of the performance of an opposition that does not have the certainty or the stability to govern, and Queenslanders are realising why they got rid of them. They are seeing it for all it is worth.

That independent panel will come forward and they will look at future changes. There are a few things that those future changes must involve. They must do a full review of all of those issues because youth crime is ripping the heart and soul out of this state.

**Ms Grace:** Yes.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It has been a long time—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the question under standing order 118(b). The question was very specific. It asked: did his personally drafted laws include attempted murder and rape? Did the Premier or the Attorney-General remove those? That is the specific nature of the question. Mr Speaker, I ask you to draw him back to the specific answer on relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I find the Premier is being relevant to the question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I point back to my first paragraph, but I do want to take the interjection from the member for McConnel, who agrees with me that there is a youth crime crisis. Nothing pleases me more, because the member for McConnel was chief cheerleader of, 'There's nothing to see here. It's all good here.'

I think about what it must feel like for somebody who has been a victim of crime to finally have a government that acknowledges it and wants to deal with it. The police minister and I released the first of the figures over December-January for those key crimes that we spoke about—the key crimes that we said we would deal with and put forward the changes for—and to see for the first time in a decade a reduction and a generational opportunity for better must fill Queenslanders with hope. However, I say to Queenslanders that we are not satisfied yet. The job is not done and, unlike the former government, we will see it through.

### Youth Crime, Legislation

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Attorney-General. When the Premier provided the Attorney-General with his crime laws, did they include attempted murder and rape and, if so, when and why did she remove those offences?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am so pleased to be back on day one where we finished at the end of last year—talking about Labor's youth crime crisis. After a decade—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Attorney-General was not 10 seconds into her response when the interjections started.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am always happy—as all of the members in this House know, I am more than happy—to talk about the 10 years of failures of those opposite. Before answering the Leader of the Opposition's question, we know that he is just not up to it—just not up to the job—because he was sitting on the benches on this side of the House when crime went through the roof. I remind those opposite that they were the ones who changed the laws in 2016, and that is why we are on this side of the House today.

What did we do? We went to the election saying that we were going to make Queensland safer. We went to the election with stronger penalties for those 13 offences. I am trying to work out who of those opposite was part of the crew for the emergency meeting when the opposition leader had to work out who wanted to support our laws. What happened? I am reliably told by one of those opposite that the shadow attorney-general was leading the charge to vote against these laws and against the Premier. While the shadow attorney-general was leading the charge, the former premier and current opposition leader was holding an emergency meeting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There will be no props.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you. I am happy—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was substantially the same as that asked of the Premier: did the laws include attempted murder and rape and, if so, when and why did she remove them? She has been on her feet for 2½ minutes and has not gone anywhere near answering that question, so I ask you to draw her back to relevance.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** There are two things there. It is very hard for me to know what the Attorney-General was saying given the level of noise that we have had. Attorney, there is some credibility to that point of order. I would ask you in your remaining 43 seconds to go to the question.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We delivered exactly what we said we would deliver and just what the Premier said. We delivered exactly what we said we would deliver and, what is more, those opposite voted for it. And guess what? We are going to come back in here again and we are going to continue with our tougher stance because we will not come into this chamber and let people across Queensland suffer because of the juvenile crime crisis caused by those opposite. We know that it was created by those opposite. We know that the shadow attorney-general is fighting with the opposition leader. They need to sort out their position.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government**

**Mr VORSTER:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier advise the House of the status of the government's 100-day plan and the importance of delivering on commitments made to Queenslanders, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that differ?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for Burleigh for what is a very good question—certainly the most difficult question we have received today but a very good question. The member asked about the 100-day plan. Before the election we outlined to Queenslanders what a change of government would look like—what a fresh start would look like—but I wanted to do more than that. I wanted to make sure that we could be held accountable throughout the journey and part of that was to say, 'This is what change would look like in the first 100 days of the new government.' Therefore, we set 43 objectives that we had to achieve—43 objectives to set up good government and to outline the priorities that we were going to embark on and make sure that we could address with Labor's health, housing, cost-of-living and youth crime crisis. Systematically we outlined them to the people of Queensland over a lengthy period of time and there were 43 to be done in the first 100 days.

I said that we would not just deliver some or indeed a majority but that we would deliver all, and all we delivered. They included the Making Queensland Safer Laws that the Leader of the Opposition had great difficulty in corraling his colleagues to support. They included an energy maintenance guarantee to make sure that we can get back to affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity and included being up-front about the cost of the Pioneer-Burdekin as part of that energy maintenance guarantee. We had spoken about changes to housing to get young people into the market with the abolition of taxes, and we have delivered those.

What I want to outline to the House is where to from here, because I want Queenslanders to know that we are not satisfied with where things are. We have made a good start in repairing Labor's mess, but there is more to do, so this year we have to do the following. We have to lead the recovery in North and Far North Queensland. We have to make sure that we deliver the report on the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Deputy Premier has outlined a way forward for that. We have to deliver a budget in June to repair a decade of malaise under those opposite.

I also want to outline a few other things. We must embark on future changes as part of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We must do that. There are more laws that need to be addressed. The community heartache continues and we must drive that down despite those early positive signs. We will have the first reduction in surgery wait times in a decade, and that is a pretty definitive task in that we know down to the number of people how many people are on that waitlist and it will be driven down for the first time with the first stabilisation we have seen. We are going to embark on home ownership with the state's first ever shared equity scheme and the ability for Indigenous people through a rent-to-buy scheme to own their own home. We are going to make sure that the policing of domestic and family violence enables police to be able to help more vulnerable people and help those service agencies. Finally, we have to return productivity to building sites. All of these are messes created by those opposite. We are up to the challenge of fixing them, and 2025 will be a year of delivery.

### Youth Crime, Legislation

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is for the Attorney-General. When the Premier announced the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy in July there were five offences that were non-negotiable. Thirteen offences were ultimately captured under those laws. What advice did the Attorney-General receive to inform which offences were included and which were not?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I do very much thank the shadow attorney-general for the question. It is quite intriguing that the shadow attorney-general is now interested in crime in Queensland. I will answer the shadow attorney-general's question quite simply by saying this: the people of Queensland. We went to the people of Queensland. We consulted with those people around the laws—each and every Queenslanders who voted for us to be here.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. It is pretty obvious that those opposite are just not up to it. They have not learned the lesson. They have not listened to Queenslanders. Queenslanders overwhelmingly voted for the Liberal National Party to get onto the government benches so we could make Queensland safer and that is exactly what we have done. We have also done something different that those opposite have not done. What have we done as opposed to those opposite? We have put victims first. We are listening to the victims. We are listening to the people whose houses are being broken into. That is who we are listening to. We are not listening to our factional mates over who wanted to support our laws—and guess what? They supported our laws.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algeester, I have called you a couple of times. You are now warned.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. It was those opposite who could not even decide whose side they were on. Were they on the side of Queenslanders who called for change? Were they on the side of the people in their communities? Were they on the side of the victims? Were they the ones who listened to the victims and put them first instead of the juvenile criminals? It is the left, woke agenda of those opposite who sit back and now criticise our laws. What I say to the shadow attorney-general is: get out of your office and listen to some people instead of criticising, instead of embarrassing yourself around the people we decided to listen to, like April Freeman KC. How embarrassed are you, shadow attorney-general, that you dare criticise a KC, a female, who has decided to give back to the community. The shadow attorney-general is so out of touch that she is on the side of the juvenile criminals.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take personal offence and I ask the member withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw.

### Crisafulli LNP Government

**Mrs YOUNG:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the Crisafulli government's first 100 days, including the infrastructure pipeline required for Queensland and the 2032 games, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. The answer is yes and yes. I can update the House on 100 days, I can update the House on the games and I can update the House on the alternative plans, aka Labor's budget blowouts on infrastructure and no plans. Let me start with this. The LNP took a 100-day plan to the election and we have delivered the 100-day plan after the election. We ticked off on the 43 commitments we made to the people of Queensland before the election, during the election and after the election. I had the honour of signing off on those 43 commitments with the honourable the Premier only a week or two ago.

Infrastructure is a big issue. Having the pipeline delivered is a big issue for Queensland. Queenslanders know that under the former Labor government they had nothing but budget blowouts. We saw it time and time again. Even now, federal Labor have taken future stages of Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail off the priority list—and not a word from the state Labor opposition about their federal comrades, because we know they support Canberra not Queenslanders.

The opposition leader is so out of his depth with infrastructure. I have to say, a person who politicises a disaster at the start of a flood is no leader in this state. We saw him do it. As floods started and the houses started going under, he was already politicising it. What is worse with this Leader of the Opposition is that he was up in Townsville for a fly-in fly-out visit and he made out he was there for a long period of time. He gatecrashed an emergency management meeting he was not invited to—we saw that. He has no credibility because he tried to politicise the floods. What was worse and more disgraceful was that he was tweeting that afternoon after flying in to pretend he was at this bridge and meeting all the workers. I table photos.

*Tabled paper:* Photographs, undated, depicting the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Steven Miles MP, in an airport lounge and on board a flight [\[82\]](#).

He was on the red wine in the Qantas lounge while he was tweeting about being with flood victims. It was not enough in the lounge; he was on the plane—here is a photo on the plane—having another red wine while he was tweeting that he was with flood victims. What a disgraceful opposition leader, not up to the job—pretending he was with flood victims while he was on the booze in the Qantas lounge, when flood victims were losing their homes. What a disgrace. Those are his priorities: trying to fool Queenslanders that his priority was on the ground, dealing with the flood victims, when he was on the red wine, having a fine time on the public dime. We have seen it before because he did it in Canberra. He has a habit of it. It is a disgrace. He should apologise to the flood victims for politicising a natural disaster.

### Youth Crime, Legislation

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Did the minister advise the Attorney-General that other crimes, like rape and attempted murder, should be included as an adult crime in the LNP's rushed youth crime laws?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for the question. I know it is a foreign concept to those opposite to be delivering what you say you will do and to be delivering on your promises.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Uncharted waters for them.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the Premier. It is uncharted waters for them.

Let me give the member for Bulimba, who, in fact, is the failed youth justice minister, a history on what we did and what we took to the election. The people of Queensland were suffering through a youth crime crisis that started under those opposite and that failed youth justice minister who systematically watered down our youth justice laws over 10 years. We took to the election five key offence areas that we promised Queenslanders would be law by Christmas. We promised Queenslanders we would make those five key offence areas law by Christmas and we delivered on that promise. Adult Crime, Adult Time was law by Christmas.

We also promised Queenslanders there would be further changes. We promised Queenslanders that an expert legal panel would be set up to consider those further tranches and those further changes that are necessary, including rape, including all of the attempted offences. There are a number of offences that we need the Expert Legal Panel to consider, and we promised Queenslanders that would happen. We are delivering on our promises. What is Labor's record when it comes to youth crime? I will tell you what their record is.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question of the minister was about what advice she provided to the Attorney-General about the inclusion of those offences.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, on the point of order, the minister is providing a comprehensive answer to the question as asked. In relation—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Who is interjecting while I am taking a point of order? Member for Bulimba, you are warned.

**Dr ROWAN:** There are imputations in the question with respect to some of the terminology, but the minister is being responsive to the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I find the question is being answered. It might not be quite the way you would like it to be answered, but broadly the question is being answered.

**Mrs GERBER:** I know they do not like to hear it, but what is their record? What did they do when we introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time? They held an emergency caucus meeting because members of the Labor Party wanted to vote against it. They were backgrounding their own leader. They were infighting. They had members who wanted to leave the Labor Party because they are on the side of youth criminals and they do not put victims first. What is their record on this? Their record is that they closed the Childrens Court to victims and their families, they made detention a last resort, they refused to make breach of bail an offence and they systematically weakened our youth justice laws to the point where we had a generation of repeat young offenders.

*(Time expired)*

### State Finances

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer inform the House what the LNP uncovered in the first 100 days about the previous administration's management of the state's finances and what action the Crisafulli government is taking to ensure a fresh start for Queensland?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the member for Townsville for the question because it is a very important question. The past 100 days have been a period when we have seen a calm and methodical approach returned to the Queensland budget. I think about the last couple of months of the former government, under the former treasurer and the former premier. Let us just say that in the past couple of months there has been no talk about state owned service stations, state owned medical practices or state owned energy retailers. There has been no talk about state provided school lunches.

There has been a calm and methodical approach as this government has gone from line agency to line agency to determine the capital projects that have blown out and the unfunded budget promises and service delivery commitments of those opposite over the last period. Ours has been a calm and methodical approach and it was concluded in MYFER, Labor's last budget update. I will go to a couple of key points from Labor's last budget update.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the shadow treasurer. Over the past couple of months we have learned that the shadow treasurer was present for every CBRC discussion about every single hidden project blowout. I think the capital project blowouts from those opposite constitute the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on the Queensland people. For Pioneer-Burdekin it went from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion. You all knew about it and you never told the Queensland people. For Borumba it went from \$14 billion to \$18 billion. We on this side of the House discovered that and you said nothing. You all knew about it—every single one of you—and the three at the front are still sitting here.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr JANETZKI:** As articulated by the health minister, the shadow treasurer had said the hospital capacity expansion program was meant to cost \$9 billion, but now it will cost more than \$16 billion. You all knew it and you hid it from the Queensland people. The question we are asked is what we will do differently. This is a foreign concept for those opposite but we will treat taxpayer money with respect and we will deliver projects on time and on budget. We will treat taxpayer dollars with respect. We will target budget improvements. Those opposite would never do it, but Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

*(Time expired)*

### Youth Crime, Legislation

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is of the Minister for Police. Did the minister advise the Attorney-General if rape and attempted murder should be included as an adult crime?

**Mr PURDIE:** I cannot help but start this answer with a quote from the great philosopher and climate change warrior, Greta Thunberg: 'How dare you!' How dare those opposite come in here and have a go at us about our tough-on-crime laws. How dare they! They came into this House kicking and screaming and refusing to support our Making Queensland Safer Laws. They are ideologically opposed to them. They did not want any charge included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws, but now they want every charge in the Criminal Code included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws. If they wanted to abolish the Childrens Court, they could have done so. This shows the hypocrisy of those opposite. This is what it comes down to because we know—



**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The noise is unacceptable. Member for Waterford, you had a really good go this morning. You are joining the warning list.

**Mr PURDIE:** We all know what we are talking about here. I will not stray into the lines of sub judice but it relates to the 13-year-old person who was arrested. Let us not forget the position of those opposite and their party for the past 10 years. It was to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years. That would have meant that, with the matter we are talking about now, the offender would face no consequences. They would not be able to be detained or arrested by the police. That has been their firm position. Look at them with their heads down now—the ones who are on the record wanting to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years, which would have meant that, in the matter we are talking about today, the young offender would not be held to account at all. Now they are demanding to know why it was not included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws. They did not want any offence included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws and now they want every offence included. The hypocrisy is galling. They spent 10 years watering down the laws.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Police might like to make jokes about this, but the key to the question was about what advice he gave to the Attorney-General. He has not mentioned advice and he has not mentioned the crimes of attempted murder or rape. I ask you to bring him back to a relevant answer to that key part of the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister?

**Mr PURDIE:** The advice that I gave to the Attorney-General and my colleagues is that raising the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years would end in dire consequences for the state of Queensland, and that is what they wanted. Now they come in here demanding that every offence in the Criminal Code be included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws. They had a chance. They did not want to support the legislation. They tore each other apart. They are ideologically opposed to it. In Queensland, there is only one group of people that is praying for the number of victims of crime and the number of crimes in general to go up, and that is the Queensland Labor Party. They are praying and hoping that the number of victims in Queensland continues to increase, as it did under them. I can tell the House that it will not because we will give the police the laws and the resources they need. We do back our police and, unlike those opposite, we will hold young offenders to account.

## Health System

**Mr DILLON:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the Crisafulli government's commitment to release real-time health data as part of the 100-day plan, and is the minister aware of any previous approaches to managing Queensland's health system?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Gregory for his question. It is a good question because it goes to the root cause of problems that Queenslanders have experienced over the past 10 years under the former Labor government. The member for Gregory is a great fighter for the cause for the people in his electorate, having spent four years previously as a mayor in that district. We welcome him here as the voice of experience representing those people.

The member for Gregory has asked about real-time data. In 93 days we have delivered what the Labor Party was unable to deliver in 3½ thousand days. We have delivered what we said we would and what we promised before we went into the election and then some on top of it. We have delivered real-time data so that people can see how many beds there are in emergency departments in our 25 hospitals and seven satellite health centres, which we have renamed along the way to overcome the problems. We have, in fact, provided more information than comparable systems in New South Wales, including a busyness scale so that people can see, on average, how busy the ED is compared to its normal busyness over time.

This is not the end of the story. There is more work to be done. Let's hear what some people said about it. The Rural Doctors Association said that this is such an achievement in pulling meaningful data from a number of systems to ensure transparency for the public. I quote—

The 25 sites are a great first step and include regional sites ...

AMA Queensland said—

This is a welcome first step in modernising our health system and something the AMA Queensland has urged the government to do for years.

It is something those opposite never did. Health Consumers Queensland said—

This is a forward step, helping consumers to be better informed. We congratulate the Government for ensuring that the new website has been designed from the start with consumer input.

This was also supported by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' Dr Cathryn Hester. This is the first step in turning around the dismal state of health services left to us.

I have been asked what the alternatives are. Time is too short but the alternatives include a former health minister who promised to get ramping down to 28 per cent in 12 months but it went up to 45 per cent. The member for Waterford drove it up. Her litany of failures were followed by the opposition leader, who inherited a 15 per cent ramping rate that went up to 43 per cent. That is what was delivered by the opposition leader. We have done in 93 days what Labor failed to do in 3½ thousand. God help us if they ever get back in.

*(Time expired)*

### Youth Crime, Legislation

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Did the minister advise the Attorney-General that other crimes, like rape and attempted murder, should be included as adult crimes in the LNP's rushed youth crime laws last year?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the term 'rushed' in the question. There is an imputation so I ask that the question be rephrased.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question as asked.

**Ms CAMM:** I think I need to remind those opposite about the Westminster process for ministerial accountability. Also, I am very happy to respond and expand upon my portfolio responsibilities as they relate to the youth crime crisis. What those opposite may have forgotten is that the youth crime crisis that our government inherited was born out of a failed child safety system overseen by multiple ministers who failed during their time in that portfolio. It started with the member for Waterford, followed by the members for Bulimba, Nudgee and Jordan. During their time, the youth crime crisis grew and ballooned in this state.

The child safety system—which now has a record number of children in residential care, worse than any other state in the nation—was breeding crime in this state. We will never forget the bail houses. The bail houses were failed by those opposite. I will never forget sitting in estimates after being sworn into this House when the then minister for child safety and youth justice decided to close down bail houses because they knew that they were breeding crime. The hypocrisy of those opposite!

I will echo the words of the police minister. The opposition preferred to spend the last sitting week of parliament fighting and caucusing to decide who might be the next leader of the opposition rather than putting victims' rights first, which is what we took to the election. We put the rights of victims above the rights of criminals, even if those criminals are children.

**Mr deBRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on a matter of relevance. The question was specifically about advice provided to the Attorney-General. I ask you to bring the member back to a relevant answer.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. While I accept that the question has been taken by the Minister for Child Safety, the question as asked here in the parliament is not directly related to the minister's portfolio responsibilities. I would ask you to rule on that aspect with respect to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Minister, you have 51 minutes—51 seconds remaining.

**Ms CAMM:** Thank you, Mr Speaker—51 minutes! I am up for the challenge, if you would indulge me. Those opposite spent more time infighting during the last sitting week of last year instead of focusing on what was being told to us as the government loud and clear by the people of Queensland. They were over not feeling safe in their homes, in their streets or in their neighbourhoods. Some people paid the ultimate price with their lives. We have members on this side of the House who put their hand

up to represent their community because those opposite were out of touch. Today, it is clear from the line of questioning that they do not even understand portfolio responsibilities and ministerial accountability. That is something that we will not shy away from when we deliver a further tranche of laws.

*(Time expired)*

### **Youth Justice, Programs**

**Mr STEVENS:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Will the minister inform the House on the steps the Crisafulli government has taken to implement the Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs as part of the 100-day plan, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for Mermaid Beach for the question. It is a really important question. One of our commitments was to deliver early intervention and rehabilitation for youth offenders as a result of the youth crime crisis that started under the previous government. I am pleased to update the House in relation to Regional Reset and Staying on Track.

We have held more than 12 consultation and information sessions right around Queensland. The member for Mermaid Beach joined me at the consultation session we had on the Gold Coast which saw a number of key stakeholders commit to delivering early intervention and rehabilitation for our youth to engage in the Regional Reset and Staying on Track programs. In fact, we have had more than 350 stakeholders engage in those information sessions right across Queensland.

Staying on Track and Regional Reset will go to tender at the end of this month. They are key programs to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. Regional Reset will deliver a one- to three-week short stay to reset criminal behaviour and reset youths who are perhaps making poor choices right now. This program will provide gold standard early intervention. Staying on Track is a \$175 million investment into every single youth who goes into our detention centres so they can receive 12 months of rehabilitative support, and we are partnering with communities to deliver that support.

Let's look at the contrast between what the Crisafulli government is delivering and what Labor did in the 10 years that they were in government. In 10 years, Labor not only weakened our youth justice laws to the point where youth crime ripped through this state but also failed to invest in early intervention and rehabilitation. The Crisafulli government's investment in early intervention and rehabilitation is more than double Labor's investment. Why are we doing this? Why are we committed to this? We know that Queenslanders need not only tough strong laws to keep them safe but also early intervention and rehabilitation programs to turn those young lives around.

For far too long Queensland was failed by a Labor government. For 10 years they watered down our Youth Justice Act and created a generation of repeat young offenders. The Crisafulli government is committed to these programs. Why? We want to see fewer victims of crime in this state. Our sole focus is victims and seeing fewer victims of crime.

*(Time expired)*

### **Hinchinbrook Electorate, Road Repair**

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Recent flooding resulted in the Bruce Highway being cut for several days at Gairloch and the Seymour River north of Ingham, making it impassable for freight trucks, emergency services and essential workers. Upgrades to the Gairloch washaway have been in the pipeline for over 10 years. Will the minister advise if the Gairloch project, including the Seymour River upgrades, can be fast-tracked before the wet season?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question. Before I answer the question, I acknowledge his work over the last two weeks supporting his community. I have enjoyed working with the member for Hinchinbrook to help address the concerns of his community in relation to some of the roads he has mentioned and others. I know that the Premier and other ministers have had a constructive relationship with the member over that period of time, so thank you.

The member for Hinchinbrook and I have met and discussed this issue and others, both before this flood emergency and afterwards. I recognise the need for these important works to be fast-tracked to avoid the sorts of issues we have seen over the last two weeks. It is not just residents in the member for Hinchinbrook's community who have suffered as a consequence of these two crossings; it is also

the residents in the communities represented by the members for Barron River, Cairns, Cook and others who have seen shelves run bare because the Bruce Highway was unable to cope with the floodwater we saw over the last two weeks.

The government is committed, as the Premier said in his ministerial statement, to bettering the Bruce Highway. It is one of the reasons that I am tasked in my charter letter with re-establishing the Bruce Highway Advisory Council and fighting for 80-20 funding. We are pleased to see that the federal government has come to the party to provide an 80-20 funding package totalling \$9 billion to upgrade the Bruce Highway.

It is something that the former Labor government chose to ignore. They actually did not take the fight to Canberra. They laid down and took a 50-50 offer. This meant that critical upgrades like those at Gairloch and the Seymour River bridge were not done. In relation to those two pieces of infrastructure, I am advised that there is detailed design work currently being undertaken. As the member identified, this piece of work has taken many years. In fact, I think his predecessor was responsible for getting the funding from the federal government many years ago—long before he and I came to this House.

We are committed to getting on with the job of building those upgrades. Whether it is the Gairloch washaway or the Seymour River bridge, we need to do better. We cannot see communities in the North and Far North isolated for days and weeks at a time, as we have seen over recent weeks. As I said, the department is continuing with the detailed design work. I am advised that I will receive that before the end of the year. Our focus is getting on with the job of building it. It is not good enough to continue with studies and reviews and not actually get on with the job of delivering this infrastructure.

We have seen what can be done when required with the Ollera Creek bridge. I acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook's involvement with that recovery. It took 11 days to rebuild the bridge to get trucks over it on road base initially and then subsequently restore it with a temporary solution to enable us to get on with the job. We are focused on rebuilding and we will continue to work with the member for Hinchinbrook to deliver for his community and all communities in the North.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Ms JAMES:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister advise what steps the Crisafulli government took in the first 100 days to make Queensland communities safer, and how does this approach differ from that of previous governments?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for Barron River for the question. I know how passionate she is about her community, and particularly how committed she is to driving down crime and making her community safer. We spoke earlier about the work our police and frontline personnel have been doing in Far North Queensland to support the flood recovery effort.

I can announce to the member and to this House that over the weekend police have arrested 10 juvenile offenders for committing more than 50 offences in the Barron River area. It goes to show the work they do not only in the flood recovery space but also in the business-as-usual policing space. I am advised that a number of these offenders will be dealt with under the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which the Crisafulli government committed to the people of Queensland we would enact in the first 100 days in government.

Before I talk more about that, I want to reflect on the first 100 days of the government of those opposite back in 2015. They are coming in here trying to rewrite history and wanting every offence in the Criminal Code included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws when they proudly watered down the youth crime laws in Queensland. Those opposite frantically looking down at their phones now proudly spoke about being soft on crime and how a tough-on-crime approach will not work. What we saw over the following 10 years was crime across all classes go through the roof. Subsequently, we saw police morale decline and attrition rates reach all-time highs.

By contrast, in our first 100 days, the Crisafulli government gave the police not only the laws we promised in the first tranche—there will be more to come—but also the resources. We promised to give our police the laws and the resources that they lost over the preceding 10 years under those opposite. I was proud to announce over the Christmas break over \$15 million to permanently stand up the Youth Crime Taskforce—an announcement those opposite made but failed to fund into the future. We will continue to fund the Youth Crime Taskforce and support the work they do.

Also over the Christmas break, I was proud to stand up with the Premier and announce over \$30 million for the state flying squad. It will be the largest rapid response flying squad in the history of Queensland. It currently has about 17 staff. Knowing that they operate in teams of five or six, they struggle to get three teams deployed at any one time. We are going to increase the staff to nearly 60. We will have nine or 10 state flying squad teams that will be able to rapidly respond, in areas like Barron River, when a spate of crime occurs.

We promised to give our police not only the laws they needed—and we will continue to do that—but also the resources. That takes me to the last point, we promised to increase the number of boots on the ground. In the last year, those opposite increased the number of boots on the ground by 45. In our first 100 days, we have more than doubled that.

### **Youth Crime, Legislation**

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Attorney-General. Is the Attorney-General aware that attempted murder was not included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws before a serious criminal offence was committed at Yamanto Central on 10 January? If so, why was it not included?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you are in sub judice territory. Could you rephrase that question?

**Mr DICK:** Certainly, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Attorney-General. Was the Attorney-General aware that attempted murder was not included in the Making Queensland Safer Laws before a serious criminal offence occurred on 10 January? If so, why was it not included?

### **Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, I am ruling that question out of order.

### **Child Protection**

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Will the Attorney-General update the House on the LNP's 100-day plan regarding the safety of Queensland children, and is the Attorney-General aware of previous approaches that did not keep Queensland children safe?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is how you write and deliver a question. Honestly, that is from a former attorney-general.

**A government member:** He's not up to it!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He is just not up to it. I could keep going.

The member for Callide has asked a very relevant question—a question that the people of Queensland want answered. As we committed to do within the first 100 days, I, along with the Premier, announced a review into the child safety system and the blue card system. One only needs to look at what those opposite have done to see why we have done this. I note that the member, a former attorney-general, was unable to get his question out, even when he was asked to repeat it.

**Mr Nicholls:** He's still getting over the shock of losing his Qantas Club membership.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am not going to say that. I am not taking that interjection. When it comes to the blue card review and what has gone wrong, we only need to look at history. What happened? We had the death of schoolgirl Tiahleigh Palmer back in 2015. The former Labor government were dragged kicking and screaming, thanks to us, to put a review in place, and the former premier did that in 2016. In 2017, they handed down recommendations of the review. What happened when Ashley Paul Griffith committed his heinous crimes against children—our most vulnerable in this state? He was arrested in 2022 and he has been dealt with by the courts.

What did the former Labor government do? They failed to deliver on the recommendations of the 2017 review into the blue card system. There were over a third unfulfilled commitments that should have happened from 2017. That is what happened under those opposite. That is exactly why we have Luke Twyford heading up the review into the blue card system, which is so important. We only need to look at how many—

**Mr Healy:** Get on with it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the member for Cairns. He said, 'Get on with it.' We have gotten on with it. We did get on with it. He sat there. What did the member for Cairns do when he was a minister in the former government? He failed the children of Queensland. That is what he did. That is what you get out of Labor.

### Expert Legal Panel

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Can the minister advise whether any members of the independent expert legal review panel, as announced on 12 February, are members of, or have donated to, a political party or handed out how-to-vote cards in the recent state election?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for the question. I thank the member for the opportunity to update the House as to the members of the Expert Legal Panel and their qualifications. We promised Queenslanders there would be an expert legal panel set up with experts in the law profession, experts in enforcing the law, victim representation and community members.

I can inform the House that the chair of the Expert Legal Panel is April Freeman, a King's Counsel with two decades of legal experience not only prosecuting offenders but also representing youth offenders. I find it extremely offensive and disgusting that those opposite would judge a woman in this day and age based on who she is married to. It is absolutely disgusting. It is shameful that they are continuing to go down this line. April is eminently qualified. She is a King's Counsel—eminently qualified. We put the call out to all Queenslanders. We wanted the best of the best and we got the best of the best.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, we are almost there.

**Mrs GERBER:** We put the call out to all Queenslanders for the best of the best and we got the best of the best.

**Mr Bleijie:** See what the Bar Association said about her?

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. I will read what the Bar Association has said about our chair of the Expert Legal Panel, April Freeman KC. The president of the Queensland Bar Association has said in respect of April and our other legal expert—

Both are barristers respected for their experience in this field and are held—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The quarrelling across the chamber will stop.

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Speaker, I will read what the Queensland Bar Association has said of Ms Freeman.

**Mr Crisafulli:** How low!

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the Premier. How low! How low to be criticising a woman in the 21st century because of who she is married to. I thought we were beyond that.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, I cannot hear the minister.

**Mrs GERBER:** The Bar Association has said—

Both are barristers respected for their experience in this field and are held in the highest esteem by the Bar. Public and community service are at the heart of the traditions of the Bar, and April and Douglas are exemplars of that spirit.

Those opposite are an absolute disgrace to be saying that April is not qualified for this job because of who she is married to.

*(Time expired)*

### Public Transport, Fares

**Ms DOOLEY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister advise the House how the Crisafulli government's 100-day plan is delivering cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders through the introduction of the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, you have one minute.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Promise made; promise kept. The LNP's 50-cent permanent fares—only under the Crisafulli government is public transport 50 cents.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite like to laugh and crow. They like to talk about it, but how much was in the budget? How much was in the budget to make 50-cent fares permanent? Zero—not a single cent. In fact, those opposite spent more advertising the fact—


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I feel I should apologise to the children in the gallery. Member for Bundamba, you are now on a warning. Minister, you have 20 seconds.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite spent more on advertising the fact that they wanted to make 50-cent fares permanent. They spent \$4 million advertising it and talking about it but not a single cent doing it. That tells us everything that we need to know about the Labor Party and about the Leader of the Opposition. It is all about the spin. Forget about the substance. They are not up to it.

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

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.18 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 1**—Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 36:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

Pair: Marr, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.23 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

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

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

**AYES, 52:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 36:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

Pair: Marr, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the minister, I will remind the House of those members on a warning: the members for Algester, Bulimba, Waterford, Cairns and Bundamba.

### **Safer Families, Safer Communities**



**Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.29 am): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the serious impact that domestic and family violence has on families across Queensland;
2. notes the Crisafulli government’s commitment to take meaningful action on domestic and family violence;
3. notes the Crisafulli government’s Safer Families, Safer Communities plan to protect victims of domestic and family violence by piloting a new GPS tracker program for high-risk domestic violence offenders;
4. calls on all members of the House to endorse the Crisafulli government’s Safer Families, Safer Communities plan.

We were clear when we came to government that we would introduce a comprehensive, practical plan to combat domestic and family violence. As part of our Safer Families, Safer Communities policy, we will roll out 500 GPS trackers to high-risk domestic violence perpetrators. This has been called for by victim advocates and it has been called for by the Queensland Police Service so they can have extra resources and extra tools. More importantly, it has been called for by victims themselves who do not feel safe in their community. Perpetrators of domestic violence were not held to account by the former Labor government because Labor failed to deliver meaningful action to hold them to account.

As part of my 100-day plan for my portfolio, we formed a working group consisting of victim-survivors. In very recent times, victim-survivors have experienced gaps in the system where they were failed by a government policy that did not have any practical implementation and was not evaluated. This working group will meet and advise me and my department on where we need to prioritise the reforms for those gaps.


We will do what those opposite refused to do—that is, hold perpetrators to account. Over the last decade while those opposite were in government, the number of breached domestic violence orders grew year on year. The previous Labor government sent a message: ‘If you commit domestic violence, it’s okay. Breach your order and you can go back out there again.’ There were no consequences. This occurred in places like Townsville, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Caboolture, Mount Isa, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Ipswich. Last week I was in Cairns, where 10 per cent of all domestic violence occurs. The police there are under enormous pressure and they fear that a woman’s life will be lost because of the failures of the previous government. The previous government failed to properly resource the police, they failed to ensure the laws that are in place are being utilised by the judiciary and they failed to ensure tools like GPS monitoring are being used proactively after breaching, not waiting until the perpetrator has committed harm and assaulted their victim.

This will be an added tool, alongside the introduction of coercive control legislation, which we supported in opposition. We know that victims want reassurance. This GPS monitoring device will not only hold perpetrators to account; a response button will also be given to victim-survivors so they can feel safe and be monitored. In that way, we will know where the perpetrator is and we will also know if we need to contact the victim to enact a safe plan. I have not wasted a minute in this portfolio. We have commenced a review into DVConnect based on not just the demand on that service to answer calls but also the performance of that frontline service to support our Police Service. It is most important that the calls from victim-survivors are being answered.

Those opposite were not tough on perpetrators. I call for their support today to align with the government and hold perpetrators to account. I call on those opposite to support this accountability for perpetrators. We on this side of the House take this seriously. We will put victims ahead of perpetrators, just as we did with the Making Queensland Safer Laws where we put victims ahead of those committing crimes. We will be tough on domestic violence perpetrators and we will hold them to account.

*(Time expired)*



 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (11.34 am): I have to say that I am a little surprised at this motion from the minister. There used to be a time when there would be a really strong bipartisan approach to tackling violence against women and domestic and family violence. If the minister had been genuine about seeking our support for holding perpetrators to account, tracking those perpetrators and strengthening protections for victims, perhaps we could have been given some notice of this motion. I think it is fair to say that the former Labor government has an incredibly strong track record on this issue. Why come in here and play politics when it comes to domestic and family violence?

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you are on the list.


**Ms FENTIMAN:** Ten days after I became the minister for women I was handed the *Not now, not ever* report from Quentin Bryce—a taskforce that was set up by the LNP that we threw absolutely everything at implementing. There was a bipartisanship approach. Similarly with the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, as the relevant minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence I made sure that those opposite got briefings from the taskforce and at every stage were aware of the reforms we were embarking on—because I can tell you that tackling violence against women is too important for petty politics.

Why would you come in here and surprise the House with a motion about tackling domestic and family violence and not try to get bipartisan support? I am so proud of the former Labor government's record when it comes to tackling violence against women. Not only did we implement all of the recommendations around *Not now, not ever*, we also set up the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, headed by Margaret McMurdo. What did that result in? It resulted in historic law reform to keep women and children protected: criminalising coercive control, introducing affirmative consent and overhauling our criminal justice system to put women and children at the centre. That is what this side of the House absolutely believes in. I would have thought the minister could have reached out and said, 'Hey, today we're going to debate a really important issue.'

This issue is so important to the community. This issue is confronting the entire country because every week two women are killed by a partner or a former partner. None of us is comfortable with that. Every one of us wants to do more, so why come in here and play politics with this issue? Every one of us is absolutely committed to doing everything we can to keep women and children safe. I note that the minister who moved this motion has still never apologised for what all of those community groups and non-government organisations went through under the Newman LNP government when they lost funding and were gagged from speaking out about it. I happened to sit on a board in my community of Logan—the Centre Against Sexual Violence—and worked every day with the counsellors who support women and children who have been sexually assaulted. They were outraged that they had to fire counsellors and had to think about moving out of their premises because they could not afford the rent. The worst thing about it was that they could not actually talk to stakeholders and the community because they were gagged under the agreements that the member for Clayfield introduced when he was treasurer. There has not been an apology for that.

I think it is pretty clear that those of us on this side of the House are absolutely up for doing anything we can to keep women and children safe. We will continue to work with the stakeholders and take advice from those organisations on the front line. I know that there is lots of chatter at the moment about initiatives that the Queensland Police Service would like to introduce. I urge the minister and the Premier to go and meet with Women's Legal Service and the DV organisations because they have serious concerns about how this will put women at risk.

On this side of the House, we have always stood with those organisations that do the hard work, day in and day out, supporting women and their children escaping violence. Those opposite want to talk about holding perpetrators to account. Not only did we introduce tougher penalties for breaches of DVOs but we also put in place perpetrator strategies that were leading the nation to prevent violence against women in the first place. Because this is about men committing violence against women, we have to start with young boys—the next generation. We are up for it. Come and talk to us. We are happy to support it.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (11.39 am): I rise to support this motion regarding the Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan. This motion reflects our government's commitment to a fresh start for Queensland, ensuring domestic violence offenders are no longer allowed to walk the streets freely while their victims

live in fear. Before the election, we said we would deliver a plan to restore safety in communities across Queensland, and we are doing exactly that. The Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan includes the rollout of 500 GPS trackers for high-risk offenders, monitoring their location and sounding an alarm if the offender is in close proximity to the victim-survivor. The Crisafulli LNP government is working tirelessly to stop domestic and family violence perpetrators in their tracks.

Modelled after the highly successful Tasmanian program, our new GPS tracker initiative will provide practical support to victim-survivors of domestic and family violence by seeking to deter such violence before it occurs. As a result of this initiative, those who commit these disgraceful acts are now on notice. There will be nowhere to hide and nowhere to run. The Crisafulli LNP government has been clear there will be real consequences for actions under this government, and the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of providing the courts and our police with the tools they need to keep Queenslanders safe with the first 150 GPS trackers to be issued against high-risk perpetrators by the end of the year. These trackers will be monitored 24/7 and will be available as a condition of a domestic violence order. These trackers send a strong message to perpetrators of domestic violence: the Crisafulli LNP government will hold you to account and we will always put the rights of victims before perpetrators.


We are also committed to providing more help directly to those affected by domestic and family violence, which is why the Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan will double the capacity of DVConnect's women's line and men's line through the creation of a North Queensland hub. DVConnect's women's line and men's line are both crucial community resources in the effort to combat the scourge of domestic and family violence which is why our government has committed to this major funding boost.

We are also expanding Beyond DV's hope hubs with the addition of three new recovery centres to provide social, health, housing, legal and financial support in a setting which is easy and inconspicuous to access for those impacted by domestic and family violence.

It is no secret that I have personal experience with domestic and family violence, as I have shared in this House before, and have long been an advocate against all forms of domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence does not discriminate. Its impact is both significant and long-lasting, and it is far too prevalent in our state. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government which is taking swift, decisive actions to address this scourge and hold perpetrators of these heinous acts to account.

I note that this government has already established a working group with victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence to identify gaps in the system left by the former Labor government which put the safety of Queenslanders at risk. This working group will also provide invaluable insight, as we work towards better prevention and intervention strategies.

I urge those opposite to put the safety of Queenslanders above politics and join our government in supporting this motion. The Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan is an important, proactive step in combatting the scourge of domestic and family violence in Queensland. Our government will always stand up for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence, and we will continue to work tirelessly to restore safety to all Queenslanders wherever they may live. I again mention the names of some amazing women on the Gold Coast whose mothers joined a mothers club that no-one ever wanted to join: Shelsea Schilling, Tara Brown and Michelle Beattie, from Hearts of Purple, who has been a vocal voice on the Gold Coast and across Queensland for domestic and family violence. Thank you.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (11.44 am): Domestic, family and sexual violence should be above politics, and what we have seen today is the government come in and rush through a motion with no notice to the opposition, in regard to Queenslanders who are victims of domestic, family and sexual violence, without any genuine opportunity to have a sensible conversation about important reforms. So let's be clear: if the government was serious about reform, then they would have introduced a bill into this House. They would have allowed victims, stakeholders, Queenslanders and elected members of parliament to actually critically analyse important reforms, reforms that are designed to protect particularly women who are experiencing domestic and family violence.

I think a number of us probably take great offence to some of the claims made that members of the opposition do not care about domestic and family violence because that is simply untrue. That is untrue. When you look at our track record in government, we were a government that was focused on

making sure that we reformed the criminal justice system so the response was significantly better. We implemented reforms around coercive control and around affirmative consent, around stealthing, overhauling the criminal justice system. As the shadow health minister pointed out, we tried to do that in a bipartisan way. We acknowledged the work of the former LNP government commissioning that review. We took that work on and we implemented it, but today we have cheap politics rather than actually supporting victims of domestic and family violence.

Given that is the tone the government has set today, I think it is important that we recognise what some government members have said. I would like to bring the House's attention to the police minister who was, at the time, the shadow police minister who, when asked by the Queensland Police Union his views on the commission of inquiry, a very important inquiry that was established, he said, 'Oh, look, I haven't even reviewed it, and it's not on my big to-do list at the moment that I've been made since getting the job.' It is pretty astounding that the shadow police minister—now Minister for Police—in this state was evidently not interested in such a significant piece of reform. It was not a big priority for him.

When I talk to police in my community, they tell me that the biggest issue they are responding to is domestic and family violence. I want to acknowledge some of the fantastic men and women in blue and also those incredible organisations who are responding every day to instances of domestic and family violence. I will give a shout-out to the senior sergeant and team in my electorate in Nerang who have done a fantastic job of creating a dedicated space so that it is a safe space for victims to come to. They have a victims' advocate in there and they are doing some really important work. We should be supporting them and not playing politics over these issues.

As well as all of those law reforms, our government brought in significant investment. There was over a billion dollars worth of investment, but mostly recently the \$588 million investment to implement the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Can I say that with all of that good work, it is disappointing that we are here today with government members who are playing politics over an issue that really deserved careful consideration. Of course we support reforms that will keep victims safe, particularly victims of domestic and family violence.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the minister and I ask her to do the right thing. No notice was given to this side to be able to make a meaningful contribution to—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from one of the men in the government who has—

**A government member** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Gaven has the call.

**Ms SCANLON:** It is disrespectful to rush through a motion on such a significant issue without any notice. The Making Queensland Safer Laws were rushed through and we saw where that ended up, so I think it is important that Queenslanders have a genuine opportunity to provide feedback, particularly when the track record of the LNP—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. I remind her that it was the LNP that slashed funding to Gold Coast DV services. They know your track record. We want to make sure that we support meaningful reforms, and we will continue to do that.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (11.49 am): This should be a motion that the opposite side fully endorses. Instead we have fake outrage whereby they are trying to make themselves the victims—rather than those who have actually suffered from domestic violence. This is a great motion to put focus on an issue which is a scourge in our community. It highlights an opportunity to make a difference with the policy that has been released by the Crisafulli government in regard to delivering on our election commitment to make Queensland safer. One hundred and fifty court ordered GPS trackers will be put on high-risk domestic violence offenders by the end of 2025. This is part of a program of 500 tracking devices, monitored 24/7, that we promised for high-risk perpetrators who consistently breach domestic violence orders. Unfortunately, the Labor Party, in their mock outrage, have revealed that they do not feel comfortable with looking at measures such as this that empower victims and keep them safe while putting a focus on perpetrators and holding them to account.


It is a vital part of our Safer Families, Safer Communities policy that we protect victims of domestic and family violence by piloting this new GPS tracker program for high-risk domestic violence offenders. These trackers will allow police to monitor offenders for breaches of movement, such as going to a victim's home, and to quickly respond. We want to see protective measures not only as a deterrent but also as a way of giving police the extra tools they need to ensure they can meet community expectations and deliver actual outcomes where people fear for their lives. Because of the high-risk call-outs that they are receiving, there is a demand on our police and this is having a huge impact.

Domestic violence committed by high-risk offenders is such a significant issue not only in terms of the offences committed but also the fear caused. It robs victims of their right to be safe and their right to feel safe. Both of those things matter. It is vitally important that this plan that we have empowers police and, importantly, protects victims. That is why I endorse the plan of the Crisafulli government. Unfortunately, I have not heard those on the other side endorse what should have been a non-contentious motion.

This program is about ensuring we not only have these measures but also engage with the other parts of our policy, to hear from victims who, unfortunately, have very dangerous lived experience on where there are gaps so that we can work towards better prevention and intervention strategies. This government has established a working group with victims of domestic, family and sexual violence to identify these gaps. We have allocated a further \$24 million for the rollout of domestic and family violence support workers in police stations across Queensland while expanding Beyond DV Hope Hub recovery centres with additional sites.

There is absolutely no place for domestic violence—for those who perpetrate it, for those who put people's lives at risk. People live in fear because of their actions. We are clear in our stand against domestic violence and all those who perpetrate it. This government is getting on with the job of delivering real policies to keep Queenslanders safe, including for our most vulnerable citizens. We are keeping our election promises. We are delivering on those election promises. Domestic violence offenders who have robbed their victims of peace and safety need to be held to account. That is why Safer Families, Safer Communities is a well-rounded policy. It includes not only tracking devices for high-risk offenders who consistently breach domestic violence orders but also a package of support for those who have suffered from domestic violence.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (11.55 am): We on this side of the House have always been committed to addressing the scourge of domestic violence across our communities. Domestic violence has forever been part of our community. It may not have always been talked about—in the past it may have been hidden—but domestic violence is a complex issue that has been part of our communities for way too long. I am very disappointed in the LNP government and their approach to this debate today. The LNP government past would have announced the *Not now, not ever* report and engaged in a significant review of local and global research to ensure whatever laws we debated in this House were reflective of the latest evidence around how we address this scourge.

Regardless of which government is in leadership in Queensland or the country, domestic and family violence has been an issue and a scourge across all of our communities. This side of the House has a very proud record on addressing the issue of domestic and family violence. In fact, when in government we addressed, and were continuing to address, the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. We implemented measures to address retaliatory orders imposed by perpetrators on victims. We legislated in respect of coercive control. We also introduced legislation to address affirmative consent, which I know from my past as a school leader is very much an issue amongst our young people. There has been historic law reform in this state led by Labor including tougher penalties on DV perpetrators.

There were myriad legislative changes in the time Labor was in power in Queensland. This is not new to us. If those opposite were serious about addressing domestic and family violence they would have brought legislation to this House. They would have given us fair warning of their intention to bring this motion to this House. I acknowledge those opposite who are reading written speeches. This shows that they well and truly knew that this issue was on the agenda for today.

To suggest that the Labor opposition is not supportive of anything that will reduce injury and risk to young people and to their mothers is a disgrace. Every week two women are killed in this country. Domestic and family violence needs to be addressed by both sides of this House in a bipartisan way. It is deeply entrenched in our community. Those opposite who think one or two strategies will solve this

issue are absolutely wrong. These issues are deeply entrenched. It begins with our young people. We have a proud history of introducing the Respectful Relationships curriculum, thanks to the education minister and the minister for youth justice at the time.

This issue is complex. It absolutely begins with our young men in schools and our young men in our community, and we all have a responsibility to educate our young people. We all have a responsibility to address the issues of gender and understandings about gender, understandings about power. That is how it has all begun. We certainly want to be at the table in a bipartisan way to ensure Queensland women and children are kept safe. Our communities expect nothing else and my electorate of Mansfield is no different to any other electorate in Queensland. It affects every woman and child across every community. It cuts across every demographic, every economic profile. In fact, it cuts across every country in the world.


Our communities expect us to address this issue as leaders. They expect us to set the tone. They expect us to address this issue with maturity, drawing upon the latest research and evidence from across the world as to how we address this really important issue. Shame on you, LNP.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The time for debate has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (12.00 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**NOES, 35:**

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

Pair: Marr, McMahan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (12.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice with the following time limits to apply for the debate of the motion:

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

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

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.


**NOES, 35:**

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

Pair: Marr, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

### Member for Stafford

 **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) (12.11 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes media reports that the member for Stafford was directed to take immediate leave following his court appearance days after the police were called to his home;
2. notes media reports that some of the member for Stafford’s own caucus colleagues have expressed concern about his abilities to perform his parliamentary duties and refused to sit with him;
3. notes reports—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to standing order 234, which indicates that imputations or personal reflections on members shall be considered highly disorderly and, therefore, are out of order. I suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that the entire substance of the motion as has already been put is out of order in respect of standing order 234.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will just take a bit of advice on this one, I think. The advice I have received is that, being a substantive motion, it is within the rules, so it can stand.

**Ms SIMPSON:** The motion continues—

2. notes media reports that some of the member for Stafford’s own caucus colleagues have expressed concern about his abilities to perform his parliamentary duties and refused to sit with him;
3. notes reports that the member for Stafford returned to work in defiance of the Leader of the Opposition’s direction; and
4. asks the Leader of the Opposition to explain his continued support for the member for Stafford.

Despite the election being held over 100 days ago, today is the first day that the member for Stafford has sat in this place.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the distinction between the content of the substantive motion and the offence in respect of the rules of debate. The minister has been on her feet for only a few seconds in terms of the debate on her motion and she is already personally reflecting on the member. I ask you to rule that conduct out of order.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Under that rule, Manager of Opposition Business, you cannot take offence on behalf of another member.

**Ms SIMPSON:** What do those opposite want to hide? They cannot explain it. Where has the member for Stafford been? Why has he not been here?

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order regarding, firstly, the longstanding convention that you do not reflect on a member’s absence from this House and, secondly, a matter of privilege. I take personal offence and I ask that the comments be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member is within his rights to take personal offence. He has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.


**Ms SIMPSON:** I withdraw. How will the Leader of the Opposition deal with this matter? Will he back up his views on domestic and family violence? Will he take a stand? Will he prove that he is willing to lay aside his own credibility, which is on the line, for the sake of his own political skin? It is time for the member for Murrumba to stand up and explain himself.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the member for—

**Government members:** Anyone?

**Mr SPEAKER:**—Whitsunday.

**Government members** interjected.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.16 pm): I refer to media reports in the *Australian* as well as previous media reports in the *Courier-Mail*—and I can validate those reports if required—about the member for Stafford's absence from the House in that it has been over 100 days since the member for Stafford was last in this House. That is a fact. We were all here at the swearing in of members of this parliament and the member for Stafford was not here. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

**Ms Pease:** We can talk about Southern Downs.

**Ms CAMM:** I take the interjection. I really look forward to hearing those opposite stand up and speak about the confidence they have in supporting the member for Stafford. I also look forward to hearing from the opposition leader today that he has full confidence in his member's ability to perform his duties not only in this House but also in the electorate. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was even willing to use the member for Stafford's proxy vote in backroom Labor deals—the factional wars that we are seeing by those opposite. I wonder now who those frenemies are, as the *Australian* so eloquently reported, with regard to the member's demise.

If all of those opposite were so supportive of the member for Stafford then the speaking list should be filled with supporters, but instead what we see is chaos and crisis and factional wars. The Leader of the Opposition is not up for it and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not seem to be up for it, but maybe they will prove me wrong in their contributions. Maybe today we will hear from the opposition leader that he puts his full support behind the member for Stafford and trusts that the member can perform his duties. If the member for Murrumba is willing to accept what has been alleged in the media as the standard of behaviour for members of parliament—members of his own team—then let him be heard in this House today.


I note the member for Stafford's social media post of 5 February when he was out campaigning with the new Labor candidate for Brisbane. We all know that there is a federal election looming and we know that from time to time state members go out there supporting their federal candidates or colleagues. This also happens at a local government level. I note that that is in the member for Stafford's social media posts. What we have not seen, though, is the member for Stafford out campaigning with the federal member for Lilley.

I question those opposite as to whether the federal member for Lilley supports the member for Stafford as reported by the government. In relation to female members of the opposition it has also been reported that there are some who do not want to sit in the same room as the member for Stafford. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not want to speak up for those women on that side of the House who do not feel comfortable I will. I will stand up for those women who may feel that they are not free to speak freely about whether they feel comfortable with a fellow MP. As women we should feel safe in our workplace, we should feel comfortable and we should call out behaviour if we do not accept it. We should not be bystanders. I look forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition as to his support for what has been alleged in the media. If this had occurred to one of the members on this side of the House we would not have waited until 12 o'clock to be debating a motion.

**Mrs Nightingale:** Don't think you're standing up for women.

**Ms CAMM:** I will take that interjection. I do stand up for women. I stand up for women each and every day. In fact, we have good men on this side of the House who stand up for women as well. We have men on this side of the House who stand up when women are not feeling comfortable, when women do not feel safe in their workplace. I look forward to hearing from all of those women opposite, in particular the member who continues to interject, the member for Inala. I look forward to her contribution endorsing the member for Stafford.

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

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.21 pm): After serving in this House for many years, nothing should surprise me about the LNP. This morning in the chamber I have seen the LNP conduct themselves in one of the most disgraceful fashions that any government in this state has ever conducted themselves. Let me say this: it is not unlawful, it is not improper, it is


not wrong, for people to drink in licensed premises in Queensland, but of course the LNP sought to make an issue of that this morning. There are many members in this House who struggle with the personal challenge, the pressure, of being a member of parliament.

**Mr Stevens:** The one speaking.

**Mr DICK:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach who has served in this House for 20 years and has never made a contribution to the progress of this state. If the member for Mermaid Beach wants to interject, let him. That sort of interjection is an insight into the culture and thinking of the LNP. There are many members in this House who have dealt with their own personal struggles. There are many members of this House, when serving in the House, who have sought leave to deal with their own personal struggles. It is not unique to the Labor Party. In my time in this House there are at least two members of the LNP who have sought leave from this House to deal with their own personal demons and their own personal challenges. I can assure the people of Queensland that every member in this House, every member in the Labor party, said absolutely nothing about those MPs. In fact, many of us reached out. We reached out, we spoke to them, we sent them letters and emails and notes of support and we hoped for themselves and for their families that they would be able to recover.

This morning we have seen a government bereft of program, of projects and of ambition. The Minister for Domestic Violence came into this House and politicised domestic violence, directly attacking the Labor Party after our government invested \$1.4 billion to support women and girls terrorised by men in this state. We were proud to do so. We thought we did it with the support of the LNP, but we did not see that from the Minister for Domestic Violence who attacked us, saying we had done nothing to address perpetrator violence in this state. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This motion is another example of the politics of personality that infects the LNP. I will tell members where it starts: it starts in the office of the Premier of Queensland. There is nothing this Premier will not do—denigrate wives, spouses, children and partners—to politicise every issue in this state. Things like mental health should be something we all embrace, something that we all respect. I know people on this side and on that side who have struggled with mental health challenges. It is about time that we had a Premier in this state who is willing to lift the standard and say some things are beyond politics and that we all need to respect issues like mental health. Very few of us have suffered the bereavement of a stillborn child. Every day I thank the good Lord in Heaven that I have two fine strapping sons that I can look to. They are the best thing I have ever done in my life. The member for Stafford has lived with that burden. It is something he has spoken in this House about to be a champion of those individuals who have to live with that loss and that bereavement. It is only those people who have suffered that loss and bereavement who can understand the impact on that individual and that family. I am just so disappointed in this Premier and this government for what they have done to this parliament today.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.26 pm): I acknowledge the commentary from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We do have members who struggle from time to time with mental health, but there is a difference in this case. Police were not called to their home and they did not front a court in Queensland. You may want to try to sweep it under the carpet, but there is a difference between anyone suffering a mental health issue and reports of police being called to a domestic incident at a member of parliament's house. It is disingenuous for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to try to conflate and confuse the two.

Let us get the facts on the table. Nine News exclusively revealed that police had been called to a domestic incident at the member for Stafford's home the night after the October state election. This was also reported in the *Australian* on 29 October 2024 and was later described by police in the *Australian* as a 'domestic violence incident reported'. The member for Stafford was only sworn in today. He owes an explanation to the people of Stafford of what he was in court for and what were these allegations made against him. Nine News also reported that there are female members of the Labor Party caucus who do not feel comfortable sitting with him. That side leaked this to Channel Nine, not the government. We did not play politics with it. The Labor Party did. The Labor Party, in their internal war of who is in which faction, were leaking against the member for Stafford. We remained silent. We remained on silent for over 100 days.



The excuses and the time for no explanation is over. The Leader of the Opposition owes an explanation to the people of Queensland about what he knew, when he knew about it and what did he do about it. So too does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who is the factional leader of the member for Stafford's faction. The Labor Party has descended into internal anarchy and Queenslanders and the residents of Stafford deserve better. There are even media reports that the member for Stafford is being pushed out by ALP operatives. The member for Stafford was promoted by the opposition leader when he was the Premier to assistant minister for justice and veterans, meaning he got paid an additional \$97,000 a year. As I said, this is a test of leadership for the opposition leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Does he stand by the member for Stafford? What did he know, when did he know it, and does he know which of the female members of the Labor Party are uncomfortable with the member for Stafford sitting in this chamber and in the Labor Party caucus?


If he does, he owes an explanation to those female members of this House who have given that intel to journalists. The member for Stafford must explain himself to the parliament in light of these allegations and the opposition leader must decide whether he thinks it is appropriate that the member for Stafford continues in his role as a Labor member of parliament in the Queensland parliament. We know that there are members on that side, in the internal factional war that is going on in the Labor Party, who are just dying for the opportunity to take out various members. The shadow treasurer absolutely wants the leadership. Is she going to stand by and let this happen? Is she going to offer an explanation? If we are talking about a report of a domestic incident, a lot of those opposite are on the record outlining what they think about domestic incidents. Isn't it a shame that they have changed their view today?

**A government member:** Their heads are down now.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: their heads are down now. Here are some questions for the honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Stafford. Apparently he was to attend court on 3 March. What for? We all saw images of the member for Stafford coming out of court with his lawyer. What was he in court for? What were the allegations? Was he charged with anything? He owes it to Labor members to explain himself. What happened at the member for Stafford's house on Sunday, 27 October 2024? The member for Miller seems perfectly comfortable with being photographed with the member for Stafford despite seemingly serious allegations.

This is a test of leadership for the honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am not going to cop the deputy leader trying to conflate two separate issues here. We all know what the issue is. The member for Stafford and the opposition leader need to explain themselves.

*(Time expired)*


 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (12.31 pm): I start by requesting an apology from those opposite for the disgraceful way they are conducting themselves. This is not a test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition; this is a test of decency and the lack of from those opposite.

I sincerely thank the people of Stafford for the privilege of being re-elected as their representative in this House. It is a community I love. It is where I went to primary school and high school. It is where we are now raising our own kids. I apologise for my absence in recent sitting weeks but I have been working hard in the community since my election.

I thank my leadership team for giving me the time and space to address my health issues. I thank members of the House from both sides for reaching out to offer a word of support. Considering the conduct of those opposite today I will not name them, but they know who they are and I sincerely thank them. Indeed, the same goes for locals and my own branch members who have been very generous and supportive, as well as local LNP members. In fact, even ex-staffers from the Newman years reached out to give their support, showing much more leadership than the current Premier. It will not make the front pages, but people with opposing political views can actually still be decent human beings to each other.

I thank the local community leaders who have reached out: principals, P&C presidents, community groups and sporting groups that are the lifeblood of our community. Thank you to my dedicated EO staff for their unwavering commitment to the community service that they provide, particularly during sitting weeks. They really are a dream team. I thank the professionals—the doctors, nurses, allied health and support staff—at the Brisbane Private Hospital for their care and support. With their help, I am a better dad and a better husband.

That leads me to thank my family—my parents, my wife and my kids—for their patience and support. In particular, to our six-month-old beautiful girl: I do not intend to be just a good dad; I intend to be that for many years to come. It should go without saying that anyone who knows me knows that I have done opposition before. We have seen a one-term tory government before and let's see it again.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.34 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague today. I would like to address exactly what the Deputy Premier has addressed. Let us get to the issue that we are here to discuss. This issue is about the Leader of the Opposition and his leadership. What has he done in relation to this matter? We have not heard from one female opposite—not one. The member for Inala talked the whole way through the contribution of the Minister for Women. She has the hide to question the Minister for Women about her stance on the protection of domestic and family violence victims. I would like to hear what the member for Inala thinks about this situation. I would like to hear what the Leader of the Opposition thinks about this situation. We have heard from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and are all left questioning his leadership. He is obviously throwing away his future ambitions for the member for Waterford, yet the member for Waterford is not here justifying her position.

There are media reports that women on that side of the parliament are refusing to sit with the member for Stafford in their caucus room. The question is: why? That is a question for the Leader of the Opposition. What is he doing to protect those women who have spoken out to the media? Why do they feel so unsafe that they have to go to the media?

**A government member:** They don't have any leadership.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection: with the Leader of the Opposition, they do not have a leader who will stand up for them. There have been reports about what the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about and it is the votes in caucus. Apparently, despite being on enforced leave, the member for Stafford's proxy vote had to be used in the caucus room to bolster the right's factional fight for frontbench spots. If the Leader of the Opposition does not think a member of his team is up to coming to work, why does he think his vote should be taken? Where was the member for Stafford's vote when it came to the Making Queensland Safer Laws? We know there was a big division over there and one side lost by only one vote. My question is: where was the member for Stafford's vote? It is being taken for factional warfare. Is it being taken for the Making Queensland Safer Laws as well? This is about the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition or lack thereof.


It is interesting to note that the member for Waterford has not spoken on this issue. We all know about the factional warfare that is going on over there. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition stood up and tried to justify his position but maybe, like I say, he knows his future ambitions have been thwarted. That is why I say that we should be hearing from the member for Waterford in relation to this situation. There are so many questions that need to be answered.

**A government member:** Stand up for the women over there.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take that interjection. I would also like to know why, as reported in the media, the women on that side of the House will not sit beside the member for Stafford. It is not us saying that. It is not the government casting stones. It is the Labor Party casting those stones. It is the Labor Party trying to get rid of one of their members. The question is: why? Do we deserve a personal explanation? You bet we absolutely do!

**Mr Bleijie:** What happened on the 27th?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. The media have taken this issue so seriously that they have reported on it, and not just one news outlet. It has been written about in the *Australian* and reported on by Channel 9 News. We have seen it in the *Courier-Mail*. We have seen the footage. We have waited. We on this side have said nothing. We are not the ones leaking to the media; it is the Labor Party. What does that show us? It shows us a lack of leadership by the Leader of the Opposition. He needs to buckle up and realise that being in opposition is hard and it takes leadership. That is something that this Leader of the Opposition certainly does not have.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.38 pm): My family and the family of the member for Stafford have been interconnected for five decades. My father and the member's uncle were members of the state executive of St Vincent de Paul and did amazing work setting up Ozanam House in this state. The member's family is well known in the area of Kedron and Stafford and the parish of the Little

Flower Church, where my family was also well known until we moved to North Queensland. The member's family has always been very much connected to my family. I know that both my mother and my father thought very highly of the Sullivan family in general.

I have known the member, I would say, for 25-plus years. He worked with me at the Queensland Public Sector Union. He was an excellent and committed trade unionist who stood up for the rights of workers. I watched him develop his skills during his career as an associate for a judge and then assisting the members of the Labor Party to stand up to the excesses of the Newman government. All of that does not matter because I could have known the member for only five minutes. What does matter is the way we treat other people. I have listened to the speeches of the Premier of this state and he has talked over and over again about choosing hope over fear. How does this behaviour reflect those statements of choosing hope over fear? Those statements are hollow. They are hollow statements from a hollow man.

Multiple members of this parliament have sought leave—and I am sure I can speak to this with more authority than anybody in this chamber—including the former Speaker of this chamber, who rightly sought assistance and some help for some challenges that he was going through. He is a better person now for having done that. Yes, the member for Stafford went to court and those matters were dealt with. Those matters were dealt with. The member has acknowledged his problems and his challenges.

I have reached out to the member on many occasions. I was requested to do that by close friends of both the member and the family. I was requested to do that not in my capacity as a member of parliament but as someone who is a health professional because they were concerned for the member. I did that willingly and because of my long association and friendship with the member. I am pleased that he is getting the help that he needs.

The tactics that are being employed here are absolutely and utterly disgraceful. This is a return to the tactics of the Newman government and those members over there should hang their heads in shame. If anybody in this chamber believes that the member is not fit to sit in this chamber, there is a booklet of standing orders—which I note we did not get a copy of this time around, perhaps because of cutbacks—which outlines how you can deal with that. To simply move this motion shows that your government is bereft of ideas, bereft of new thinking after just 100 days.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will make your comments through the chair, member for Greenslopes.

**Mr J KELLY:** After just 100 days, this government cannot come up with enough business to fill one parliamentary sitting week so they have to pursue ridiculous and baseless tactics of this nature. It is disgusting. It is disgraceful. They are all a disgrace to this parliament and they should hang their heads in shame.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The time for debate has expired.

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

**AYES, 49:**

**LNP, 49**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 35:**

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


Pair: Marr, McMahan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the next item of business, I would like to remind all members about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting that begins in this chamber at 1.05 pm.

## QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.49 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency recommends the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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


A Bill for an Act to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport, and to amend this Act and the Public Sector Act 2022 for particular purposes

#### GOVERNOR

Date: 18 February 2025

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 18 February 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 [\[83\]](#).

### Introduction

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (12.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport, and to amend this act and the Public Sector Act 2022 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025 [\[84\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[85\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[86\]](#).

It is with a sense of purpose and anticipation that I rise today to introduce into parliament a landmark piece of legislation, the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. The bill will establish the Queensland Academy of Sport, otherwise known as the academy, as an independent statutory body, with a proposed commencement date of 1 July 2025. The academy is Queensland's high-performance sports agency.

As I impressed upon the House last year, it is up to each of us to restore Queensland's enthusiasm for the games. This is something I raised when I was interviewed as part of the 100-day review of games infrastructure and planning. Our collective goal is to ensure better games outcomes for all Queenslanders—in particular, sports participants, clubs and codes, especially in our regions. We must ensure we make the most of the opportunities ahead of us. We owe it to the next generation of Queenslanders who dream of growing up to be an athlete, work on the games or draw inspiration from the Olympic spirit to help achieve personal goals. Any decisions we make now must be with a long-term benefit in mind. This transition is a key step in the right direction.

The Queensland Academy of Sport plays a vital role in the cultivation, development and pursuit of excellence among our elite athletes. By nurturing talent that goes on to represent Queensland and Australia on the world stage, the academy is instrumental not only in shaping the champions of today but also in paving the way for future generations of athletes. Since its establishment in 1991, the academy has operated as a business unit within a Queensland government department and it currently forms part of the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is now time to give the academy the autonomy and agility it needs to take its operations to the next level. We are moving to cut red tape, keep administration out of the way of achievement and keep paperwork away from performance. The academy is at the juncture of commencing activities and entering arrangements that will extend to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Following public advocacy by numerous high-profile athletes and sports administrators such as Wayne Bennett, Cate Campbell, Shayna Jack and Alex Newton, the former government announced in July last year that the academy would be transitioned to a statutory body within two years. That is way too long. We took action within our first 100 days of government. Let me start by quoting Shayna Jack, two-time Olympian from Paris, on the transitioning of the QAS. She said—

Becoming an independent group allows the QAS to have a bit more of an athlete focus—we will actually get the support we need going through to the games in LA, but even more excitingly in Brisbane.

Five-time Olympian Nat Cook said—

Having the Queensland Academy of Sport become a statutory body allows them to make dynamic, nimble decisions to get our athletes at the right events at the right time with the right preparation. The staff here are amazing but they've spent too much time cutting through red tape.

**Ms McMillan:** Rubbish!

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection. I am quoting Nat Cook, five-time Olympian. I think I would take notice of her opinion over that of the member for Mansfield with regard to the efficacy of the Queensland Academy of Sport and why this transition is so important. She continued—

So, let's remove that—thanks to Tim Mander and the Crisafulli Government.

Swimming legend Duncan Armstrong said—

How do we improve the QAS ... it is about what we hold in sport dear ... it is about agility, being able to make decisions, being able to adapt and make the changes we need to make to stay on top all the way to 2032 and well beyond.

The QAS has done an incredible job since its inception, years and years of great performance all the way through to what we saw in Paris, where if Queensland was a nation it would have been in the top 10 for medals in both the Paralympic Games and Olympic Games. We want this strong tradition of performance to continue, and we believe going to a statutory body will give the agility, adaption and also the executive to be at that elite level.

The academy has made remarkable strides, but its ability to fully achieve its objectives is often hindered by the structural and administrative requirements that come with being embedded within a government department. As we know, this kind of burdensome government control is what those opposite thrive on. The academy has outgrown the confines of government bureaucracy—

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mansfield. This was a decision that the previous government made. They made the decision to transition the academy from a state government entity to a statutory body. Now the member is bagging the decision. I never heard her bagging the decision last year. It was a decision made by the previous government which we are carrying through. The major difference is that they were going to take two years to do it. The comments of the member for Mansfield show that their heart was never in it. They were dragged kicking and screaming because of pressure from people in the high-performance sector—people like Wayne Bennett. What did they do? They kicked the can down the road. They said it would take two years. When we came into government we showed that we are a government of agility, we are a government that is nimble and we are a government that can move quickly. I accelerated the process to make sure this comes into effect from 1 July this year.

The academy has outgrown the confines of government bureaucracy, and this transition serves the needs of the academy as an elite high-performance sports institute. We know from our research of institutes across Australia and the world that independence and autonomy is key to ongoing excellence. Processes that are not fit for purpose can directly impact the overall agility and responsiveness of the academy. The academy operates in a highly specialised field, requiring unique operational structures. Shared resources and rigid administrative systems can limit its operational efficiency.


Establishing the academy as a statutory body provides the most effective solution to these issues. As an autonomous legal entity, the academy will gain greater operational and financial independence while remaining accountable to government standards and public sector regulations. A statutory body model will allow the academy to control its own funds, optimise its resources and create a governance framework tailored to its unique needs. Establishment as a statutory body provides the most effective mechanism through which to address issues compared to other organisational form options such as remaining in its host department, instating an advisory committee or transitioning to a statutory authority. I am very excited that we have accelerated the transition to have the academy commence in its new form from 1 July 2025. As I mentioned, that is 12 months sooner than the previous government had promised.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mander, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders were promised a fresh start. Queenslanders were promised a government that would take action. Instead, all we have seen from the Crisafulli LNP government is a bunch of ifs, buts and short cuts. Rather than 100 days of delivering, Queenslanders have been left with 100 days of disappointment.

The Premier made himself the smallest target ever during the election campaign, but he said he had a plan for his first innings in the job. That plan has proven to be nothing more than a scattergun of shallow media releases and tick boxes. It included things like 'hold a cabinet meeting'. How extraordinary to set yourself a goal to hold a meeting, to show up to work! In my books that is the least Queenslanders can expect from their government, but I guess for a team that had more leaders than shadow cabinet meetings over the past decade maybe getting together would be something to celebrate.

It was not long before the Premier tried to distance himself from the few promises he did make. The Premier said there would be no new stadium. It could not have been clearer. When asked point blank, the Premier said, 'If you're asking me whether or not I support a new stadium, the answer is no.' Then we see in the 100-day review terms of reference that there could in fact be a new stadium on the cards, and hasn't he tied himself in knots since then?

I know Queenslanders expect him to keep his word, as he said he would. Queensland families continue to feel the pinch. They do not want billions more spent on stadiums. They want the Olympics and Paralympics delivered within the budget. They want a government that does what it promised, especially when families are looking at those opposite to provide cost-of-living relief. Now we learn today that the countdown is on to see what the review contains and where this government will choose to build its brand new stadium. We were told we would have an answer in 100 days; now we discover it will be nearly 150 days.

The first week also saw the establishment of a housing taskforce—a housing taskforce that seems more focused on which housing projects to scrap rather than build. This government has already cancelled a housing build on the Gold Coast that would have delivered hundreds of new homes, including social and affordable housing—a housing build in the housing minister's own electorate, one that would deliver affordable housing to Queenslanders.

Also in the first month was a goal to have a meeting with the Police Commissioner. I wonder if that was where they discussed the secret review into the Police Service. The terms of reference still have not been revealed, and police tell us they remain in the dark about why it is even necessary. Police are rightfully suspicious that this review will lay the foundation for cuts to the front line. It was those officers and civilian personnel who were gutted by the LNP last time.

The next milestone is the first month. One would think it is an opportunity for this long-term opposition to outline their long-term goals—you know, the ones they had allegedly been working on. Instead of those clear goals and measurable KPIs for each minister and director-general Queenslanders were promised, we got nothing but waffle. Some KPIs, like what 'fostering a vibrant arts scene across Queensland' actually means, are still in development. The opposition has been told these remaining KPIs would be released in early 2025. It is early 2025 now, Premier. Where are they? While we are at it, where are the missing cabinet documents his government is sitting on, or is the lack of detail an admission that this lazy LNP government has not got up to much?

The last time we were in this House the LNP government used its majority to ram through the laws to enact their Adult Crime, Adult Time slogan—laws that experts warned would have unintended consequences due to the lack of consultation with stakeholders. Because of this government, the opposition was unable to make sensible improvements to those laws. It was just this weekend that the Premier himself said, 'Ultimately it's the number of victims that matter.' The opposition could not agree more. Not a single person deserves to be a victim of crime. That is why we moved to legislate the regular reporting of victim numbers—an amendment that the Premier and the LNP government blocked. You have to wonder why. What do they have to hide?

Next we had the real-time release of hospital data. For those who have not logged on to the website, the real-time release is as limited edition as a special buy at Aldi. Only select hospitals and a few health facilities are covered. For those that are, there are more terms and conditions attached than

a midday infomercial. We have already seen reports of median wait times drastically underselling the lived experience of people attending emergency departments. One Channel 9 report cited an advertised median wait time of five minutes when the patient ended up waiting over three hours. This has led to reports of staff being pressured and abused in an already high stress environment. It draws into question what the purpose of the exercise is if Queenslanders cannot rely on the information that is being displayed.

More concerning than the Crisafulli LNP government's 100 days of duping Queensland is the list of things this government has prioritised that they never told us about—cutting hospital expansions in regional Queensland, starting with the Townsville University Hospital; scrapping perinatal mental health beds for Queensland mums; blocking health care for vulnerable young Queenslanders; sacking transfer nurses from our busy emergency departments; juicing up the midyear budget which is costing Queenslanders \$5.2 million in interest payments—the experts at S&P say they are still sorting fact from fiction when it comes to the figures this government has released; and, most worryingly, backing out of heavy rail to the Sunshine Coast—a rail line that this LNP government pledged more than 40 times would be built to Maroochydore by 2032, a promise that secured them all of those seats on the Sunshine Coast. Now the Deputy Premier is abandoning his own community when they are calling for a rail line. The real question is: what does the transport minister and fellow Sunshine Coast MP think about the member for Kawana's backflip and what does the new member for Caloundra have to say to voters who were sold a lie?

Queenslanders want integrity, honesty and transparency. That is what they were promised by this Premier and the LNP, but they seem to have left that on George Street when they packed up for the tower of power. We have seen a new Under Treasurer appointed without a single job ad posted, the former member for Burleigh appointed to the Work Health and Safety Board—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: the use of unparliamentary language. I think the term 'liar' was used.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I did not detect that; however, the House would appreciate it if you would withdraw.

**Mr MILES:** I am happy to withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. The former member for Burleigh has been appointed to the WorkSafe board and a family friend of the Deputy Premier has been appointed to chair the WorkCover board. The LNP are shipping their mates in for fat cat jobs in the Public Service while cutting back on what really matters.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! The House will come to order!

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Premier, that includes you, sir.

**Mr MILES:** Queensland was promised a fresh start. This does not feel very fresh to me.

### Labor Party

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.09 pm): The Leader of the Opposition was given a 10-minute opportunity to attack the government and he cannot even go the distance.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There was not enough content. He is not up to it. I take all of the interjections as one. We know that he is not up to it.

**A government member:** He's a place marker.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. He is nothing but a place marker for the others who are lurking. I have been in this place a long time. I know when time is up for a member of parliament, and it is up for that man. He is gone—it is just a matter of time—whether it was last Christmas or this Christmas. Those opposite know and I will tell you why I know: in his 10-minute contribution the Leader of the Opposition could not bring himself to speak about the member for Stafford. He did not even offer an excuse like we heard from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**A government member:** Not a word.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There was not a word—I take the interjection—from any female member, I might add, about the member for Stafford on that side of the House. This new LNP government will stick up for Queenslanders all the time, and that includes infrastructure. We are going to fight the good fight to get the infrastructure share Queensland so desperately needs. It was a complete surprise to me when I saw the Infrastructure Priority List, which is the list given to the federal government for federal infrastructure, because Queensland projects were reduced from 29 to seven. Make no mistake about it: Labor cuts. There was not a peep from the Leader of the Opposition because he is a Canberran man. He is not for Queenslanders. He is not for Queensland. He is not on Team Queensland; he is for federal Labor cuts. That is what that was about. I have two points in relation to Sunshine Coast rail. Infrastructure Australia took future stages off the list for Sunshine Coast rail. The Labor Party took future stages off Sunshine Coast rail—

**Mr Bailey:** That's to build it.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. The former minister just said 'build it'. What was his commitment? That is right: they were just going to build rail to Caloundra. There was no future growth for Birtinya, Kawana to Maroochydore before the 2032 games. Their legacy is making Caloundra an even bigger car park. The member for Caloundra was elected on a platform of busting congestion. I cannot wait until we turn the first sod on the new overpass going from the Caloundra electorate to the Kawana electorate. We will build that new overpass. That mob over there was going to put in traffic lights. According to Jason Hunt from the Labor Party, traffic lights were going to solve congestion in Caloundra. No! We will build a proper interchange and overpass. I cannot wait to turn the first sod on that project with the new member for Caloundra who, I have to say, has achieved more for the electorate of Caloundra than the former member for Caloundra did in four years. His legacy was a youth jail in Bulcock Street and that was it. That was the Labor Party's legacy for Caloundra. I table copies of all of the correspondence to Catherine King and Infrastructure Australia.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the Chief Executive, Infrastructure Australia, Mr Adam Copp, regarding the Australian Government's Infrastructure Priority List [\[87\]](#).

This government has gone in fighting for Queensland's fair share. I note that over the Christmas holidays one of the Labor members—I cannot recall which one—said, 'Well, you should write to someone about it.' I have! In fact, my first letter was not too long after we were elected because, unlike the Labor Party, I am on Team Queensland.

Queenslanders know that the Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job. Why on earth have they just voted in two leaders who failed spectacularly at the last election? Apparently, that is the best they have, according to the Labor Party. This morning we heard the opposition leader attack a King's Counsel who has been appointed to do an important job. Following the attack on the female King's Counsel, the Leader of the Opposition attacked the chair of WorkCover, Chloe Kopilovic, and said she is some mate of the deputy leader. This is disgraceful. Why can't women achieve what they want to achieve without having blokes do it for them? They can, and we will continue to appoint women using merit-based selection processes because there are so many of them. We will continue to do that. Labor has given up on merit-based selection for women; we have not. Labor has given up on Team Queensland; we have not. We will go in to bat for Team Queensland every day of the week. We will fight for infrastructure and we will build the public transport infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast that Labor failed to deliver in 30 years.

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

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): It was no surprise when a week ago last Sunday Queenslanders were subjected to a festival of self-congratulations by the LNP as they praised themselves on their first 100 days in office—or, as many Queenslanders now see it, 100 days of disdain, disrespect and disappointment. There were Premier Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Bleijie slapping each other on the back, telling the world how great they are. In a typical act of arrogance, self-importance and self-regard, there was Deputy Premier Bleijie holding forth in front of the media, talking nonstop for 13 minutes about how great he is. The media did not miss him on the news. They ran a stopwatch for 13 minutes, embarrassing him about nonstop talking.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The Deputy Premier will not interject if he is not in his allocated seat.


**Mr DICK:** If you want to say something, say it to my face, member for Kawana. Say it from over there. After talking about himself for 13 minutes—Deputy Premier Bleijie's favourite pastime—what did Queenslanders see? They were promised a new start from Premier Crisafulli and all they got is the 'same old' from the LNP. The Premier was a small-target, sloganeering, gimmicky opposition leader. To be fair to him, he has turned out to be a small-target, sloganeering, gimmicky Premier as well. What was his big showcase action at 100 days? He got out a green pen and gave himself a big tick. There was the gimmicky Premier at work. He got the gimmicks going because that is all he is.

Self-praise is no recommendation. This was a 100-day plan without ambition for Queensland, and Premier Crisafulli has delivered a government that has no ambition for Queensland. He is happy to take Queensland politics to a new low, which is what we saw today, but there are no new highs for Queensland from this Premier and this government. Premier Crisafulli was the smallest of small targets in opposition, and we have seen that with their so-called list of achievements. Wasn't it stunning to say that in the first 100 days the Premier would 'hold a cabinet meeting', shortly followed by 'instruct a department to do things'. Hot on the heels of that they are going to—not do a tender—'start work' on doing a tender. This is a government without ambition for a big state. A big state deserves a strong leader with a big agenda and big ambition, and we see nothing of the sort.

As for his signature policy, Premier Crisafulli promised that crime would be fixed by Christmas. The police minister said that the LNP's signature crime laws would be a deterrent and kids would stop breaking into homes and stealing cars, but Queenslanders see the complete opposite. The people of Rochedale South are not fooled, the people of the Gold Coast are not fooled and the people of Townsville and Cairns are not fooled by the LNP's selective use of data. Premier Crisafulli promised that crime would drop as soon as his signature laws were introduced. We have seen the complete opposite.

The Premier makes a virtue of breaking promises—fixing youth crime by Christmas, providing energy rebates for hardworking Queenslanders—and he is softening up Queenslanders to break his promise on delivering direct rail around the Sunshine Coast by 2032. As for the Olympics, 40 times the Premier said 'no new stadiums'. Again and again the Premier said the words 'no new stadiums'. Then yesterday the Premier was struck mute. He could not bring himself to say those three words. Everyone in Queensland knows that the worst kept secret in this state is that the LNP are going to build a new stadium for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I do not know why the Deputy Premier, in all of his glory, talking nonstop this morning, was carrying on like there was some sort of meaningful process in place. What a sham! The LNP should just tell Queenslanders the worst kept secret in this state—that they are going to build a new stadium—and get rid of the sham, which is all this government is.

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

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.20 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government was elected to deliver a fresh start for Queensland, including returning respect for taxpayers' money. This government has already taken steps to do that. We scrapped Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro hoax, which had blown out by \$36 billion. We paused the Best Practice Industry Conditions, BPICs, on new government funded construction projects, with the CFMEU tax adding up to 30 per cent to the cost of major projects. We have implemented the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee through our government owned power generators to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity and lower prices for Queenslanders.

We have also had to uncover and reveal the true extent of the financial mismanagement and deception by the Labor lemons sitting opposite. Labor's last budget update showed Queensland what the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford really left behind: \$217.8 billion in debt by 2027-28, which is \$46 billion higher than the 2024-25 budget and \$39,082 in debt per Queenslanders—so we went from lower than New South Wales to higher than Victoria and the worst in the nation; record deficits totalling over \$30 billion forecast in the next four years—with a \$4.9 billion deficit in 2024-25 which is a \$2.3 billion blowout since the 2024-25 budget, a \$6.9 billion deficit in 2025-26 and \$9.2 billion deficits in 2026-27 and 2027-28—

**Ms Grace:** Table the briefing note.

**Ms BATES:** Here it is; it is Labor's last budget update. I do not have to table it. It is on the website. Go and look for it. This is the laziest opposition ever.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** I can hear the interjections from the former treasurer who was out of his depth in a bathtub. That is how bad the former treasurer for Queensland was—he was out of his depth in his own bathtub. I repeat: \$9.2 billion deficits in 2026-27 and 2027-28. Labor also left behind a \$22.6 billion blowout in the four-year capital program to \$129.9 billion. Labor cannot be trusted with Queensland's finances.


The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford deliberately hid their black holes and blowouts from Queenslanders. The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford knowingly left behind unfunded programs in critical frontline services. The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford failed to fund key projects and presided over cost blowouts for critical infrastructure.

Labor's budget black holes and blowouts include: a \$461 million funding black hole for child safety to provide our most vulnerable children with essential care and support; \$3.345 billion for the Olympic and Paralympic Games athletes villages; \$9 billion in the hospital capacity expansion program and various hospital upgrades; \$6.5 billion for water security and dam projects across the state, including for the Paradise Dam rebuild; and an extra \$2.8 billion for CopperString. This does not even include Labor's billions in additional spending commitments during the election, such as state provided school lunches, state-run service stations, state-run GP clinics and another state owned electricity retailer.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver a fresh start and respect taxpayers' money. We will take a calm and methodical approach to delivering budget improvements while delivering the essential public services and infrastructure that the Labor Party never did. As finance minister, I am working with ministers to set discipline across government for responsible expenditure, including through more efficient and effective procurement practices.

This was Labor's last budget update. We are working to bring the capital program back on track to ensure projects are delivered on time and on budget. We are working to make the most of our opportunities locally and we are welcoming investors partnering with us to grow our economy and deliver new opportunities for Queensland jobs and industry. The economic carnage left behind by the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford puts beyond any doubt that Labor has no credibility on budget matters.

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

 **Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (2.25 pm): When it comes to credibility, I can say that the last speech we just heard in this House lacks every single bit of credibility. If there was credibility, after 115 days of the new government we would not see the broken promises adding up and the failures, like the urgent youth crime laws that they rushed in here. They had all these years to work on them and they knew exactly what they wanted, but they left behind a fundamental mess.

I put a challenge to those opposite because we know they are in trouble. We know that a government is in trouble—and they used to accuse us of this all of the time—when they start to blame everybody else but themselves. They said, 'It's Infrastructure Australia,' because they put out a draft infrastructure plan that did not include some things, and it is a draft at the time. The government blamed them for walking away from one of their signature infrastructure promises. This is the utter nonsense that they are using.

We know the government is in trouble when they blame everyone else, and the easiest thing they can do is blame the previous government for everything. I do not mind, but I challenge every minister who has put a figure together to table the document, table the calculations, table the detail, give us all of the information, table the briefing notes. Where is it all? They cannot do it because they know that it will not pass the pub test. They know that the scrutiny of that will not pass. Even S&P said that they have to sift the truth from the political nonsense that is coming from those opposite.

Let me tell the House a secret. I have been out and about in my electorate for the federal election. I love speaking to my constituents. The government is not selling voters any of this rubbish. The voters are not taking one bit of nonsense from those opposite. They know what the government is doing. The government first say, 'No new stadium,' and then they say, 'Maybe we'll do a new stadium. Let's see

what the independent panel says.’ Well, that is a so-called independent panel because they are hand-picked puppets of the government. What are they going to say? The government should be honest because we know it is going to be what the government wants to do. That independent advisory panel is not independent because the minister researched them, hand-picked them and appointed them. They are not independent; they are doing the government’s bidding. Last Monday, the Premier was asked about six times whether they would keep their promise about the new stadium, but the Premier could not say what was going to happen.


Then we have the Sunshine Coast heavy rail. The Premier was told by expert after expert that it cannot be built to Maroochydore by 2032 and that it was impossible, yet they insisted. I quote some of their words: ‘No ifs, no buts, no short cuts. We’ll do the Sunshine Coast to Maroochydore.’ Look at all those Sunshine Coast members over there. There is not a peep from them, not a whisper, not one thing from them. We are going to keep those members accountable, including the member for Caloundra and the member for Maroochydore. We will keep all of them accountable and make it transparent.

When it comes to crime, we know what they got wrong there. They could not even get it right. We have seen our suburbs under attack. For all of those backbenchers who are close to those areas, we know what is happening out there. We know that it is out of control. It was supposed to be fixed by Christmas. What are they all going to do? What are they going to do to their front bench? The frontbench members over there are stooping lower than at any time I have been in this House.

I was elected in 2007 and I can honestly say that what we saw today is no fresh start, no fresh approach. This is back to the Newman government, and I put the blame on the Premier and the Deputy Premier. I wonder who is actually in charge. Who is in charge here? It wreaks of the stuff that was happening under the former Campbell Newman government. We saw their fate and we are going to keep you accountable.

Then you have the transport minister, who spoke not one word about heavy rail or anything like that. Give us the true cost. One hundred days of ticks: ‘Yes, we met as a cabinet. Yes, we instructed. Yes, we looked at the true cost of Cross River Rail.’ Well, how many years? If you have the calculations, table it in the House, I dare you—exactly how you calculated that amount of money. If you added maintenance there, what about schools, hospitals, roads, bridges et cetera? Of course you are not going to add it there. This is nothing but egging the books—cooking the books, exaggerating the books—because they know that when they went to the people they could not deliver.

### Wangetti Trail

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.30 pm): I want to start today by paying tribute to the people of North Queensland who have started 2025 dealing with a natural disaster of historic proportions. We send our thoughts and prayers to them as they mourn the loss of community members in this terrible flood. Their resilience and determination in the face of extraordinary weather that inundated homes and businesses is inspiring, and we reassure them we will stand with them as they rebuild.

I rise today to advise the House of another shambolic example of Labor mismanagement and cost blowouts. I refer to the Wangetti Trail in Far North Queensland.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, member for McConnel. I will warn you next time.

**Mr POWELL:** The vision was to have a world-class hiking and biking trail, hugging the coastline from Palm Cove to Port Douglas. It was meant to be an iconic track that showcased our spectacular scenery to be enjoyed as a multi-day journey with overnight accommodation and camping for visitors and locals alike—indeed, the sort of project that tourists would fly thousands of kilometres to enjoy. Instead, what we have is what the locals have ironically dubbed the ‘Wrong-getti Trail’. After seven years there is less than 10 kilometres of track built and almost half the budget blown.

It has become the most expensive footpath in Australia and, as I have said, it is underwhelming. Locals who have walked it are shaking their heads in disbelief at the opportunity lost—lost under Labor, make no mistake. In 2018 they said it was a 76-kilometre trail and it would be delivered by 2022. By April 2019 the project had grown to 94 kilometres, yet the first stage did not open until September 2024—two years late and a month before an election. Then they said it would be completed by 2025. That is not going to happen, is it? In 25 separate media releases, Labor tried to talk up the Wangetti Trail, but not once did they acknowledge anything was wrong. Did the member for Cairns, the former minister for tourism, fess up with Far North Queensland? No, he did not.


However, that is not the worst of Labor's deception. In news that will shock no-one in this place, there has been another blowout of Labor proportions. Yes, that is right: Labor could not deliver a project at cost or on time if they tried. Is it any wonder they buried the cost increases? In 2018 they announced the trail would be fully funded and delivered for just \$36 million. In February 2021 that figure had risen to \$41.4 million. By July 2023 it was \$47.1 million. They have spent \$22.5 million of that budget and have delivered only eight per cent of the trail, just over seven kilometres. Under the budget set by Labor, that should have cost \$3.76 million. It ended up costing seven times that amount.

The Crisafulli government will respect Queenslanders' money. We will deliver this project and we will clean up the mess left by those opposite. I committed to getting to the bottom of what went wrong, to ensure the project is turned around. In January the member for Barron River, Bree James, and I convened a stakeholder round table in Cairns, bringing together industry experts, local government and tourism leaders to hear firsthand their concerns. From these discussions it became clear there were delays in approvals. There was uncertainty about what the trail was meant to be. Weather challenges were not adequately planned for in contingency planning and costing. There was a lack of consultation with those who originally envisaged the project.

We need to deliver this project for locals and our tourism industry alike, and here today I give the commitment that we will. We have escalated the Wangetti Trail to the newly established Tourism Cabinet Committee, a key commitment from our first 100 days in office. This will ensure a whole-of-government approach to delivering the world-class trail the Far North deserves. That is right: ministers working together to deliver for Queensland.

Labor had a decade—a decade—to deliver the Wangetti Trail and they failed. The only section they managed to complete has been dismissed by locals as 'Wrong-getti'. By contrast, the Crisafulli government is committed to getting this project back on track, working with stakeholders, engaging with the community and delivering a trail that is spectacular and world-class. We will provide the tourism and recreation opportunities Queensland has missed out on under Labor and we will conserve the pristine environment that makes the far north of this state a global destination. The Crisafulli government will get this right. We will deliver as we promised we would, and the Wangetti Trail will be something Queenslanders can finally be proud of.

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

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.35 pm): We have had the first 100 days of the LNP government—some lofty goals. We appreciate the Premier had to set a low bar for some of the ministers because they are not all quite up to the task, but you would seriously be jumping out of your skin with excitement at some of these very lofty goals. We had 'have a meeting'. We had 'think about a tender'. We had 'begin a tender', so more than thinking; we had to actually begin one. 'Direct a public servant to do something.' 'Instruct a department to do something else.' It was amazing what they had to do!

Here we are, just a short time into the 100 days, and so early in this LNP government the wheels have already started falling off because they are scrambling. There is so much to tell about all the portfolios. I will have to leave my shadow ministry colleagues to talk about their portfolios. I will not spend too much time talking about the education minister, who spent most of his first few months telling anyone who would listen that he did not want the portfolio in the first place—only one of the most important ones in government. That is okay. What of his task for the first 100 days to cut red tape? He kicked it off by pretty much issuing the same media release on red-tape reduction that he did 12 years ago when he was the education minister.

The biggest embarrassment for this government in the first 100 days must surely be sheeted home to the ministers responsible for the 'making communities safer' laws. Here they all were at the end of last year, rushing through those laws. Under Adult Crime, Adult Time, young offenders had to be given the same time as adults for violent offences, but they forgot to include rape and attempted murder. They do not count those as violent offences. Is anyone owning up to it? Was it the Minister for Youth Justice who forgot? Was it the Attorney-General who did not notice it was not on the list or, even worse—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Members to my right. The member for Whitsunday and member for Currumbin will cease their interjections.

**Ms FARMER:** Even worse, with the Premier telling us during the election campaign that he had already drafted the laws, did the Attorney-General deliberately take those laws out? You do not know whose fault it was. They are all dobbing in the Attorney-General. She really needs to watch her back, because that lot over there would dob in their own grandmother if they thought it would get them somewhere. For all of the concern they were expressing today about domestic violence and sexual assault, which they used to create gotcha moments solely for political gaming, they still do not count these offences as serious offences. For all of their talk about victims, that is just another slap in the face for the thousands of women who are victims of domestic violence, that they do not recognise rape and sexual assault as violent offences.

Those laws had to be rushed through because the Premier told Queensland that those laws would bring about an immediate drop in youth crime. 'Under my model, you will actually be able to turn things around immediately,' he said last year. The Attorney-General is all over the radio talking about youth crime dropping immediately once the laws had passed, and the police minister told the *Townsville Bulletin* that not long after the laws being passed people would see a drop by the end of that week. That is what they promised Queenslanders. It was going to be like magic. It was flying in the face of all of the evidence and all of the expert advice—the experts who begged them to at least have a bit more time to look at unintended consequences. They ignored all of that because those laws had to be in by Christmas because crime would go down immediately as a result, even though the Attorney-General was telling stakeholders privately that they did not expect anything much to happen over Christmas; it would all be happening by the middle of this year. They were not telling anyone that publicly.

Then, quick as a flash, what happened? Youth crime went up. There were violent offences committed. Older women were victims of murder and serious assault. Teenage offenders were released on bail for offences committed under the new laws. Communities all over Queensland were terrified by the crime happening in their suburbs and local residents organised in their thousands because the new laws were not working. The Premier duped Queenslanders. Then on the weekend he released statistics to try to show that youth crime was down. He was duping them again because, in fact, youth crime was up. This Premier cannot be trusted. He is duping Queenslanders. He duped them to get in to government, and he is duping Queenslanders now to cover up the fact that this is an almighty mess and a train crash ready to happen.

### Burleigh Electorate

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.40 pm): The Burleigh electorate is a spectacular part of Queensland. The magnificent Burleigh Head National Park, the Tallebudgera Creek and the Currumbin Creek conspire to offer a lifestyle that truly is second to none. Those who treasure the southern Gold Coast are fiercely protective of its environment, its history, its culture, its sense of identity and its future. That is not to say that locals are against progress—far from it. Instead, they want a government that listens and will shape a future that reflects their hopes and aspirations.

As I said in my first speech, Burleigh locals want to recognise their communities. They want to make sure that as our population continues to grow, we have a community that grows together. So it was little wonder the Burleigh electorate rejected the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government at the last election. Let me explain. They rejected a government that stopped listening and which had used the wicked tools of hubris and contempt to divide the southern Gold Coast. There is no clearer example than when the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government ran roughshod over Burleigh when consulting on the proposed fourth stage of the light rail. I use the term 'consulting' very loosely. Our community was never genuinely consulted on the project. It was spoken to, it was spoken at and it was never offered choice. It saw the Palaszczuk Labor government craft expensive flyovers of Palm Beach—remade without answering very reasonable questions.


It is not that the former government was not given the benefit of the doubt, or had an opportunity to make good—they just did not turn up. I recall hundreds of locals packing out the Palm Beach Share & Care centre one night without a single seat to spare—that is, apart from the one reserved for the former, former transport minister. The government did not turn up to answer questions and, in that very moment, the former government broke faith with the southern Gold Coast and shredded its credibility. The most startling remark to me that night was from an Indigenous community leader who told me they were not even consulted, even though sacred sites would be impacted.

The LNP Crisafulli team offered Queensland a fresh start. Part of that fresh start is working harder for Queensland. That means listening, consulting and delivering on the right priorities. I was proud to stand alongside the now Deputy Premier and my neighbouring colleague, Minister Gerber, to offer a fresh start at the last election. We will do what we promised, and that is to pause work, to put all options

back on the table and to give the community the consultation they deserved the first time around. Not only did concerned voters back that with relief, but the passage of time has vindicated our 'measure twice, cut once' approach. As it turns out, the former transport minister had to confess that the project might blow out to \$7.6 billion—a truly absurd figure which begged questions about the business case. Most significantly, we have now learned Infrastructure Australia was about to axe the project from the priority list altogether. The only responsible way forward must be to shine a light on this whole sorry mess, to be open and transparent with the community and to work sincerely with them on options to deliver the infrastructure we can to build the community we want.

My electorate could not have been clearer on their expectations, but the lessons of the 2024 state election have been lost on the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite. Labor poisoned the first consultation, and they are trying to do it again. They are spreading fantastical suggestions that the Burleigh Bowls Club might somehow be at risk. I can tell the House it will not. It is complete rubbish. It is an act of fiction that belongs on a bookshelf in the library, certainly not in the public realm. My community knows best and I am looking forward to working with the Deputy Premier and Minister Gerber to heal our communities and to serve our aspirations. That is why I am in this place.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.45 pm): It is great to follow the member for Burleigh. The 'fresh start' from the LNP is to turn Burleigh into a bus depot—that is the position of the LNP. I expected a lot more from this LNP government after being in opposition for nearly 10 years. I expected a lot more of their so-called 'youth crime laws', given that was effectively the only thing they talked about. Despite rushing it through, despite all of the experts saying, 'Just hold on a second, we want to look at all these laws,' they said these laws would fix crime by Christmas. Since then, we have seen an 11 per cent increase in the number of kids committing unlawful entries and a two per cent increase in the number of children stealing cars. That is despite the fact that the Attorney-General, when asked on ABC when youth crime would drop, said—

Well obviously, Steve, we want to see it drop immediately. It is extremely important, especially when we're going into the Christmas season. It's always over Christmas when crime seems to go up. We must see crime rates go down.

That is the test the Attorney-General set for herself, and the test they have already failed. If that was not clear enough we then heard from Premier Crisafulli, who said—

Crime rates must fall and they will. And the Attorney-General and the police minister will be held accountable for that. I'm a big believer in that.

Just like he was a big believer in integrity and transparency when they were in opposition. Then, as soon as they got into government, we see that they are trying to hide cabinet papers, particularly cabinet papers related to Adult Crime, Adult Time. Maybe there is no cabinet document, which would explain why the youth justice minister has had to step in to fix their bungled laws that they tried to rush through the parliament. Of course, we know this so-called 'independent expert panel' that will cost taxpayers' money was really struggling to find people. In fact, I table a copy of the *Courier-Mail* article 'Advice from nobodies'.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from an article, undated, titled 'Advice from nobodies: Trouble recruiting for "Adult Crime, Adult Time" panel' [88].

There were senior police figures, senior experts, who were saying why would you go onto this panel? In fact, the *Courier-Mail* said that there are LNP-affiliated experts saying, 'I'm aware of people who have been approached and don't have any faith the government will listen to their advice ...'.

Once again, all spin and slogans and no substance—a bit like their housing commitments, where they said in their 100-day plan that they would establish a housing committee. Frankly, if the Premier thinks—

**Mr O'Connor:** It is a taskforce.

**Ms SCANLON:** Sorry, it is a taskforce.

**Ms Grace** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for McConnel, it is highly disorderly to engage in applause on the floor of the chamber. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:** If the Premier thinks putting the member for Bonney and the member for Kawana in a room to talk about housing is the solution to housing, well, God help us all. Of course, the member for Bonney is the person who said in his first speech in this parliament that he is a big believer in wave pools on golf courses. Of course the other part of their 100-day plan is to say, 'Oh, but we do not believe in housing on golf courses, particularly when they are in the member for Bonney's electorate.' So when it comes to 650 homes, 20 per cent of which need to be affordable housing, they say, 'No, but we are okay with wave pools'. That is the position of the LNP.

Then, of course, the first bill that this LNP government passed was to give the Deputy Premier powers to basically overturn what the Public Service wants to do in affordable housing projects and instead give the Deputy Premier the power to scrap or reduce affordable housing projects that Labor gave the green light to. The only other policy I could see in their 100-day plan that was somewhat new was that they allegedly want to unlock church and charity owned land. The Premier said, 'Ten thousand new community homes—it won't cost a dollar, just a change in regulation.' Already the housing minister is trying to walk back from that because he realised that is probably not going to happen. The reason we know he wants to walk it back is that the member for Chatsworth does not want housing in his own electorate. In fact, right now he is opposing 44 homes that are being built by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. They say they want it, just not in their electorates.

The only people who lose out when we get spin and slogans are Queenslanders. The people of Queensland need substance, and that is not going to come from this government.

### Sport, Streaming Services

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise today to speak on an issue that deeply affects the people of Gregory and rural and remote Queensland more broadly: the provision of sport and other streaming services and the fundamental right to equitable access. Recently Foxtel, now under the ownership of the foreign streaming giant DAZN, announced plans to cease providing sport streaming services via the Kayo and Binge platforms to residents in rural and remote areas from 3 March this year. For many in my electorate this was not just an inconvenience; it was a direct attack on their right to enjoy the same quality of life at the same price as their city counterparts. Remember, these Queenslanders are the same people who in so many cases already pay more for their connectivity option and have to rely on satellite, patchy fixed wireless or dodgy 4G services to access any platform.

**An opposition member:** If only you were in government.


**Mr DILLON:** I will take that interjection: 'If only we were in government.' If the member opposite listens a little bit longer he will find out what happens. Sport is more than just entertainment; it is part of the social fabric of our regional and remote communities. It is what brings us together at the end of a long week and what helps fuel our sense of identity, what keeps us connected despite the vast distances that separate us.

When Foxtel announced the mistake or the ill-conceived operation to cut services to our rural residents, it reinforced the notion that those who live outside metropolitan areas are considered second-class citizens. The residents of Gregory and across the Australian bush were rightly outraged. In the city, people often take for granted their ability to turn on a TV or any device or even drive to an event to watch the cricket, footy, netball or tennis. In the bush, where opportunities for entertainment and connection are already restricted, losing access at an affordable rate to live or on-demand sport compounded existing feelings of isolation and a sense of abandonment. The ability to stream either sport or other content has greatly empowered people in regional Queensland, whether they be shiftworking coalminers, truck drivers or stock men and women. It has allowed them to watch content when and where they can, overcoming the issue with either access or time and contributing to a genuine 21st century improvement to quality and way of life.

For many constituents who for years have seen other essential corporate and government services such as banking and health care ripped out from under them and reallocated to metropolitan areas, this was the final straw, and their voices and mine were both deafening and immediate. It is why I, along with others who truly understand the importance of equitable access, pushed back. We fought to ensure that our voices were heard loud and clear and that the people of rural and remote Queensland were not overlooked in favour of corporate greed, errors or to appease their shareholders. Through real and fast advocacy and a refusal to back down we were able to ensure the position was reversed and the error rectified. Foxtel and DAZN had no choice but to acknowledge that access to sport and online streaming is a right, not a privilege reserved for those who live in urban areas.

This is a win for rural Australians and for common sense, but it also serves as a warning. We must remain vigilant against foreign and domestic corporate and government decision-making at other levels that threaten to marginalise Queensland's regional and remote communities, either intentionally or in error. Let this be a reminder to all companies operating in Australia now and those that will seek to in the future: if you want to do business here you should serve all Australians fairly and with equity, not just those you choose to serve.

### Hinchinbrook Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.54 pm): I rise to make the House aware of the pains we have gone through in the Hinchinbrook electorate over the past 2½ weeks with the monsoonal rain event that created widespread flooding across the whole electorate. This is the first time in my lifetime and that of many people that all three local government areas of the Hinchinbrook electorate have been affected and engulfed by flooding at the same time: the northern beaches of Townsville, the whole of the Hinchinbrook electorate and the southern part of the Cassowary Coast.

The events started on 29 January 2025. Little did we know what the rain event would actually bring in the long term. It first started with parts of Townsville being engulfed. Suburbs like Burdell, Shaw, Mount Low, Jensen, Black River, Bushland Beach, Beach Holm, Yabulu and Saunders Beach were all told to either get ready to evacuate or start sandbagging. That rain event continued over the next couple of days and we saw Bluewater evacuated and people hit with PTSD from the 2019 floods.

Then the rain started to settle across the Hinchinbrook shire and parts of the Cassowary Coast. We saw over 650 millimetres of rain fall in Cardwell, completely flooding parts of the back streets which included Roma Street all the way to Port Hinchinbrook. We also saw widespread flooding across the whole of the Hinchinbrook shire in the following days. Ergon Energy had to turn the substation off, causing the loss of nearly 6,500 connections. Over the next couple of days up to 11,000 people would lose power across the whole of the Hinchinbrook electorate. We also lost access to the Hinchinbrook shire via the Ollera Creek bridge, which washed away.

I must acknowledge the hard work of those people who tried to make sure we get on our feet as quickly as possible, from the Premier to the Minister for Transport, Minister for Education, minister for small business, minister for communities and even the Minister for Energy, who made their way into the Hinchinbrook electorate and the Hinchinbrook shire. We also saw shadow ministers and the opposition leader make their way to the Hinchinbrook electorate to show that they are there to support us. It is going to take the whole of this parliament to get the Hinchinbrook shire and the Hinchinbrook electorate back on its feet. It will be 12 months, 18 months or two years before we see some of those businesses fully recover. We need to see support from both the state and federal governments on this topic when it comes to recovery. It is fantastic to see some hand-in-glove workings between everyone right now, and I must acknowledge the way the state government has worked with me, the mayors and the local government associations to make sure we are able to do our best during this flooding scenario.

We must do better. We must learn from what has happened here. We must make sure the infrastructure we rebuild is rebuilt to such a standard that we will not be in the same boat in 12 months, two years or 10 years from now. The substation at Ingham should not flood. It is in the lowest part of the town. That substation feeds 6,700 homes. We need a bundwall around it, and I know there is already talk from the state government to help deliver that. We also need to take this opportunity to clean out One Mile Creek at Port Hinchinbrook once and for all. The fact that One Mile Creek was full of mud and silt caused some of the flooding that went through the back of Cardwell. If that was cleaned out we would not have had the extent of the flooding we have seen.

On the subject of the Bruce Highway, we have the Ollera Creek bridge and we are hearing that a second bridge is perhaps going to be built there at some stage. We acknowledge that and we applaud that from both the federal and the state government. However, as for the rest of the Bruce Highway, we have been calling out for over seven years—there has been over 10 years of funding sitting there to get the Gairloch washway fixed and lifted. We know that prior planning has been done on this, but it needs to be accelerated. The flooding of the Seymour River, which is another part of the Bruce Highway just north of Ingham before the Cardwell Range, stopped the trucks travelling into North Queensland. If the western route is blocked we must have the coastal route open. If it cannot be opened and be completely flood immune, we must see it lifted to a standard so that it is only shut for a couple of days.


We also need to ensure that our small businesses and our agricultural industry are supported through this. Small and big farmers and little and big businesses need to be supported. Businesses all the way from tourism businesses to the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker in town need help right now and the insurance companies need to be held to account.



## QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL

### Introduction

Resumed from p. 41.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.59 pm), continuing: I will continue my introductory speech about the Queensland Academy of Sport transition. It is necessary to transition the academy with a proposed commencement date of 1 July 2025 to avoid protracted uncertainty for the staff of the academy and to ensure any potential disruptions for sports and athletes are minimised prior to Los Angeles 2028. Queensland's green and gold runway extends beyond 2028, with sights set firmly on delivering our best ever performance during the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Establishment of the academy in its statutory body form on 1 July 2025 will ensure the focus remains on supporting athletes and hosting a successful Brisbane 2032.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a defining moment for our state—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase our state to the world, boost our economy, create jobs and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come—but under the former Labor government its preparation was nothing short of a shambles and that opportunity was being squandered. Instead of delivering a clear, coordinated vision for Brisbane 2032, the former Labor government gave us delays, budget blowouts and political infighting. In a clear act of contempt, the former government scrapped the dedicated Olympic and Paralympic portfolio altogether, walking away from the responsibility of delivering a games that will benefit all Queenslanders.

Of course we all remember that in 2021 the former Labor government announced that the Gabba would be rebuilt at a cost of \$1 billion. The Auditor-General was asked about that later in terms of how he thought that that \$1 billion figure had been come to and he said, 'I think it was in a press statement.' Two years later the figure had ballooned to \$2.7 billion. When Graham Quirk did his 60-day sport review, that figure went to over \$3 billion. Whilst talking about the review that former lord mayor Graham Quirk delivered, in his final report he recommended that the QSAC stadium should not be used as an Olympic and Paralympic Games venue to host the track and field events. Instead of listening to the experts, the former Labor government announced on 18 March 2024 that it would upgrade QSAC at a cost of approximately \$1.6 billion and that the Gabba redevelopment was scratched. As has been said today in the parliament by the Deputy Premier and previously by the Premier, the only person who thinks it is a good idea to upgrade QSAC with temporary stadiums at \$1.6 billion is the current opposition leader. In introducing this bill now, we have listened to the experts in the field and we will do right by our athletes, and we will continue to do right by all Queenslanders.

A key deliverable in my portfolio is ensuring further development of pathways for Queenslanders to grow from grassroots participation to the elite athletic level. Ensuring the academy performs at its best is a key component of improving this pathway, and the YouFor2032 program and Para Sport Unit are testament to this. By establishing the academy as a statutory body along an accelerated timeline, this government is moving to ensure Queensland's sporting superstars shine on the world stage and amongst their peers. The engagement of the academy's peers has been critical to drive us towards the introduction of this bill today.

Extensive consultation has occurred with a number of interstate high-performance sport institutes and Queensland statutory bodies and has informed the drafting of the legislation, including the NSW Institute of Sport, the Victorian Institute of Sport, Economic Development Queensland, Health and Wellbeing Queensland and Stadiums Queensland. I am confident that the bill meets all of the necessary requirements to provide the academy with a solid basis for its establishment. The bill has been prepared drawing upon the New South Wales Institute of Sport Act 1995, which establishes the NSW Institute of Sport as a statutory body. However, the bill is specific to the state of Queensland and the needs of our academy.

The bill provides that the academy will be a statutory body for the purposes of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and will be a unit of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Other Queensland integrity legislation such as the Right to Information Act 2009, the Information Privacy Act 2009 and the Human Rights Act 2019 will continue to apply to the academy. The primary objectives of the bill are twofold: first, we seek to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport as a statutory body, representing a progressive framework that allows the academy to act with agility, efficiency and flexibility; and, second, we aim to establish a board of directors for the academy—a body comprised of individuals with diverse

expertise, dedication and insight. The board will be the guiding force, ensuring the academy performs its functions in a manner that is proper, effective and efficient. It will steer the academy towards achieving its goals with integrity and focus.

The benefits to the academy of transitioning to a statutory body include improved governance, improved flexibility to recruit specialised staff to support sports, and improved operational efficiency for the academy. A more efficient academy will maximise time and energy invested to ensure the performance and wellbeing of athletes is at the forefront of our efforts and to create better partnerships with national and state sporting organisations. The purpose of the academy does not change as part of the transition to its independent form, with its key purposes being to assist emerging and elite Queensland athletes to achieve success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games; partner with national and Queensland sporting organisations to identify and develop talented Queenslanders into future elite athletes; and collaborate with institutes of sport and national and Queensland sporting organisations to maximise the success of Australian athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The bill establishes the academy as a body corporate that represents the state and which has the privileges and immunities of the state. The academy's functions centre around providing programs for the development of emerging and elite Queensland athletes who have the potential to excel at future Olympic or Paralympic Games; providing specialist multidisciplinary performance support to athletes, for example coaching, strength and conditioning training, sports science and sports medicine; supporting athlete wellbeing, including through personal, career and educational development during their time at the academy and upon retirement; conducting programs in partnership with national and Queensland sporting organisations to identify and develop talented future elite athletes; providing scholarships to support Queensland athletes who have the potential to excel at future Olympic or Paralympic Games; providing development for promising high-performance coaches; providing access to high-performance training facilities; developing partnerships and collaborating with institutes of sport alongside national and Queensland sporting organisations; and undertaking research or collaborating with other entities undertaking research on sports science, medicine and technology.

The academy as an entity is provided all the powers of an individual and may do anything necessary or convenient to be done in the performance of its functions. The bill also provides powers to the academy which provide flexibility and autonomy in its current and future operations and ability to raise and generate revenue such as being able to provide access to the academy's resources, services or facilities; enter into commercial arrangements, including sponsorship and marketing; accept gifts, devises or bequests; charge fees for providing goods and services; and conduct sporting competitions. For transparency, details of any gifts, devises or bequests accepted by the academy must be included in the academy's annual report for each financial year.

I will turn now to the board. As previously mentioned, the bill establishes the academy as a legal entity with control over its own funds, overseen by an independent and appropriately skilled board. Board members will have a range of qualifications, skills or experience in business or financial management, corporate governance, law, Olympic or Paralympic sport or other high-performance sport. The board's functions include deciding which sports are supported by the academy and how these sports will be supported, ensuring the academy performs its functions in a proper, efficient and effective way and the academy operates having regard to Sport Integrity Australia's integrity standards, which include anti doping, participant welfare including athlete safeguarding, competition manipulation and improper use of drugs and medicine.

The powers of the board include all of the powers necessary or convenient to support the performance of its functions. The board will consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of eight members including a chairperson and deputy chairperson. Board members will be appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the responsible minister, and remuneration and allowances will also be decided by the Governor in Council. Members must disclose conflicts of interest in matters being considered by the board and must not be present in the board's deliberations and decision-making on those matters.

A chief executive officer will be appointed once the board is established to ensure the effective and efficient day-to-day administration and operation of the academy. The CEO is appointed by the Governor in Council on recommendation of the responsible minister, following the minister's consultation with the board. The chief executive officer is appointed under this act and not the Public Sector Act 2022. The Governor in Council will decide the conditions of appointment of the chief executive officer including remuneration and allowances. The chief executive officer will be accountable to the board. This is the same governance arrangement for other statutory bodies across my portfolio such as Stadiums Queensland and Racing Queensland.

I will be moving as fast as possible to fill these very important roles, and there are transitional provisions in the bill to ensure the academy will be able to hit the ground running, with a board and chief executive in place from day one. This includes provisions for the appointment of acting board members and an acting chief executive officer if required. Any recommended applicants for appointment to these roles must meet the strict standards and requirements, as will the appointment of any ongoing board members and chief executive officer. There is a strong public interest in ensuring there is appropriate oversight and accountability imposed on people who seek appointment or are appointed to the academy. Therefore, appropriate integrity safeguards have been built into this bill to ensure both the chief executive officer and members of the board act in the interest of the academy.

I turn now to the hardworking staff of the academy. There are currently 107 staff at the Queensland Academy of Sport. While the majority are based at the academy's headquarters at QSAC in Nathan, others work from the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and the Sleeman Centre. There are sport scientists, data analysts, strength and conditioning coaches, nutritionists, physiotherapists and other high-performance experts, but there are also accountants, communications officers, a partnerships team, travel officers and other administrators who quietly enable the great work that allows our athletes to perform at their best. Unlike the neglect shown by those opposite, this government is committed to making sure this transition occurs well and in a timely manner. The transition will set the academy on course for success into the future and allow them to keep doing the extraordinary work they do supporting world-class athletes and coaches to do what they do best.

Importantly, the bill provides security of employment and protections for staff of the academy in transitioning from a government department to a statutory body. All staff employed at the academy will transition to the statutory body with no change in their employment conditions and entitlements. No staff member will be disadvantaged as part of the transition. Consideration of staff has been core to the transition work undertaken by the department in establishing the academy as a statutory body. The Premier has made a clear, consistent commitment to the Queensland Public Service, and this transition will not come at a cost to employment, entitlements or conditions. The bill, as I have presented today, ensures a continuation of employment entitlements for staff, ensuring flexibility where required and stability where it can be provided. In order to bolster this approach, the bill presents a clause providing reversionary rights for transferred staff which provides that academy staff who wish to return to the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games may do so by 30 September 2025. This approach has ensured no staff member is worse off through the transition of the academy.

Another aspect of the bill is the ability of the responsible minister to issue a written direction about the performance of the academy's functions or exercise of its powers if the minister is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so. Good governance and good strategy are natural partners for any high-performing organisation. As minister, I must consult with the board prior to issuing the direction. The academy must comply with the direction. The responsible minister may also give the academy a statement of expectations to ensure it operates within the broader context of government priorities, and the academy must have regard to the statement in performing its functions. As the minister, I have ensured that any written directions or statement of expectations issued must be detailed in the academy's annual report as well as a statement of how the academy complied with or had regard to the written directions or statement of expectations. The academy will be required to prepare an annual report for each financial year in accordance with the Financial Accountability Act 2009.

Delegations have been appropriately drafted, providing for the academy to delegate its functions and powers under the act, in line with other Queensland statutory bodies across the statute book. A function or power can only be delegated to a board member, the chief executive officer, an appropriately qualified staff member or an appropriately qualified contractor of the academy. The bill also provides for the academy, as a statutory body, to be included in the Public Sector Act 2022 as a Public Service entity.

Now that the legislation has been introduced to parliament, staff consultation will begin in earnest around the statutory body's structure. The move to an independent entity will position the academy for even more success now and into the future and provide Queensland athletes with a winning advantage leading into Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032. By transitioning to this new model we are ensuring Queensland athletes receive the best possible support and our coaches and specialists have the flexibility to excel. This is not just an administrative change; it is a strategic investment in our sporting future and a commitment to excellence.

The athlete journey is at the heart of everything the academy does and will continue to be the key focus as it transitions to prepare and support athletes to achieve world-class success. Some of the most beloved and famous names in Queensland sport rank among the academy's alumni: Kieren Perkins; Nat Cook; Anna Meares; Mark Knowles; Steven Bradbury; Katie Kelly; Ben Newton; and the greatest ever Australian Olympian, Emma McKeon. No, it is not the member for Mermaid Beach, Ray Stevens!

The current athlete list includes legends such as Cortnee Vine, Logan Martin, Arisa Trew, Kaylee McKeown, Curtis McGrath and Matt Denny, to name a few. They all became household names after the Paris Olympics. I want to share the names of some of our most exciting emerging athletes so you can remember you heard it here first. We have an incredible new generation of stars on the rise including 17-year-old surfing world junior champion, Sierra Kerr; YouFor2032 para-archer Seth Macdonald; and BMX racing junior under-19 and under-23 world champion, Teya Rufus. In fact, the Queensland Academy of Sport's vision is inspiring extraordinary sporting success.

Beyond its impact on sport, the academy's success also delivers significant economic benefits to our region, strengthens social cohesion, promotes health and fitness, and fosters immense community pride. Moreover, its contributions enhance Queensland's international reputation, showcasing our state as a leader in sporting excellence. It is essential that we continue to support and invest in this invaluable institution to ensure its ongoing success and the continued prosperity of our athletes and our community. I recently met with a delegation from India who said that the QAS's reputation is world renowned. They said they came to the QAS because they want to establish an academy of sport in India and the QAS is the best model of success that they have come across.

Over more than 30 years, the academy has established itself as the country's leading sports institute, with world-class high-performance experts guiding athletes to perform at the top of their game. The academy currently supports more than 500 athletes across 20 sports: swimming, football, track, cycling, BMX racing, rowing, diving, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, Rugby Sevens, hockey, water polo, BMX freestyle, skateboarding, athletics, beach volleyball, sailing, paddle, surfing and triathlon. Athletes are truly at the heart of all the academy's work and, while performance is the focus, it is also essential to note that there is a strong emphasis on wellbeing. In partnership with Sport Integrity Australia, the academy was the first state institute of sport to appoint a dedicated integrity manager. That role works to enhance staff, athlete and coach understanding of integrity principles and also provides athletes with a point of contact for any integrity concerns.

Last year, the academy also launched the Dream Twice program, which connects QAS supported athletes with employers. The program gives athletes the opportunity to build a career and have flexible paid work with a supportive employer who then gets to leverage the individual drive, expertise and enthusiasm of a professional elite athlete in their team. So far, opportunities have been made possible for athletes to take on flexible employment with PeopleIN, the Bdna group, the RACQ, Studio Pilates, LSKD and Queensland government agencies and bodies such as Stadiums Queensland, the Department of Education and, of course, the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games. Helping athletes on their post-professional sports journey is a key focus of Dream Twice.

Another recent big win for the academy was my announcement of the establishment of AusCycling's national Action and Acceleration Centre of Excellence at the Anna Meares Velodrome and Brisbane SX International BMX Centre at Chandler, Brisbane. It is our aim to have as many Australian sporting organisations as possible see Brisbane as their headquarters as we lead into the 2032 games. The centre of excellence is being supported by the academy's high-performance teams. We are excited to see what promises to be a world-leading facility and performance program. The academy currently supports more than 500 of Queensland's elite athletes at various stages of their journey towards Olympic, Paralympic and world championship success.

Paris witnessed an extraordinary performance by Queensland and academy supported athletes who delivered the lion's share of medals in a record-breaking games for Australia. Queensland-supported athletes competed in 29 different sports and won medals in 10 different sports. Forty of our athletes won medals, including 17 athletes who were participating in their first games. In all, Queensland-supported athletes won 28 medals: nine gold, 12 silver and seven bronze. It was an enormous effort after years of hard work by the athletes, their coaches and support teams. A record 40 academy staff were selected to support the Australian team in Paris or at staging camps, which is a testament to the world-class skill and knowledge of our team. The Australian team won a total of 63 Paralympic medals, including 18 gold, 17 silver and 28 bronze, achieving ninth place in the medals tally. Queensland-supported athletes contributed seven gold, five silver and 16 bronze medals.

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games represented the most successful games for Queensland athletes. During the Paris games, Queensland athletes gave us many moments to be proud of and they inspired a nation. Many Australians will forever remember skateboarder Arisa Trew becoming Australia's youngest Olympic gold medallist by winning the women's park final in Paris and Kaylee McKeown taking gold in both the 100-metre and 200-metre backstroke, becoming the first woman in history to win both titles in two consecutive Olympic Games. The impact of their extraordinary success goes far beyond the closing ceremony. Their stories are inspiring the next generation of sporting stars who we will see coming through the ranks in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We honoured our Queensland champions by bringing back the prestigious Queensland Academy of Sport Athlete Awards, where we saw athletes such as Arisa Trew, Alexa Leary, Curtis McGrath, Corey Boddington, Mollie O'Callaghan, Kaylee McKeown and Emma McKeon recognised for their achievements at a gala ceremony. Last week, 400 people joined the academy's staff at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre to reflect upon and learn from the Paris cycle at the IGNITE conference. I was honoured to present the welcome speech at the event, which brought together some of the best athletes such as Cam McEvoy and Corey Boddington, the best coaches including the Lions' Chris Fagan and paddle guru Myriam Fox, with an elite list of other specialists to really dissect the science of preparation and winning on the biggest sports stages of the world.

Going forward, the academy is seeking our next generation of talented athletes with the YouFor2032 talent search. The YouFor2032 talent search is designed to match aspiring athletes and para-athletes with the Olympic and Paralympic sports where they have the greatest potential for success. This unique program connects future athletes with coaching and support to help them succeed. We want to make sure every Queensland kid gets the chance to try for their Olympic and Paralympic dream. Staff from the academy have travelled more than 30,000 kilometres to more than 40 locations across 25 regional centres from the Torres Strait to Coolangatta, Cunnamulla and beyond, testing Queenslanders.

Recently I was in Townsville for the opening of what is commonly known as the Red Track, a new world-class running track at the city's sports precinct. I can assure the House that there is a lot of talent and ambition in the north and across our entire state. Across Queensland, more than 5,700 aspiring athletes have been tested through the YouFor2032 program, with every athlete tested receiving a personalised performance report against national and international benchmarks—2,044 athletes have been identified and progressed into the next phases of YouFor2032, including 422 athletes who have been invited to targeted development programs and 23 athletes who have been selected to attend further state or national programs. By the end of 2024, the program had covered over 4,000 kilometres and tested 450 young athletes aged 13 to 23 years over a four-week period.

The academy was also instrumental in working with the City of Gold Coast and Skate Australia to build a temporary indoor training facility for skateboarders, offering similar conditions to the Olympic venue ahead of the Paris games. It meant that many of our street athletes were able to train and focus on their Olympic preparations close to home, with their extensive performance support team around them. The bonus was that having athletes of that calibre training there at the Gold Coast Recreation Precinct could serve as an inspiration for other locals to chase their dream of representing Australia on the biggest stage of all at the Brisbane 2032 games.

I had the great pleasure earlier this month of announcing \$2 million in funding for the academy to launch a new Para Sport Unit, which will more than double the pipeline of future Paralympians on the road to Brisbane 2032. The unit, delivered in partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport and Paralympics Australia, will reduce barriers for participation and talent identification, enhance performance pathways and develop world-class parasport coaches.

There are more than 160 systemic barriers to entry and progression for para-athletes, including limited access to classification and high-performance pathways, a lack of experienced coaches and challenges with travelling to national and international competitions. The Para Sport Unit will aim to remove these barriers and create inclusive, visible pathways for people with disabilities to engage in sport by providing access to tailored programs and skilled coaches who can nurture their talent. This will ensure Queensland cements its position as a global leader in Paralympic sport, and the Paralympic community is incredibly excited about this initiative.

The academy currently supports 85 para-athletes, and this investment will aim to more than double this number by 2029. Key initiatives of the Para Sport Unit include: the Para Talent Program, a pre-elite pathway providing tailored support for 40 aspiring para-athletes modelled on the successful

Talent Support Plan program; the Gen2032 Para Coaching Program, developing specialised coaching pathways to strengthen parasport expertise across Queensland; an Affiliate Program and Talent ID Network, establishing partnerships with allied health professionals and networks to expand talent identification efforts; and the revamped YouFor2032 talent search, redesigned as a four-stage program to identify and develop emerging paratalent.

The unit is backed by more than \$4 million investment from the state and federal government and \$270,000 from Paralympics Australia over two years. Through the Para Sport Unit we want to ignite the dreams of the next generation and inspire them to follow in the footsteps of our Paralympic icons like Corey Boddington, Alexa Leary and Curtis McGrath. The Para Sport Unit is set to open next month, and I cannot wait to see the athletes it will support succeed in their journey.

Of course, the academy is not just about supporting our athletes directly; it is also identifying and developing frontline coaches to bring out the best performances. The Gen2032 program is guiding emerging coaches who will help pave a golden runway for Queensland athletes towards Brisbane 2032. The first cohort alone had 10 coaching prodigies including eight women and a number of elite athletes who have finished their sporting careers and are transitioning to coaching. These include former world surfing champion Chelsea Hodges, Olympic gold medallist Rugby player Shannon Parry and dual Olympic swimmer Tom Fraser-Holmes. The program is designed to create lifelong learners who use innovative coaching practices and become skilled communicators. Supported by the Australian Institute of Sport, the program incorporates high-calibre mentors along with expert guidance from local and international coaching professionals and is breaking new ground in coach development here in Australia.

Behind every sport, every athlete and every win is a team who makes excellence possible. Some of my favourite moments in my career have been in and around elite sport, but we do not have time to talk about all of those today.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I am just trying to work out who is still awake! These moments have been celebrated with teammates, families, friends and colleagues. This role as Queensland's Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games is my dream job. I know the importance of the role in supporting our athletes from the grassroots right through to the elite levels. I take this responsibility seriously and am genuinely motivated to bring back the enthusiasm when we talk about the games.

The games is the most exciting once-in-a-generation—literally—opportunity that this state has, and it is important that we go out and sell that vision not just to the people of South-East Queensland but also to all of Queensland so that they can be proud of their games. I am also passionate about living and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. To me, these passions are best exemplified by the work of the academy to inspire others to dream big, to get moving and to achieve extraordinary sporting success.

### First Reading

**Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (3.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

## TRUSTS BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the law relating to trusts, to repeal the Trusts Act 1973, and to amend this act, the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982, the Public

Trustee Act 1978, the River Improvement Trust Act 1940, the Succession Act 1981, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Trusts Bill 2025 [\[89\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Trusts Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[90\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Trusts Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[91\]](#).

Today I introduce the Trusts Bill 2025 to repeal and replace the current Trusts Act 1973 with updated legislation suitable for the 21st century. I know I am not the first minister in this House to do that—I have some examples from over there. This is a very good day. It may only be the lawyers in this room who appreciate the importance of this bill. I will return to the timeline of how we got here and what brings us here today a little later in the speech.

Most people are familiar with trusts to some extent, be it a family trust, a superannuation trust, a testamentary trust or a charitable trust. However, any lawyer will tell you that trusts law is complex and has a long history grounded in the common law. A trust is a legal term used to describe a situation where a person with legal title to property, the trustee, holds that property for the benefit of persons who are either named as or fall into a class of beneficiaries. A trustee may also hold legal title to property for a charitable purpose, in the case of a charitable trust.

Trustees are subject to fiduciary duties, which have been described as being of the utmost good faith. A fiduciary duty requires the person subject to the duty to act in another's interest to the exclusion of their own. A trust separates legal ownership to property, which sits with the trustee, and the beneficial ownership or the right to benefit from the property, which sits with the beneficiaries of the trust. This is why fiduciary duties are required: to ensure the trustee manages the trust property for the benefit of the beneficiary, not themselves.

Trusts can be created expressly by a trust instrument, arise at law because of an implied agreement—known as a resulting trust—or be imposed by a court to prevent a person making an unconscionable assertion of ownership over property, known as a constructive or remedial trust. However, typically, there is a document called the trust instrument that sets out the terms of the trust and provides for particular matters relevant to the trust. No matter how descriptive or basic the trust instrument may be, it cannot cover every possible circumstance that will arise nor can it anticipate every possible dispute. This is where the law steps in.

The law of trusts is largely contained in the common law and has developed over centuries, starting in medieval England with a practice called the 'use', which was used to convey land. Over a long period dating back to at least the Statute of Uses 1535 and the Statute of Charitable Uses 1601, the 'use' developed into what we now recognise as the modern trust. This development took centuries and has created a complex body of law to deal with the many ways that trusts are used, created and administered in modern society.

The Trusts Act was introduced in Queensland in 1973, more than 50 years ago. Aside from changes in 1999 to provisions about investments by trustees, it has not been significantly modified. The Trusts Act replaced the Trustees and Executors Act 1897, so clearly law reform in this area is a slow-moving process. Trusts are widely used in our society and, like any area of law, it is necessary to ensure that the law remains fit for purpose, serves the community and solves more problems than it creates.

For the record, I advise that I am a beneficiary of a trust. Even though that trust is declared on our register of interests and I may not be strictly required to declare it, I have chosen to do so.

In Queensland, the Trusts Act supplements the common law to provide for the efficient administration of trusts. This includes conferring powers on trustees that might be lacking under the trust instrument such as the power to invest trust assets, general management and administrative powers, and distributive powers, including to apply income or capital for the maintenance, education, advancement or benefit of beneficiaries. The Trusts Act provides for the appointment and replacement of trustees, including the vesting of trust property when trustees are appointed or removed.

The Trusts Act provides for custodian trusteeship arrangements, sometimes used in commercial settings, which separate legal title to trust property, which vests in a corporate custodian trustee, from the management of trust property, which resides in the managing trustees. The Trusts Act ensures that

courts have appropriate powers for supervising the administration of trusts to protect the interest of beneficiaries and ensure compliance with fiduciary duties. The Trusts Act also provides for certain matters relating to charitable trusts, gifts by prescribed trusts and remedies for the wrongful distribution of trust property.

This is where we get to the interesting part, in 2012 and 2013 the Queensland Law Reform Commission, which I will refer to from hereon in as the QLRC, conducted a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act. Mr Deputy Speaker McDonald, I see that you have joined the dots. In 2012 we had an LNP government. Areas considered during the review included: whether the Trusts Act provided adequate, effective and comprehensive frameworks for the regulation of trusts, including charitable trusts, in Queensland; whether there were opportunities for the Trusts Act to be modernised, simplified, clarified or updated—as a former lawyer working on trusts on almost a daily basis, I remember welcoming this review—whether there were options for streamlining the law with respect to deciding disputes about administration of trusts, including the appropriate court to have jurisdiction for less complex matters and disputes; whether there was consideration of equivalent provisions in other jurisdictions; and whether any other Queensland legislation pertaining to the law of trusts should be amended for consistency with, or as a consequence of, any recommended amendments to the Trusts Act.

In December 2012, the QLRC issued a discussion paper that examined a number of issues relating to the Trusts Act. The QLRC sought submissions from a broad range of stakeholders including: the courts; QCAT; key professional bodies, including the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, Legal Aid Queensland, the Law Council of Australia, Crown Law and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners—a very good organisation—legal academics and legal practitioners in trusts and succession law—an area that interests me—the Public Trustee of Queensland; the Financial Services Council and trustee companies; community legal centres; and other interested organisations and individuals.

Let us remember that this was back in 2013. The discussion paper was also published on the then Queensland LNP government's website to seek feedback from the general public. After receiving feedback on the discussion paper, the QLRC issued an interim report in June 2013 titled *A review of the Trusts Act 1973 (Qld): interim report*, WP No. 71, with an overarching recommendation that new and modernised legislation repeal and replace the existing Trusts Act.

For the students who are listening to this—yes, we are in 2025. The QLRC's interim report noted that many of the statutory powers in the act were given to trustees to overcome particular limitations that had been recognised by courts, and that this meant trustee's powers under the act had developed in a piecemeal and ad hoc way. The interim report also rightly noted that many of the provisions in the Trusts Act have remained relatively unchanged from their origins in various English acts in the 1800s. The QLRC in its interim report recommended that many of the provisions in the Trusts Act be retained in substance but be expressed in a more modern and simplified drafting style in new legislation.

Given the increasing use of trusts such as family trusts in modern society as a vehicle for arranging private, commercial and other financial interests, the QLRC was of the view that simplifying the language of the legislation will help many non-professional trustees comprehend and comply with the law. The interim report set out, and discussed in detail, preliminary recommendations, summarised in the interim report as being 'about a wide range of matters', including: the appointment and discharge of trustees; trustees' powers, duties and protections; the appointment of agents and delegation of trustees' powers; the powers of the court; the approval of cy pres schemes for charitable trusts; and the jurisdiction to hear disputes in relation to trusts.

After submissions were received on the interim report, the QLRC prepared its final report that was tabled in this House on 4 March 2014. The QLRC's preliminary recommendations were finalised in the final report, which included a draft bill and a clause-by-clause commentary on that draft. The QLRC was guided by the need for trusts legislation that facilitates the efficient and effective management of trusts with due and proper regard for the interests of the beneficiaries, or charitable purposes, for which trust property is ultimately held.

I will turn to the lapsed Trusts Bill that was finally introduced into this House in 2024. Subsequent to the final QLRC report, I understand the then department of justice and attorney-general sought feedback from targeted stakeholders and peak bodies in the trust and legal industry in October 2017 on the QLRC's draft Trusts Bill. There was nothing from the former Labor government between 2017 and 2023. They had no interest in trusts anymore. It just fell off the agenda of the respective attorneys-general. That is not the case for this Attorney-General. I put it straight back on the radar.



I understand in 2023 there was a consultation version of the draft bill to replace the act. I note at this point that it was the former shadow attorney-general, the member for Clayfield and now Minister for Health, who was consistently asking questions about where the Trusts Bill was up to.

A public consultation version of that draft bill, which reflected feedback from the targeted consultation, was released for public consultation—yes, I can see the shock—eventually in November and December 2023. I also understand that further targeted consultation on a draft bill occurred in early 2024.

Subsequent to this, the Trusts Bill 2024 was eventually introduced in May 2024 and then lapsed when the 57th Parliament was dissolved. I am advised that the lapsed bill was drafted to take account of the significant feedback from targeted stakeholders—and I thank those stakeholders—and broad public consultation that I have previously referred to and that occurred over a decade ago. The lapsed bill was considered by the former committee, which received submissions from key stakeholders.

I thank the former committee for the work they did conducting an inquiry into the lapsed bill, which included a call for submissions from the public, a public briefing by departmental officers and a public hearing where oral submissions were made again by many people including the Public Advocate, the Queensland Law Society, the Public Trustee and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (Qld). In its report No. 17 the former committee made two recommendations: that the lapsed bill be passed and that the department consider some of the issues raised by those said submitters in relation to the lapsed bill. The former government tabled an interim response to the lapsed bill, noting that some issues were still under consideration. On 30 January 2025, in accordance with section 107 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, I tabled a final response to the lapsed bill, noting—

As the Bill has lapsed, the recommendations are not adopted. However, the recommendations and matters raised by the Committee process will be reviewed by the Government if it chooses to consider a similar Bill for introduction in the Legislative Assembly of the 58th Parliament.

We now come to another exciting development. After almost 11 years, the trust lawyers of Queensland can celebrate. Almost 11 years since the tabling of the QLRC's final report, the Trusts Bill 2025 is being introduced today. The time and effort of the former committee, the former attorney-general and stakeholders who provided feedback on the lapsed bill during previous QLRC consultation processes and through submissions to the former committee has not been wasted. The bill I introduce today reflects the outcomes of that previous consultation, conducted by the then department of justice and attorney-general, and also responds to issues raised in submissions to the former committee. Importantly, the bill I introduce today will also broadly give effect to the QLRC recommendations which followed the extensive consultation process by the QLRC that I referred to earlier.

This bill, like the current act, does not codify all aspects of trusts law. Rather, the bill will supplement the common law, improving rules relating to administering trusts and giving trustees new and expanded powers suitable to modern society. Like the lapsed bill, this bill includes a number of practical reforms that are broadly supported by key stakeholders to improve the operation of trusts in today's Queensland.

Before I discuss the bill in greater detail, I would like to note that, because the bill substantially reflects the lapsed bill, much of the content of the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility I have tabled mirrors the equivalent documents tabled with the lapsed bill. As I am sure members will appreciate—and I would very much like to thank our hardworking public servants for their work on the current and previous explanatory notes and the current and previous statements of compatibility—

**A government member:** The speech is different.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The speech is definitely different. I have retained much of the original drafting in these documents to accurately explain the complex nature of these legislative provisions. I am sure members will appreciate that the documents were drafted with legal precision. That is why much has been retained.

I will now outline several key features of the bill. The bill will apply to a trust whether created before, or partly before and partly after, the commencement—that is, all trusts—except to the extent the bill or another act provides otherwise. The provisions in the bill will apply despite a contrary intention in any trust instrument, except to the extent the bill provides otherwise.

The bill does not prevent a settlor—that is, the person who settles the trust—from conferring on a trustee any powers additional to or greater than those conferred under the bill, but these must be exercised in the same way, and with the same consequences, as a power conferred under the bill,

subject to an express contrary intention in the trust instrument. The bill provides that certain people may not be appointed as trustee. As will be discussed shortly, this does not affect a court's power to declare that those people hold property as a trustee.

The bill limits the maximum number of trustees of certain trusts to four persons except where an increased number of trustees has been approved by the court. This is a change from the current Trusts Act that allows the Attorney-General to approve more than four trustees and implements an express recommendation from the QLRC that we have adopted that the ability to approve more than four trustees should rightfully be with the court.

Similar to the current act, the bill includes provisions relating to the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees. The bill clarifies the liability of the custodian trustee and any managing trustees of the trust by ensuring that liability rests with the managing trustees for their acts or omissions, acts or omissions by the custodian trustee and for any costs for bringing or defending proceedings brought in the name of the custodian trustees as the managing trustees direct.

The bill includes a new minimum statutory duty for trustees to act honestly and in good faith for the benefits of the beneficiaries of the trust or, for a charitable trust, to further the purposes of the trust. The bill also includes a general duty in administering the trust for trustees to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons, with a higher duty applied to professional trustees or trustees who have, or hold themselves out as having, special knowledge or experience relevant to administering trusts.

The bill will expand the powers for trustees to deal with trust property so that the trustee has a new general power to deal with trust property like an absolute owner of the trust property, unless the power is expressly excluded or modified by the trust instrument. This ensures the trustee has the power to sell, lease, mortgage and insure trust property, subject to the general duty to act honestly and in good faith.

The bill clarifies the trustee's power to delegate trust powers, including investment powers, and provides that a delegation ends on the occurrence of particular events, including 12 months after the delegation commences and on the trustee being replaced, being removed or dying.

The bill improves the trustee's ability to apply trust property for the maintenance, education or advancement of a beneficiary by increasing the maximum amount that can be applied for these purposes to be the greater of half of the capital of the trust property to which the beneficiary is entitled or \$100,000. The bill also expands the powers for a court to disqualify trustees, to remove office holders of a trust and to review and reduce a trustee's excessive remuneration.

The bill includes a new ability for the District Court to hear applications for particular matters if the value of the trust property or the subject of the application does not exceed the District Court's jurisdictional limit—currently \$750,000. The bill includes a new power for the Attorney-General to approve a cy pres scheme for charitable trusts that have a value within the District Court's jurisdictional limit. Currently, only the Supreme Court has the power to approve cy pres schemes, and this new power will reduce administration costs for lower valued charitable trusts.

Finally, the bill also removes outdated and unnecessary provisions that have remained in the Trusts Act for historical reasons. This includes reference to abolished or obsolete concepts including provisions relating to settled land trustees, unregistered or 'old system' land, rent charges, estate duty—we have not had that for years—provision for distributions to a minor on marriage and entailed interests.

There are also provisions in the Trusts Act which have become unnecessary because of the provisions contained in the bill or advances in law generally, including: providing for special declarations by local governments when dealing with trust land as this level of specificity is no longer required given the provisions of the Land Title Act 1994; providing protections for trustees dealing with persons acting under a power of attorney given the provisions of the Powers of Attorney Act 1989; and amending the specific additional management and administrative powers which may be granted to trustees by the court given the broader general powers given to trustees to deal with trust property under the bill. The bill represents substantial reform to trusts law and maintains the QLRC recommendations and other provisions in the lapsed bill that were broadly supported by key legal, charity and trusts stakeholders.

The bill addresses a number of issues raised by stakeholders during the former committee's consideration of the lapsed bill as set out in the former committee's report. Firstly, the bill ensures that restrictions on people who can be appointed as trustees do not affect a court's power to order that those

people hold property as a trustee, for example, under a resulting, implied or constructive trust. This responds to recommendation 2 of the former committee's report and also to an issue raised by the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, or STEP as that organisation is more familiarly known.

As set out in the former committee's report, STEP raised concerns about clause 13 of the lapsed bill, which addresses the definition of trust. That clause in the lapsed bill provided that the following people cannot be appointed as a trustee: a child; a person who is bankrupt or taking advantage of the laws of bankruptcy; a corporation that is a chapter 5 body corporate under the Commonwealth Corporations Act, for example, a corporation that is being wound up, has had a receiver or a receiver and manager appointed or is under administration; or a person who has been disqualified from being a trustee by a court. STEP submitted that this clause could prevent a court from using certain equitable remedies involving trusts.

STEP submitted that, for example, a court would not be able to order that a person who was a bankrupt individual could be held to account by means of a remedial constructive trust. In STEP's view, as noted in the former committee's report, this would also prevent a court from ordering a constructive trust if an underage person has stolen money and deposited it in the bank or in relation to a wrong committed by a company being wound up. STEP recommended that regardless of the definition of 'trust', the clause should clarify that the provisions relating to the appointment of trustees should not limit the court's power to order that a person holds property as a trustee. The bill that I introduce today responds to those concerns. Clause 13(5) of the bill being introduced today declares that to remove any doubt the section does not limit the court's power to declare that a person mentioned in clause 13—that is, a child; an insolvent under administration; a chapter 5 body corporate; or a person who has been disqualified by the court from being a trustee—holds property as a trustee.

Secondly, the bill ensures that a person's renunciation of, or failure to apply for, probate of a will does not affect any express trust established under the will. This means that a person who is appointed executor but disclaims the trust of the will is not taken to renounce any other trust under the will. This addresses a concern that was raised by the Queensland Law Society during the former committee's consideration of the lapsed bill.

Clause 49 of the lapsed bill provided for circumstances when a person is appointed by will as both executor of the will and trustee but renounces or fails to apply for probate of the will. The QLS considered that the clause could lead to the unintended consequence of the person automatically disclaiming all testamentary trusts when in fact only the executorship of the will was intended to be disclaimed.

As noted in the former committee's report, the QLS explained that while renouncing probate should be taken as a renunciation of the associated bare estate trust, the will may go on to create further testamentary trusts at the conclusion of the estate administration and upon the bare estate trust ending. The society sought to ensure that renunciation of probate and the corresponding bare estate trust is kept separate from later testamentary trusts that a will might establish. The bill addresses this concern by including additional provisions to remove any doubt and ensure that disclaiming the trust of the will does not automatically affect any other express test testamentary trusts.

Thirdly, in response to concerns raised by the Public Trustee of Queensland with the former committee, the bill does not include provisions that would automatically vest property in the Public Trustee if the last continuing trustee has impaired capacity for administering the trust. As set out in the former committee's report, the Public Trustee submitted that it is not clear what should occur if the person with impaired capacity regains capacity to act as trustee. The relevant provisions in the lapsed bill were modelled on similar provisions relating to the death of the last continuing trustee in section 16 in the Trusts Act and retained at clause 21 of the bill I am introducing today; however, death—which is permanent—is not the same as impaired capacity, which may be temporary. The lapsed bill did not address the fact that impaired capacity may be temporary.

The Public Trustee also raised other concerns with how trust property could be dealt with due to issues regarding whether the last continuing trustee's powers were suspended during the period of incapacity and how a trustee might be discharged if replaced. Ultimately, as noted in the former committee's report, the Public Trustee stated that they would prefer to not be involved unnecessarily in the private affairs of Queenslanders. The relevant provisions have not been included in the bill I introduce today.

Not including the provisions in the bill I introduce today avoids a situation where property might vest in the Public Trustee during a period of temporary incapacity that would then require that the trust property be divested from the Public Trustee should that temporary incapacity end. It also avoids having to suspend the incapacitated trustee's powers during the period of incapacity or discharge the incapacitated trustee during that period. Instead, the current law will continue to apply in this situation, meaning that unless there is a mechanism in the trust instrument or some other trustee replacement power in the bill can be used such as under clause 22 of the bill—which allows an administrator or attorney for the last continuing trustee with impaired capacity to replace that trustee in limited circumstances—an application to the court will be required to replace the last continuing trustee with incapacity to administer the trust.

Fourthly, the bill responds to comments by the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland to ensure that the consequential amendments to the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland Trustees Act 1942 that were in the lapsed bill do not change the requirement for the Board of Benevolence to obtain Grand Lodge approval prior to making particular investments. As set out in the former committee's report, the Grand Lodge submitted that the consequential amendment in fact created an operative change and would allow the Board of Benevolence to make concern investments without requiring the Grand Lodge's approval. It was submitted by the Grand Lodge in its submission to the committee that this would change the existing balance of control within the internal constitutional framework of the Grand Lodge and its Board of Benevolence.

The bill addresses these concerns by updating the consequential amendments to the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland Trustees Act 1942 in schedule 2 of the bill so as to not affect existing internal arrangements between the Grand Lodge and its Board of Benevolence.

Fifthly, the bill responds to a highly technical and complex issue raised by the Queensland Law Society with the former committee about whether the lapsed bill narrowed the ability for certain ancillary funds to distribute money, property or benefits to deductible gift recipients, known as DGRs, and maintain their charitable status. I would like to thank the Law Society and my department for working very hard over the last couple of weeks to settle on this position so we can address these concerns.

As set out in the former committee's report, the society submitted that the provisions in the lapsed bill dealing with ancillary funds narrowed the category of DGRs that are eligible to receive distributions from an ancillary fund. Further, the society submitted that the effect of that narrowing of the definition of eligible entities is that if an ancillary fund continued to distribute to DGRs out of scope of the provisions then the fund could lose its status as a charitable trust under Queensland law. I would like to thank the Law Society for its recent engagement with the department and the government on this issue to clarify how these provisions should operate.

Ultimately, the intent is to ensure consistency with Commonwealth charities and taxation law in relation to ancillary funds and the DGRs that a fund can make distributions to. However, I also note that changes to Commonwealth charities and taxation law in both 2013 and 2021 have necessitated changes to how the current Trusts Act deals with ancillary funds. To address the concern raised by the society, the bill includes a regulation-making power so that particular entities which were a DGR under Commonwealth legislation at a point in time can be prescribed as eligible recipients for the purpose of the ancillary fund provisions. This will ensure that, if it is determined that there are certain prescribed trusts that can legally continue under Commonwealth legislation to make distributions to certain DGRs not captured by the definition, those entities can be prescribed and brought within scope of the provisions. As the House will note, it is clear that the work that has been done in the last several weeks with the Law Society has meant we have landed on that very solid position.

There are several issues that were raised in comments to the former committee on the lapsed bill that have not been addressed in the bill I introduce today. I would like to briefly outline these issues and place on record why these issues have not been addressed in the bill, because it is important.

Firstly, there were differing views on the meaning of charity that should be reflected in the bill. Some stakeholders proposed to the former committee that the bill should adopt the definition of 'charitable' from the Commonwealth Charities Act 2013 to promote uniformity and simplify charity administration. This is different to the ancillary fund issue to which I have just referred. I note that the Commonwealth's definition of 'charitable' is broader than the common law definition, which is currently adopted in the Trusts Act and in the bill I introduce today. The Commonwealth's definition includes

trusts for the provision of social or public welfare such as childcare services, disaster relief, and advancing Australia's security or safety. This reflects the Commonwealth's purpose to promote philanthropic giving through taxation concessions.

In contrast, to be clear, the definition of 'charitable' in this bill takes into account the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over charitable trusts and determines the scope for the court's and the Attorney-General's powers to apply the property of a charitable trust *cy pres* to another charitable purpose. Extending the definition of 'charitable' in the bill would have expanded the court's and the Attorney-General's jurisdiction beyond what was recommended by the QLRC review and beyond the scope provided in other relevant jurisdictions. Accordingly, the definition of 'charitable' in the bill adopts the common law definition, is consistent with the approach under the current Trusts Act and is in line with the QLRC's recommendations.

Secondly, the Law Society raised an issue relating to *cy pres* schemes that can be approved by the Attorney-General. As I previously noted, the bill will provide the Attorney-General with a new power to approve a *cy pres* scheme for charitable trusts that have a value within the District Court's jurisdictional limit. However, this new power will only apply to a charitable trust that has not previously had its purposes changed by the court.

I understand that the Law Society submitted to the former committee that this eligibility requirement should be removed so that all smaller charities within the monetary limit can apply to the Attorney-General, even if they have previously applied to the court for a *cy pres* scheme. The bill does not address this issue because, where a *cy pres* scheme has previously been ordered by a court, it is not considered appropriate for the Attorney-General to be able to now consider and order a new scheme. Therefore, it is appropriate that these charitable trusts return to the court if a new scheme is still considered necessary, even though they might otherwise fall within the monetary limit to be able to apply to the Attorney-General.

Finally, I understand there were substantial comments made to the former committee about provisions in the lapsed bill that would allow an attorney, under a power of attorney, or administrator to replace a last continuing trustee with impaired capacity in limited circumstances, being: there is no appointor, or no appointor willing to act to appoint a replacement trustee; and there is no other mechanism under the trust instrument to replace the trustee, or that mechanism has not taken effect within a reasonable time after the trustee became the last continuing trustee or became a person with impaired capacity; and the attorney or administrator is appointed for all financial matters; and there is not a contrary intention in either the trust instrument or the order or instrument by which the administrator or attorney is appointed. It is important that I address these issues in this speech because the committee has done extensive communication and consultation, as has the QLRC for over a decade. So much has happened in this space.

As set out in the former committee's report, certain stakeholders did not support these provisions on the basis that the court is best placed to carry out this function or due to concerns that the role of an attorney or administrator is not intended to have this power and may result in a potential conflict of duties between the wishes of the adult with impaired capacity and the interests of the beneficiaries of the trust.

Government has given careful consideration to the feedback raised and I thank those stakeholders for voicing their concerns. However, the relevant provisions have been retained in the bill. I note that, under the Property Law Act 1974, property can be held on trust for up to 80 years. However, under the Property Law Act 2023, which is due to commence on 1 August 2025, property can now be held on trust for 125 years. The longer duration for property to be held on trust makes it more likely that a situation will arise where the last remaining trustee of a trust has impaired capacity to administer the trust. I note that the provisions in the bill are carefully drafted to only apply in very limited circumstances as mentioned previously and are a measure of last resort to ensure the trust can be administered without needing to pursue more expensive mechanisms such as an application to the court.

Additionally, the attorney or administrator has discretion and is not required to exercise the power. I note that the bill makes clear that the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 do not apply to the attorney's or administrator's exercise of the power to replace the trustee, which avoids a conflict of interest arising between the attorney's or administrator's obligations to the trustee with impaired capacity as attorney or administrator and the obligation to the beneficiaries when appointing a replacement trustee. The attorney or administrator exercising this power will be bound by a duty to act in the interests of the beneficiaries of the trust. If there is a dispute or concern about the use of this power, an application can be made to the court.

The new power will only apply to trusts that are settled after the bill commences and cannot be exercised if there is a contrary intention in the trust instrument. This means that the settlor of the trust can expressly exclude the application of these provisions if they so wish. This new power is in line with QLRC recommendation 3-8 in the interim report and clause 16 of the draft Trusts Bill in the QLRC's final report. The new power provides a clear efficiency for the administration of trusts, which is consistent with the intent of the reforms in this bill.

I want to place on record my thanks to the then members of the QLRC for their report and also to the stakeholders whose contributions have led to this very important legislation. This is legislation that should have and could have been before this House many years before today. I note the former attorney-general and the department's work to get it to the parliament last year. However, that bill, as I have clearly outlined, has lapsed. Therefore, I have outlined the extensive summary of the changes I have made to the bill very clearly for the House's noting today. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

### Leave to Move Motion

**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.21 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

#### AYES, 51:

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

**KAP, 1**—Dametto.


#### NOES, 35:

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

Pair: Crandon, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

### Declared Urgent

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.26 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Trusts Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 7 March 2025.

As I clearly enunciated in my contribution, how many years has the Trusts Bill—

**Mr Bennett** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. We have been waiting. All trusts lawyers who are out there have been waiting and waiting and waiting for this to happen. The former government, whom I clearly acknowledged in the middle and end of my contribution, eventually, kicking and screaming, did the work and got the Trusts Bill before the parliament. It went to committee. It had extensive consultation. We have had that consultation back. We have listened to that consultation. The department and I have worked with the Law Society around those concerns that I clearly outlined. We have discussed the changes in auxiliary funds that I clearly outlined. We have taken on board the decades-long consultation that the industry has had in relation to this.

The former Labor government sat on a review for, it is a decade, but let's say six years, where they did not even acknowledge the QLRC work that had been done. We have gone back time and time again, review after review after review. Let's get on with it! Let's just move this bill.

The lapsed bill, as I discussed, was comprehensively considered by the former committee and, in my contribution, I clearly acknowledged that work. I methodically went through the concerns that we had addressed. The recommendations by the former committee have been taken on board by the Crisafulli government and we have ticked that off in that bill. We are giving time to the committee. We are not debating this today. I am really hoping that the opposition can just get on and allow us to do this within this time line. I will acknowledge I have spoken to the chair of this committee who reassures me that this time line, to get this back by Friday, 7 March, is more than doable. They have already reviewed the documents of the former committee. My department staff are making themselves available. There is heaps of time in relation to that.


As I outlined in my first reading speech, I talked about how the former committee's report made those two recommendations and one, importantly, was that the lapsed bill be passed—let's get on and just get that done—and that consideration be given to ensuring that the lapsed bill does not restrict who can be deemed to hold property under a remedial constructive or resulting trust. We have listened, we have worked on that and that has been put into the bill.

Given the similarities between the Trusts Bill 2025 and the lapsed bill, and that the lapsed bill was subject again to detailed consideration by the former committee, it is appropriate that our new committee not go through the process of virtually mirroring that of the former committee and that the bill be declared urgent with a truncated time line for the committee's consideration and report back.

These overdue reforms have been held up by the former government for the better part of a decade and it should be unnecessary to hold them up any longer.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take the interjection from the former shadow attorney-general, who just said to me that people have been consulted until they are blue in the face in relation to the Trusts Bill. We have listened, we have amended and we have brought in the bill as soon as practicable to meet some of the concerns of the Queensland Law Society—that has been ticked off. Let's get the bill to the committee, let's get it back and let's debate it in this House.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (4.31 pm): I seek to make a contribution on this urgency motion. At the outset I want to make it clear: my contribution is not a reflection on the subject matter of the bill before the House but specifically addresses the urgency motion. As the Attorney has outlined, a substantial amount of consultation has taken place over a long time, but we are now debating the urgency motion before the House. It is out of respect for Queenslanders that the opposition will not support this urgency motion. I cannot think of a bill introduced or passed by this government that they have not declared urgent. In respect of every single piece of legislation they have brought to this House, they have failed to plan for a considered process of proper consultation with Queenslanders. We have seen the results of legislation rushed by the Attorney-General through this House—catastrophic failures of policy. You only have to ask the residents of Rochedale South what they think of the last lot of legislation the Attorney brought to this House.

Continually circumventing the process of consultation in this House is a dangerous trend and a dangerous rot that Queenslanders do not want this bad LNP government to allow to set in to their democratic processes. The truth is: we are debating this urgency motion because the government failed to properly ensure the effective running of this chamber. That is why they are doing this. The reality is: they should have introduced more bills last year so that this House had enough work for the next sitting. There were plenty of uncontroversial bills on the *Notice Paper* that could have been reintroduced,

including this one. There were two sitting weeks last year, and they could have reintroduced either of those bills. I remember how desperate they were to run off to Christmas drinks. They could have been introducing this bill then.

Again we have seen this government slash public consultation to even less than the bare minimum just so that democracy does not grind to a halt. It is an embarrassment. This government are an embarrassment. They could not even be bothered to introduce enough bills into this House. The problem is: there are not enough bills. There are not enough bills for March and they will not have enough for April. This is a government, shamefully, already out of steam—a government so bereft of ideas that they have failed to be able to take a bill through a proper consultation process. This is just another embarrassing farce from this government. They are too busy politicking. They spent almost the entirety of last year on a victory lap, patting themselves on the back rather than getting on with the job of governing. Whether it is their incompetence or their arrogance—or perhaps a dangerous and woeful combination of both—this urgency motion does not pass muster and it will not be supported by the opposition.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (4.34 pm): I concur with the comments from the member from Springwood. This is a government that had a plan to win an election and had no plan to actually govern Queensland or to run this House in any logical way. Urgency motions are there for particular purposes of government. They are required from time to time; they are not here to be used and abused by a government that has been in power for two seconds. This undermines the standing orders and the way this place is managed. What it shows is that the manager of government business and the Premier are not up to the task of having an agenda for Queensland. It is becoming very clear: they had a plan to win the election, but they did not have a plan for Queensland and they have already run out of legislation. They are running out of puff in the first couple of sittings of parliament. Is there anything more pathetic than a government that does not have an agenda so early in the term?

We have had a sense of what they are doing, of course—Sunshine Coast rail, the regular health cuts that have happened recently to perinatal clinics, the Townsville Hospital and nurse-led clinics.


**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is clearly completely irrelevant.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is a fair point of order.

**Mr BAILEY:** I will take your guidance, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Concentrate your contribution on the urgency motion that is before the House.

**Mr BAILEY:** Urgency motions are about matters that are compelling and about a government needing to govern because of particular and unusual circumstances. There is nothing particularly unusual or particularly pressing requiring this motion. Today we have seen a padding out of the agenda by this government. We had two debates earlier to try to fill in the time. This government whinged about family-friendly hours in the 21st century, yet here they are trying to pad out the agenda. This motion does not deserve support. It is not an urgency motion of any merit as is traditionally understood under the standing orders, and it ought to be voted down.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.37 pm): When it comes to padding out time, we have just had the member for Miller take four minutes to make a zero contribution to the debate in this House. This adds to the zero contribution he has made to delivering anything on time or on budget, including Cross River Rail or any of the major railway projects. When it comes to urgency, the member for Miller is a complete waste of space. We are still waiting for the European Train Control System that he promised a decade ago. It has still not been delivered!

When it comes to urgency, you would not listen to the member for Miller or take any advice from him in any way, shape or form, because his performance here is no better than his performance in the Brisbane City Council when he skulked off all those years ago—with good reason, as well. His performance skulking around Queensland, going into Queensland Health facilities, has been no better. He is almost like a chatbot, the way he follows you around on LinkedIn and all of those things. When it comes to urgency, it took him 15 months to realise on LinkedIn that he was not the transport minister anymore. Oops! 'Mr Social Media Expert' forgot about that.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let's have a bit of quiet in the chamber. Member, we are debating the urgency motion. If you concentrate your contribution on that, it will be appreciated.



**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If they are not going to ask me a question, I have to take the time somewhere else.

This matter of the Trusts Bill has gone on like the famous case in *Bleak House*. It is like *Jarndyce v Jarndyce*: by the time we get to the end of it no-one will even remember what it was all about. By the time we get there, if it had been under this Labor government, the only people who would have remembered it would have been the people who commissioned it, which would have been the then attorney-general, Jarrod Bleijie, and myself from that time in parliament.

It has taken a long time. There were four years in a row in estimates when I asked questions of the various attorneys-general, both the member for Waterford and the former member for Redcliffe, about when they were going to deliver on the Trusts Bill. Preceding my time I know the member for Toowoomba South asked about it. We pursued this religiously for the better part of seven years after the report was delivered. The then Labor government was so inept, so lazy and so hopeless that they could not deliver a bill that was almost written for them by the end of 2014.


Nothing shows how regressive and how conservative the Labor Party are than the fact they still want to maintain a bill that uses terminology from 100 years ago that was done in the Court of Chancery in the United Kingdom. That is the Labor Party for you: mired in the past, unable to look to the future, no plan for the state of Queensland and now with a bill they introduced in the dying days of a dying government, thank goodness, that had one reading, the Attorney-General's introductory speech—and might I say there was a very comprehensive response from the shadow attorney-general at the time—and then the parliament ended and the bill lapsed. Now when the new Attorney-General does the diligent thing, does the right thing, and brings the bill back in, makes sure that proper consultation occurs, takes up the information from the interested parties—the stakeholders, the Law Society—actually listens to what they say, implements it and puts it into the bill and then brings it into the House and gives a fulsome and clear explanation going back to the Statute of Uses, if I recall correctly, that arcane piece of legislation that she spoke about, and we have an opportunity to debate it, when there is time on the agenda to debate it, what do the Labor Party opposition want to do? They say, 'It is all too hard.' That is the excuse of the last decade: 'It is all too hard. We don't understand it. We don't want to work hard. We would rather be yucking it up with our mates in the Qantas Club' or whatever it might be, 'than actually turning our minds to delivering for the people of Queensland.'

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I heard the member for Miller saying something about, 'How does this benefit the people of Queensland?' I tell him that there are plenty of people who are beneficiaries of trusts, who are trustees of trusts, who understand and need trusts to work well. I reckon a cursory glance around any of the members' statement of interests would show that even members in this place have trusts.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Vulnerable people.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** There are vulnerable people and people who need legislation that is modern, that reflects modern and contemporary practices, that reflects modern and contemporary legal times, that needs to be passed and passed promptly. After a decade and a bit of dithering by a hopeless Labor government, we now have an Attorney-General who is bringing in the legislation and it will be debated and it will be passed promptly for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Let's get on it with it. Let's not tarry any longer.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.43 pm): I rise to oppose the urgency motion. We acknowledge that it is always the prerogative of government in terms of the bills they introduce and the timelines in which they seek to have those bills considered by the parliament. It is the responsibility of parliamentarians. We are trustees for the principles of this House and the principles of proper scrutiny of legislation. It is our responsibility as parliamentarians to ensure that proper processes are followed.

There are rules around when urgency motions should be used and when they should be justified. We heard the Attorney-General in introducing this bill speak for—I will round it up because they were hoping to get to an hour—close to an hour. If it was so urgent why filibuster for an hour on this bill? If it was so urgent, why waste the entire day filibustering on processes before the parliament? Why waste the entire day? We heard the Minister for Sport talk for close to an hour—I think he read the same speech four times over. If the bill was so urgent, why filibuster? If it is so urgent, why not bring the debate on for tomorrow?

The fact of the matter is that this is a facade to cover up their mismanagement of the legislative agenda. That is why they have been filibustering all day and that is why they seek to bring this urgency motion on a bill which is important but is also a complex matter. It is a complex matter and many of the


parliamentarians in this chamber are new parliamentarians. A number of the members of the committee which will scrutinise this bill are new parliamentarians. They have not had the opportunity to thoroughly consider this topic. They have not had the opportunity to exercise their responsibility as a parliamentarian to ensure proper process is followed, that there is proper scrutiny of legislation, that there is thorough consultation with stakeholders.

The last time we had a bill that was introduced by this Attorney-General and she declared it urgent and it was brought on fast, they stuffed it up. We told them that when they bring things on urgently and they shorten periods of time around proper scrutiny, when they deny parliamentarians the opportunity to exercise their responsibility to thoroughly consider bills to ensure the proper scrutiny of bills, they stuff it up. They stuffed up last time and again we have a bill—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I ask you to keep your language parliamentary.

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you. They mucked it up. They mucked it up because they raced through things and they denied parliamentarians the opportunity to properly scrutinise the bill.

The case for urgency on this bill is not made out. The case for urgency on this bill is a facade for the government's mishandling of the legislative agenda, and I encourage all members to oppose the motion.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.47 pm): If there is anything that defines the inefficiency and laziness of the Labor opposition it is the circumstances surrounding this topic. As the Attorney-General clearly outlined in her speech to the parliament today, this is important legislation which has been drafted to align with the Trusts Bill 2024, which was introduced into the 57th Queensland Parliament and was allowed to sit on the *Notice Paper*. The manner and the circumstances surrounding this begins to define the previous Labor governments that were inefficient, that did not get things done on time and did not act in the best interests of Queenslanders.

This legislation has come about as a direct result of a review into the Trusts Act, which was undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Then, as I said, it was allowed to gather dust over many years. That was under the former Labor government. It also has to be remembered that Labor failed to act on many other issues over the last 10 years which Queenslanders are well aware of. We have had various crises as a consequence and Queenslanders are paying the price with respect to those.

The lapsed bill, as introduced by the former Labor government, was comprehensively examined by the then committee, which was the former Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, which tabled a comprehensive report on 2 August 2024. I heard members talking earlier about the fact that declaring a bill urgent in some circumstances is somehow truncating proper processes. The former Labor government on many occasions had to declare bills urgent themselves because—

**Mr Powell:** On many, many occasions.

**Dr ROWAN:**—on many, many occasions—I take the interjection from the member for Glass House—because they were important issues to Queenslanders.

The issue around the urgency motion when it comes to this is that, given the substantial similarities between this bill and its predecessor and the fact that the lapsed bill was already the subject of detailed committee scrutiny and significant consultation, there is no reasonable justification for the new committee to undertake a new process that would merely replicate the work that was already done. We have already heard that the committee chair has been consulted around that. We are trying to ensure there is efficiency undertaken in this Queensland parliament. We acknowledge the previous work that was done and we certainly do not want to have—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** That is something, and I take the interjection from the minister. Efficiency is not something the Labor opposition understands. It clearly does not understand the concept of having efficiency when it comes to the judicious use of committee time, particularly that of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. To have the whole process created again would ensure that its valuable time was wasted and it would be an inefficiency when it comes to resources. To do so again would be an unnecessary delay.

The reforms in the bill, as I have said, are long overdue—they stalled for nearly a decade under Labor—and that is why the proposed reporting date on the Trusts Bill 2025 gives sufficient time for additional due scrutiny and diligence beyond what had already been done in the previous parliament, given the extensive delays around these matters. A reporting date of 7 March 2025 is entirely appropriate for these reasons. As such, I move—

That the question be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**LNP, 50**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, 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.

**NOES, 36:**

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

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.


Pair: Crandon, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 December 2024 (see p. 461).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (4.56 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

As I detailed in the explanatory speech, the main purpose of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 is to amend the Duties Act 2001 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to implement revenue measures we announced during the 2024 state election campaign. The LNP Crisafulli government is delivering today on two of our key commitments from the government's 100-day plan. We are not only abolishing two taxes but also delivering on our cost-of-living commitments.

Each year, approximately 20,000 Queensland households take the step of purchasing a home. Despite this, Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership of any state, at just 63½ per cent, and just 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own their own home. Of most concern is that since 1971 home ownership in the 25- to 34-year-old bracket has dropped by 18 per cent. The new *Generations defined* report reveals that 63 per cent of gen Z Queenslanders want to buy a home but just 47 per cent of them believe they will ever afford to. Data from the Residential Tenancies Authority indicates that the average length of tenancies for a home is currently around 21 months compared to around 13 months in 2012. These statistics point to the fact that the traditional pathway to home ownership in Queensland is broken. A 2021 Canadian study demonstrated that home ownership is generational, with children of parents who own a home being twice as likely to own a home themselves. This correlation is strongest amongst those earning below Can\$80,000; hence why it is important to arrest this slide, to embed a culture of property ownership amongst each generation.

Queenslanders are losing hope in the great Australian dream of home ownership, and the situation has never been more dire for young people wanting to purchase their first home. Never before have so many young Queenslanders wanted to own a home and never before have so many believed it is unachievable. This is not the future we should aspire to, and that is why the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a big boost into home ownership for Queenslanders. We are the party of home ownership and are determined to re-establish the pathway to home ownership and to bring Queensland to the top of home ownership ranks by 2034.

As a first step in achieving that goal, the Crisafulli government took two key measures to the 2024 election that are now enacted in this legislation. The first piece is that the Crisafulli government is abolishing transfer duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build. More particularly, the bill amends the Duties Act to provide full transfer duty relief for eligible first home buyers purchasing a new home to live in or land on which they will build a home to live in. The bill also amends the Duties Act to allow recipients of the transfer duty home concessions to rent part of their property during the one-year occupation period and retain the full benefit of this relief. Again, more particularly, an ability is granted for any first home buyer who has received a transfer duty concession to rent out a room without losing that concession.


Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

## TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (MARINE SAFETY) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

Resumed from 10 December 2024 (see p. 280), on motion of Mr Dametto—


That Sections 4, 7, 12 and 13 of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, Subordinate Legislation No. 188 of 2024, tabled in the House on 10 September 2024, be disallowed.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.01 pm): I rise in support of the member for Hinchinbrook's motion that sections 4, 7, 12 and 13 of the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2024, Subordinate Legislation No. 188 of 2024, tabled in the House on 10 September 2024, be disallowed. This regulation relates to life jackets and personal flotation devices, or PFDs. The regulation requires life jackets to be worn for these so-called heightened risk boating activities and to phase out the use of PFDs. I understand that consultation did take place on these changes. For the boating alone requirements, the public feedback received was largely unresponsive. It seems that this feedback was ignored and the regulation was introduced anyway because, as we are constantly reminded, the government and the departments apparently know better than we do.

The public views against this regulation include that many recreational boaters own boats less than 4.8 metres and will be captured by these changes. Many recreational boaters go fishing on their own. They argue it should be their decision if they wish to wear a life jacket or not. These bureaucratic decision-makers may not get the picture, but it does get pretty hot in North Queensland during the summer. Now they are telling recreational boaters it is going to be far worse for them as now they have to slap on a life jacket. Life jackets are bulky and awkward and there is a risk that they will get caught in the ropes and other equipment when fishing, anchoring or checking crab pots. To be honest, recreational boaters are more worried about being taken by a croc than drowning in our pristine waterways. It was reported that a young bloke jumped into the Johnson River and within five seconds a croc was on him. In the Russell River, if your boat sinks you will likely end up dead. In the Tully River, you might last five minutes. If you fell out of your boat into the water with a life jacket on, you will be bobbing up and down just waiting for a croc to eat you. It is ironic that this legislation is being introduced while the continued threat of crocs in our waterways is being ignored.

I also want to talk about the fines which range anywhere from one penalty unit all the way up to 500 penalty units. The minimum fine is \$160 if you happen to take your life jacket off for a second and you are spotted. I do not know who would face a 500 penalty point fine as this would equate to an \$80,000 fine or two years imprisonment for not wearing a life jacket. We have youth running around stealing cars, destroying public property, breaking into houses and assaulting homeowners and they walk free the next day, while a boatie who does not wear a life jacket could face two years in prison. Someone who has been boating all their lives, just heading out to check their crab pots, could face huge fines and two years imprisonment just for deciding not to wear a life jacket.

It is obvious this regulation was designed by so-called bureaucratic geniuses sitting in government offices who want to prove themselves by regulating an area that the majority of boaties believe is government overreach. There is such a thing that still exists and that is called freedom of choice. This is a ridiculous regulation and I support the member for Hinchinbrook's disallowance motion.


 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise tonight to speak against the disallowance motion. The Gladstone region that I represent has one of the largest number of boats registered in Queensland and Australia's largest family fishing festival to go with it. I must say, the support on the

water during the Boyne Tannum Hookup is second to none, with daily life jacket demonstrations and our water police using positive enforcement on the water, particularly focusing on life jacket safety and those updated flares that you need in your boat.

It is vitally important that when governments legislate that they do it taking into consideration all of Queensland, not just individual electorates, including regulations that require life jackets to be worn by people boating alone or with children under 12 years in an open boat less than 4.8 metres in length whilst underway; by people boating between sunset and sunrise in an open boat less than 4.8 metres in length whilst underway; also by people crossing a designated coastal bar in an open boat, as well as in any open area such as the deck of a ship, of any length; and by children aged one year or more and under 12 years when in an open boat or in the open area of a boat—such as the deck of a ship—of any length whilst underway.

The Queensland coastline is certainly vast and has extremely dangerous coastal bars, reefs and river systems which have taken the lives of boaties trying to navigate these dangerous waterways. It is not acceptable that 16 people have lost their lives in maritime related instances. I also acknowledge that our Volunteer Marine Rescue continues to do an amazing job in supporting our local communities whilst on the water. The work that they do can be traumatic when vessels become distressed or sink, as the rescue of people is their primary objective. The use of life jackets is a real way that boaties can lessen the risk of drowning when they run into trouble. When talking about life jackets, I have had the opportunity to wear and also to inflate the new-style flotation devices that are now available. Modern life jackets are nowhere near as bulky and cumbersome as previous styles and are designed to be lightweight and also slimline to make going about your trip as safe and as comfortable as possible.


As an avid fisher, I get the chance to get out on the southern Great Barrier Reef for a fish, but I must admit that it is a bit rarer these days. Tonight I would like to share with the chamber a personal story of a near capsizing experience when I was on a local boat that was trying to enter through the crossing bar at 1770 with my mate, who is a very experienced boatie, at the helm. We had been out to the reef and on returning, with the sun going down, the tide and wind were playing against us as we attempted that crossing. The boat dug in and turned, leaving the vessel turned on its side and we were within seconds and inches of ending up in the water with a large aluminium vessel that could have created a seriously dangerous situation for us while we were in the water without flotation support. I do acknowledge that this near miss happened before the regulations were passed and that we were not wearing life jackets. This is just one example of how a great day out on the water here in Queensland can soon turn into a tragic day. I believe that the use of life jackets as indicated in the regulation is vital to help Queenslanders stay safe on the water, not just in selected electorates.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.08 pm): As the chair of the committee that is responsible for Transport and Main Roads, which oversees the regulation to which the dissolution motion has been moved, I am very concerned about this issue. I should declare an interest: I am a very avid fisherman and boating person. The committee was very concerned about some of the misinformation that we discovered from the briefing by TMR staff. I commend TMR for the wonderful briefing and the expert advice that we were given.

It is very clear that there is misinformation in the community in that some people believe that everybody in a boat has to wear a life jacket at all times, no matter the size of the boat. That is a big concern. I have been on some larger boats on occasion so I can understand the concern about that misinformation because they are very safe. It is certainly the case that if you are inside the cabin of such a boat then you do not have to wear a life jacket, but if you go outside the cabin of the boat then you do have to wear one. From the evidence presented to the committee, it was very clear that the vast majority of deaths at sea—almost 90-something per cent—was due to not wearing a life jacket, which has been described as the seatbelt of the sea. Those statistics were quite clear and aided me in making my determination as I thought about both the misinformation and also the fact that life jackets have saved so many lives.

I do understand the concerns that many in the community have about extra controls and regulations. That is why we asked Transport and Main Roads for a briefing, and I thank my fellow committee members for indulging us in that regard. The Transport and Main Roads staff were very articulate and presented very good information about the statistics on loss of life, which on its own was ample evidence. They clarified the requirement to wear life jackets in open boats and also how there is no requirement to wear a jacket in the closed cabin of a boat. The definition of a closed cabin is a space that has a door that you can go in and out of and that can be closed. The size of the boat does not matter. The other thing is that if the boat is moored or anchored people do not have to wear a life jacket.

I cannot speak in support of the dissolution motion. This is the right thing to do for people's safety. Making sure that people wear life jackets will save lives. As I said, they are described as the seatbelts of the sea. The evidence and the numbers clearly stack up. We have asked the department to conduct a really serious education program to overcome misinformation. I have spoken to the minister personally about that. He has assured me that he will follow up and make sure the department conducts that significant education program so that misinformation is put to bed and many of the concerns are addressed.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.12 pm): I rise to support the dissolution motion put forward by my colleague the member for Hinchinbrook and to support the words of my other colleague, the member for Hill. We could say that technically this disallowance motion is about life jackets, but as was said in the lead speech by the member for Hinchinbrook it is actually about freedoms. How often do we find ourselves in conversations about removing monkey bars and merry-go-rounds from parks because they are deemed unsafe for kids and then talk about living in a world where we take responsibility for our own safety? These regulations will keep on coming and we will end up living wrapped in cottonwool and driving our cars at 40 kilometres an hour because that is the only risk everyone is willing to tolerate. There are massive impacts on livability that are never really measured in any of this because they are intangible. However, we all feel good about ourselves because no-one can argue against the fact that it will save lives.

As the member for Hinchinbrook pointed out, the attractive part of living in North Queensland is freedom. When people move to Mount Isa they say, 'You know what I love about Mount Isa? You can drive for 20 kays and go camping. You don't have to tell anyone. It's the freedom of the place. You can just go out to the lake.' That is why we live up there. It is one of the great things about it. When you pose a one-size-fits-all rule across the whole state then it really has an impact on us. We have talked about the heat and discomfort, but what I see as a major point is taking responsibility for ourselves and our kids.

This motion would not stop responsible people from making their kids or anyone else on their boat wear life jackets. They can do that. I found it interesting when I reflected on my own family. For my kids, we have cute little life jackets with fish tails on them. I said to my wife, 'I want to put the floaties on the kids so I feel more comfortable with them in the pool.' She said, 'No, I refuse, because you'll get a false sense of security. We both will. I want you watching the kids in the pool.' That works. I do not take my eyes off those kids because it is my responsibility if something happens to them. They are never out of my eyesight and the floaties never go on them when they are in the pool.


We can apply the same principle with this issue. We have to put some blocks somewhere for the public; otherwise, inch by inch, there will be an incremental approach until we are all wrapped in cottonwool. We will all be driving our cars at 50 kilometres an hour because everyone will be safer. Guess what? It would not make us safer because people will still do stupid things. You can never legislate for idiots, but still we come in here to try to save lives by introducing more and more regulations and \$80,000 fines. Most people will do the right thing and will try to be responsible, and we will all feel good about ourselves; however, we cannot keep lobbing this stuff on the public, whether it is about life jackets, speed limits or all of the other regulations. A choke has to be put on this at some point.

This is a big issue for us because North Queensland is hot and we all love to enjoy the waterways. The more accessible that is and the more freedoms there are around it, the better for us. We talk to mining companies and government agencies about attracting staff such as nurses and doctors. They say, 'Just increase your livability.' Guess what our livability is about? We do not get water slides. We do not have shopping centres. We do not get public transport. What we get are freedoms. Constraining that just puts another nail in the coffin of regional and remote areas. We are trying to keep those areas alive by making sure we have something to attract people to them.

We hear so much about how the state is racked with a crime problem, particularly a youth crime problem. In the Traeger electorate, a lot of boaties will be questioning why it is that they could face an \$80,000 fine when the thieves who just stole their car get away with everything. That is a pretty reasonable question for them to ask. How is it fair that the parliament is focusing on this and that we are introducing these sorts of things when we have other bigger problems. This is not just about life jackets; it is about taking a stand for personal freedoms. It has to start somewhere. On every issue we bring in here, whether it is vehicle speeds or other safety things, members can say until the cows come home, 'But it's about saving lives.' We have some absolutely ridiculous rules encroaching in this space right now. I am dealing with an unrelated issue in fire and rescue around the use of Robinson R44

helicopters, which they say are not safe. I ask: by whose standards? There are no clear metrics on this. They say, 'It's not safe so we are using this.' It is not practical or workable but we all want to feel good about making people safer.

They all seem like good rules that we make down here, but they have very real and significant implications for the north. Members can kid themselves with their own little stories of how it is going to be applied or how it applied to their lives, but I can assure members that these things do have an impact on our freedoms and they do impact our lifestyle. In five years time we will be having a barbecue conversation in which someone will say, 'What idiot brought this in?' Surely there are better things to focus on than this. Let us all take responsibility for our own safety. Let us put a bit more responsibility back on individuals and have fewer government regulations, which we are imposing on everything.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.18 pm): This subordinate legislation or regulation is about a few things but, as has been mentioned, it is primarily about life jackets and personal flotation devices. Specifically, it is about requiring mariners and their passengers to wear life jackets when involved in certain heightened risk boating activities such as crossing coastal bars and boating alone, at night or with children. Of course, it aims to improve marine safety and reduce the loss of lives in marine incidents.

I can understand the concerns of members of the Katter's Australian Party about the incremental regulation, about more red tape and about not wanting to introduce regulations that are not going to be followed out there in the wider world because what would be the point of them. What got me across the line was the statistic that MSQ quoted: of the 68 fatalities on our waterways in the last five years, only five people were wearing a life jacket. Five of 68 is a pretty telling statistic, from my point of view.

In relation to a few of the specific matters, it was mentioned in the committee meetings that, over the three years 2021 to 2023, there were 65 reported incidents around coastal bars in Queensland. Of those, 40 were reported as a capsizing, swamping, flooding or person overboard incident, resulting in 14 injuries, including two hospital admissions. Boating at night creates a heightened risk, and the statistic quoted was, in 2023, approximately 92 of the 292—around a third—of reported marine incidents happened between 6 pm and 9 am on the following day. Further examples of heightened risk activities, of course, were offered through the consultation process and through the committee hearings, such as boating with children and also boating alone. I will not go into the other matters, such as Lake Wivenhoe and the personal flotation devices, as they are broadly supported.

In relation to the consultation on these particular regulations, which happened some time ago, some of the stakeholder feedback about the proposed changes included suggestions to extend the requirements to ships over 4.8 metres and to change the boating alone requirements whether the boat is underway or not. There was different feedback from different representative bodies, such as the Queensland Recreational Boating Council and the Boating Industry Association. Stakeholders were largely supportive of most of the measures, although there were some differing opinions in relation to whether a boat is underway or not as well as some other aspects.

In terms of the public briefing that we conducted not too long ago, the departmental officers explained that the provisions in circumstances where a life jacket must be worn were aimed at improving safety in those heightened risk situations. Those are: boating alone; boating at night; crossing coastal bars, which are primarily in South-East Queensland; and when there are children under 12 in boats. Wearing a life jacket will increase the chances of someone's survival if they unexpectedly end up overboard in any stretch of water across the state.

In terms of the rolling out of the laws, it was pleasing to hear that there is a comprehensive educational program. The department reiterated that MSQ—Maritime Safety Queensland—has undertaken an education communication program through stakeholder and industry engagement, social media and other methods to ensure the public understands the changes in relation to all of the amendments. It further advised that the education program was focused on local activities at present, including providing information at boat ramps, boat shows, fishing events and education days, with a comprehensive program rolling out throughout 2025.

I will not go too much further, but I do note the concerns of the Katter's Australian Party about further red tape and further regulations. I reiterate the point about life jackets being the seatbelt of the sea and the fatality statistic in recent years which was overwhelmingly those people who were not wearing life jackets. That information got me across the line. That information got some people in the industry across the line. I am happy to leave it there. We are happy to oppose the disallowance motion.



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.23 pm): I rise to address the disallowance motion moved by the member for Hinchinbrook. I know that Queenslanders love boating, with around 280,000 craft registered and more than a million licences issued across Queensland, and many of them are from North Queensland and live in electorates like Hinchinbrook. Nevertheless, with this love for water-based activities comes risk and it is important that we do our best to manage that risk appropriately while enjoying all that our state has to offer. These changes to life jacket wearing will help boaties and their families to have a safe time on the water while still making the most of our waterways.

As we have heard, the Department of Transport and Main Roads briefed the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee on 23 January on the regulation that contains the new life jacket wearing requirements. I welcome the committee's report, which did not identify any significant issues with the policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles, lawfulness or noncompliance with the Human Rights Act. The chair of the committee spoke to that in his contribution.

Wearing life jackets when boating in heightened risk situations will make Queenslanders safer on the water. There is clear evidence to support this. There are clear correlations from boating accident and fatality data in Queensland that show that wearing life jackets saves lives. This is also documented and reflected in Australian and international marine regulatory experience.

Over the last five years, there have been 64 fatalities involving boaties who drowned following a marine incident recorded in Queensland. Of those 64, 59 were not wearing a life jacket. In 2023 alone, 12 of the 16 fatalities that occurred on the state's waterways were from drowning. None of the 12 was known to be wearing a life jacket. The state's maritime regulator, Maritime Safety Queensland—or MSQ—has been unable to confirm the member for Hinchinbrook's quoted 10 per cent increase in fatalities last year or identify any statistically significant correlation between fatalities and the number of boats registered.

The changes to the life jacket rules were refined through statewide consultation that MSQ undertook. MSQ worked diligently to ensure that a broad and representative range of views were sought into these changes. We have heard that MSQ promoted an online survey across TMR's communication channels, and invitations for submissions were sent to the representatives of 12 key external peak bodies and industry stakeholders. Some 1,131 responses were received, showing general support across the community and industry for improved safety practices in situations of heightened risk.

MSQ thoroughly considered the submissions and adjusted the proposals to ensure that the focus on the highest risks was the priority before the regulation was finally made in mid-2024 under the former Labor government. Interestingly, despite the work undertaken by MSQ to consult the public, the former government quietly made these changes to regulations in September last year, creating the sense of distrust that exists within the community now, as we have heard from other speakers.

I understand that the life jacket wearing laws have the broad support of the Boating Industry Association and the Queensland Recreational Boating Council. They also align Queensland with New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia which all have similar rules for boating alone and at night in smaller boats. The new life jacket laws, based on that engagement, came into effect on 1 December 2024 after being tabled by the member for Aspley, the then Labor minister for transport and main roads, on 10 September last year.

The sections of the regulation which the member for Hinchinbrook seeks to disallow are those which require boaties to wear a life jacket during particularly high-risk circumstances, such as: boating alone, or with children under 12 years, on an open boat less than 4.8 metres in length and only while underway; boating at night on an open boat less than 4.8 metres in length and only while underway; crossing a designated coastal bar on an open boat, or an open area of any boat of any length, and on certain craft; and carrying children one year or older and under 12 years on an open boat, or an open area of a boat of any length, and only while underway, with the children also required to wear a life jacket. I just want to clarify some of the misinformation that exists in the community. It is important to note that those regulations prescribe that they apply while underway. If an individual's boat is anchored up, they are not required under this regulation to wear a life jacket. The primary aim of these changes is to keep people safe on the water and reduce the risk of preventable tragedy because, unfortunately, things can turn perilous at any time when out on a boat.



As on the roads, there are a fatal five on the waterways that MSQ educates people on. They are: keeping a proper lookout; carrying safety equipment, including life jackets; speeding; using alcohol and drugs; and planning according to the weather. Infringing any one of those five can have significant consequences. They can contribute to an accident quickly, which reinforces the way that the new rules apply. They are not applied at all times; only in situations of the highest risk.

Situations can occur so quickly and it may be too late to reach for a life jacket after an incident has occurred. Practically, if a person is boating alone, or goes overboard while underway, their boat may continue onwards, potentially leaving them stranded in open water. Even a spot-locked boat, which the member for Hinchinbrook spoke about, can drift away if the technology fails for any reason, such as a flat battery or loss of GPS signal. A person may be injured or even unconscious during an overboard incident. In this scenario their chances of climbing back into the boat are reduced, and they are more likely to survive if wearing a life jacket.

Similarly, going overboard at night while underway presents challenges where, in the dark, it might not be clear where someone went overboard. Reflective tape and whistles, which are required on level 100 and 150 life jackets and optional on level 50 life jackets, can make it easier to find someone. Some are also fitted with lights. This will not help search-and-rescue efforts if the life jacket is on the boat while the person is in the water. That is the key difference. In such high-risk situations we want boaties to be wearing the life jacket rather than simply having it on board. That is because wearing a life jacket in those cases will increase the chances of survival for a person in the water.

I note the member for Hinchinbrook's comments that there is currently nothing stopping a boatie from making this safety choice themselves. That is true, but that does not account for all of those circumstances where things can go wrong. Those same people who may choose not to wear a life jacket in those high-risk circumstances are the same ones who expect Volunteer Marine Rescue to come to their aid when issues arise.

The member for Hinchinbrook supports personal choice about safety, as do I. However, the reality is that government frequently makes decisions to regulate behaviours on matters of safety because they are in the interests of either the individual or our community as a whole. Seatbelts, illicit drug use and speed limits are all examples where personal choice is limited in favour of individual or collective safety.

In the Brisbane region, 26 people are reported to have drowned or are presumed to have drowned in the last five years. Only four were known to be wearing a life jacket. The need to get more boaties to wear a life jacket is not confined to South-East Queensland. Across the Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone regions, 38 people are recorded as having drowned or are presumed to have drowned in the same period. Just one of them is known to have been wearing a life jacket. That goes to show the importance of putting safety first.

Marine incidents can happen at any time, anywhere. I was surprised to learn that in the electorate of Hill in the last five financial years, starting 2019-20, there have been five drownings or presumed drownings involving people not wearing a life jacket. The electorates of Hinchinbrook and Traeger have been fortunate enough to avoid boating related drownings in the last five years. However, there are multiple reported incidents where people have survived while wearing life jackets across those electorates and throughout Central and North Queensland.

As the member for Hinchinbrook has rightly pointed out, the Great Barrier Reef does protect North Queenslanders from the hazards of crossing coastal bars. That is why the regulation designates the coastal bars where the rules apply, and they are all south of Hinchinbrook. This rule does not affect the more northern parts of Queensland. To be clear, the member for Hinchinbrook's motion seeks to disallow the requirement for people to wear life jackets crossing coastal bars in the southern parts of Queensland.

Life jacket education and messaging is not unique amongst regulated sectors. It is one of the few areas where there is a unified message all over Australia, and that message is to wear them. With the new laws, we are catching up with other states in reflecting that in legislation and regulation. This is helping bring consistency for boaties from not just Queensland but also many parts of the nation. This helps promote safety, again, as more people know and understand the rules.

The government is also catching up in phasing out older style life jackets that have not complied with the Australian Standards since 2008. I am advised that life jackets generally have a serviceable life of around 10 years. The government has allowed those older life jackets to remain in service for longer than that, but it is now time to finally phase them out. Over time, life jackets can lose their buoyancy, zippers and clips can break, and colours and reflective tape can fade, making them less

visible to rescuers. A new life jacket can be purchased for as little as \$20. Under the regulation, this is required to be done by 1 September 2025. I note we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, but this is a limited cost to protect someone's life.

While it is acknowledged that some life jackets may not be comfortable in high heat, modern life jackets are available that are not bulky and do not hinder the user. Some are designed to be compact until inflated by the user. I speak from personal experience of wearing an inflatable life jacket for weeks at a time in the Torres Strait and Cape York during operations while I was in the military. They were not perfect and far from ideal, but they were certainly workable to wear for weeks at a time when required, which, I would suggest, is a far longer period than many boaties will be required to wear a life jacket under these regulations.

The member for Hinchinbrook referred to boaties being croc bait. Absolutely, there are other dangers in areas of Queensland when out on the water—including crocodiles and sharks—should someone end up in the water unexpectedly. That said, the life jacket will reduce the risk of drowning when it is not possible to get back into the boat or if the person is unconscious or injured.

I want this House to know that my department and Maritime Safety Queensland will prioritise education and awareness of the new regulations. This is being done with people's safety at the front of mind. We want to give Queenslanders the opportunity to understand the changes and what it means to them and their boating activities so that we can work together to ensure everyone's safety.

This is being done because our government values working with the communities it serves rather than sliding through regulatory change without appropriately informing the public in the way it was done in September last year. As is the approach with all MSQ initiatives, the aim is to get appropriate educational material to people so they are aware of the risks and the steps they can take to stay as safe as possible. This approach is extended to MSQ's enforcement partners in the Queensland Police Service—the Water Police—and the Fisheries boating patrols. MSQ and its partners cannot be everywhere all of the time so education will give people the tools to give themselves the best opportunity to survive if the worst should happen out on the water. In those instances where education is not enough, MSQ's risk-based responsive enforcement model allows for adaptability and a considered approach to maintaining the safety of Queenslanders out on the water.

We know that the vast majority of people want to do the right thing and look after their loved ones when boating, but there must be consequences for those repeat offenders who put their lives and the lives of others at risk. There are penalties for noncompliance with the new life jacket rules. In most cases where it is deemed necessary to fine a person for not wearing a life jacket when required, an infringement notice would be issued under the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014. This is two penalty points, which currently amounts to \$322.60. As is always the case, if an individual thinks they have been given an unreasonable fine by an overzealous inspector then, like all enforced regulations in Queensland, there is the right to appeal that fine.

The member for Hinchinbrook has indicated that he believes the maximum penalty of two years imprisonment is excessive. Let me state clearly that the figures quoted by the member for Hinchinbrook are the maximum penalty for breaching the safety equipment obligation under the act. Life jackets are only one part of the required safety equipment so failing to wear a life jacket is very unlikely to earn someone the maximum penalty.

I would like to finish with some more positive figures. Between 2015 and June 2024, MSQ has reported a total of 26 people in Townsville and Cairns alone who were known to have been wearing a life jacket and survived a maritime incident as a result.

While I acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook's personal experience as a boatie, which is far greater than mine, it has been demonstrated that increased life jacket use will save lives. As Kell Dillon from MSQ has described them, they are akin to the 'seatbelts of the sea' and will help ensure boaties, their passengers and loved ones get home safely. Like the member for Hinchinbrook, I too want to see less government regulation, but ultimately the decision here is whether the regulation delivers a community benefit in a way that does not excessively limit freedoms. My view is that the benefit delivered under this regulation in making a meaningful reduction in deaths at sea justifies the limited impost requiring boaties to wear life jackets in high-risk situations. For that reason, and noting the widespread support for these reforms, the government will not be supporting the disallowance motion before the House tonight.

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


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

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 72, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.43 pm), continuing: Abolishing stamp duty will help young Queenslanders save on transaction costs and, for the first time in Queensland, you will also be able to rent out a room without losing your stamp duty home concession or your first home owner's grant. These measures will ease the pressure on home ownership and increase housing supply. Under these measures, first home buyers purchasing a new build costing \$850,000 will save more than \$24,000.

By freeing up recipients of the home concessions on stamp duty to rent out a room, we will allow Queenslanders to make a choice for themselves to supplement their income by renting out to family and friends. Since we announced this measure, I have had Queenslanders from across the state indicate to me that if the scheme had been available when they were buying a house they would have taken advantage of it.

Whilst administrative in nature, it was in fact affecting the choices first home buyers were making. Look at the choices that are being made. Over the last year, Queensland had the lowest proportion of first home buyers of any mainland state, both for all purchasers and owner-occupiers. We also had more people renting in the 25 to 39 age bracket—236,210—than in home ownership itself—227,572.

While it might not be everyone's dream to own a home, our government wants to make it more achievable for every Queenslander who wants to. Submissions to the bill confirm that so many in the community want change too. The UDIA stated that they strongly support the bill where it amends the Duties Act to implement revenue related commitments. They stated—

The Institute supports the intended full transfer duty relief from eligible dutiable transactions for first home owners purchasing a new home or vacant land on which to build a home. The Institute also supports the proposal to allow recipients of transfer duty home concessions to rent part of their property during the one-year occupation period requirement.

The Strata Community Association commented—

... the change to allow first home buyers to rent out a room is a sensible one which helps alleviate mortgage serviceability concerns and release otherwise untapped rental supply. This policy has twin benefits in alleviating the ongoing housing crisis and we are strongly supportive of this measure.

QShelter observed—

Both of these measures are worthy of implementation and, given their newness, would justify appropriate evaluation and monitoring in the first 12 months ...

The REIQ supported the measures and questioned if the government had modelled the expected take-up of the new concessions. That, too, was a point raised by the opposition in their statement of reservation. I confirm that the exemption is expected to benefit thousands of Queensland first home buyers each year. It will be available to all first home buyers if they choose to purchase a new home. Treasury estimates indicate around 3,000 first home buyers per year could benefit from this measure, inclusive of additional demand expected given the more favourable tax treatment for new builds compared to existing dwellings.

The Property Council welcomed the abolition of a tax, and the Housing Industry Association supports the 'dual purpose to abolish stamp duty for new first home buyers, and to legally enable renting of rooms by first home buyer grant recipients'.

Increasing property prices, the rise in the cost of money and growing rents are significant challenges in saving 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 generosity or another source of funds, home ownership is a daunting mountain to climb. It is why today's changes are the first step.

Now, we continue our work on a shared equity scheme to offer other options to Queenslanders seeking to purchase a home. The work will be done and further announcements will be made later in the year because the Crisafulli government will always keep seeking policy opportunities to support home ownership—and the aspirations of Queenslanders.

I will now turn to the amendments to the Payroll Tax Act 1971. The now government first asked questions during question time in November 2022 in relation to the impact of Labor's patients tax on bulk-billing and emergency department presentations and what it would ultimately mean to the cost of seeing a doctor. At the time, the member for Woodridge said, 'I will not be acting because it is not proper for me to do so.' There followed complex rulings. The first ruling was dropped at Christmas in 2022, with the Labor government not having undertaken consultation or modelling. It confirmed that general practice and other health practitioners would now be subject to payroll tax.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners labelled the change an 'illogical tax grab' and warned that general practitioners would have no option but to pass on the costs to patients. The AMAQ described it as 'a crippling patient tax that will mean the end of bulk-billing in Queensland'. The AMAQ went on to say that the targets for this tax are 'small suburban and regional clinics owned by mums and dads and will impose an unprecedented extra cost on patients at a time when cost-of-living pressures are hitting communities hard'. Doctors also warned that after-hours practices would be particularly vulnerable to the tax and could wind back their hours as a result, and more Queenslanders would be forced to go to already overstretched, overcrowded and under-resourced hospital emergency departments.

For months I warned of the risks. In an op-ed in January 2023 I referred to the fact that less than 30 per cent of patients in Greater Brisbane were being bulk-billed when visiting their GP, with average out-of-pocket expenses totalling around \$40. Deloitte's *General practitioner workforce in Australia* report predicted a national shortfall of 11,392 GPs by 2032, with major cities expected to be hit hardest. The former Labor government fundamentally misunderstood how general practice operated. It operated on a contractor model whereby sole trader GPs rent rooms and services from a practice. I spoke to doctors and accountants from across Queensland who affirmed that changes would have significant impacts on the viability of the operations of practices.

On Australia Day in 2023 Alissa Mahoney bravely spoke out in the *Courier-Mail*. She is the practice manager at Hervey Bay's Family First Medical Centre. Her practice bulk-bills close to 80 per cent of its 27,000 patients. The vast majority of the patients at this practice are elderly or children. She said it would mean every patient would soon be charged a fee to see a doctor. She said—

It's going to leave a lot of vulnerable people without any health care at all.

I can tell you right now that elderly people will not see a doctor, they would rather feed themselves or have electricity or die, because that is what is going to happen. Patients with a treatable condition will just let it go.

She received significant criticism. In that same article the now shadow health minister labelled the claims a 'beat-up'. The then Labor government implied that GPs were tax dodgers. It was a true pleasure recently to visit Alissa and her team in Hervey Bay and thank them for their courage in speaking out and sharing their experience.

Back in 2023 I spent a weekend in Townsville meeting local doctors Danielle McMullen and Michael Clements, who were reported as confirming that bulk-billing practices could disappear from northern Queensland and private practices could increase fees by 15 per cent. A few days later the now Premier and Deputy Premier stood with Saltwater practice director Jen Kettleton-Butler at Caloundra. She also courageously shared her views on what it would mean to patient care and the viability of practices if the patients tax was to continue. There were numerous stories from numerous doctors who wished to remain anonymous so as not to worry their patients. They warned that the health care of nursing home residents was in the balance, as GPs would no longer be able to bulk-bill if the patients tax was not stopped. All the while, the member for Woodridge doubled down day after day. Then in February 2023 the Labor government finally granted an amnesty and addressed retrospectivity, but the risk remained.

Under my questioning at estimates in 2023 the former government conceded that, among other things: Treasury had not worked with Queensland Health to determine the impact of this new tax on ambulance callouts at a time of record ramping; no modelling had been undertaken to determine the impact of this new tax on bulk-billing rates in Queensland; and no modelling had been undertaken to determine the impact of this new tax on the access of aged-care facility residents to their visiting GP, given a large proportion of those visits were not currently charged a gap. The then treasurer admitted there was no idea how many doctors or medical centres would be impacted by the patients tax, nor was there any idea how much additional payroll tax would be raised from a range of other health services, and there was no explanation as to why existing medical practices had been granted an amnesty at the time while new medical practices had not.

When the then Labor government finally released the second attempt at the framework for its patients tax in September 2023—after 78 clauses over 29 pages in two complex rulings—we knew that the devil would be in the detail. Rather than fix a problem the then treasurer claimed did not even exist, the then treasurer only made it more complicated and more expensive for Queensland patients. Either medical practices would be forced to pay Labor's patients tax or they would be forced to restructure their business models, resulting in longer and higher administrative burdens that would be forced to be passed on to patients.

The risks persisted, but practices quietly started preparing their arrangements in advance of Labor's patients tax. As I travelled around Queensland I continued to listen to practices that were under political pressure not to speak out and doctors and practice managers who continued to warn that the changes would drive down bulk-billing, drive up emergency presentations at our hospitals and drive up the cost of seeing the family doctor.

I recall meeting Dr Rod Martin, a general practitioner on Brisbane's north side in the electorate of the minister for the Olympics who operates GO2 Health in Everton Park. It is a 15-year-old practice with a history of looking after ex-military veterans through DVA. He manages a large number of highly complex and vulnerable patients—men and women who have served our country. The practice is the largest veteran-centric medical centre in Australia. Rod currently serves thousands of veterans, who represent 85 per cent of his practice. He said those changes were unworkable for large bulk-billing multidisciplinary centres like his, which would attract a significant compliance and administrative burden. Some of the increased administrative burden Rod was concerned about at the time would include dozens of EFTPOS machines having to be installed and additional staff that would be needed to amend the administrative procedures of the clinic.

The AMAQ under Dr Maria Boulton vigorously argued the case that this tax would put Queensland clinics at a competitive disadvantage and general practitioners would move interstate, adversely impacting rural and regional practices. Another general practitioner, Dr Aaron Chambers, went on the record and described the changes as 'unworkable'. We listened, and before the election we took a stand with vulnerable, sick and aged Queenslanders and committed to abolish Labor's patients tax once and for all.

The bill amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to provide a payroll tax and mental health levy exemption for wages paid or payable by medical practices to general practitioners. The Payroll Tax Act will be amended to give legislative effect to a beneficial administrative arrangement to provide that, where relevant conditions are met, wages paid or payable by a medical practice to GPs will not be subject to payroll tax or the mental health levy. The Duties Act will be amended to give effect to beneficial administrative arrangements.

I turn now to the committee's findings. I acknowledge the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee's report on the bill tabled on 7 February 2025. I would like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I note and welcome the committee's first recommendation—that the bill be passed. I note that the committee made a further three administrative recommendations which the government supports, and I table the full government response to the committee report.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, government response [\[92\]](#).


I would like to foreshadow amendments which will be moved during consideration in detail of this bill. These will be circulated in due course in the House.

The amendments to the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001 are to ensure the existing foreign surcharge provisions of these acts apply as intended. In recent times there has been uncertainty about the interaction between international double taxation agreements and foreign investment fees and property taxes levied by federal, state and territory governments. In response, the Australian government made legislative amendments to clarify that these international agreements only apply to income tax and fringe benefits tax.

The amendments I will introduce validate the operation of the foreign surcharges, in alignment with the Commonwealth amendment. This protective action was also taken by the Victorian government, with amendments approved in December last year. The government will continue to monitor and actively manage any risks to validly collected state revenue so we can continue to fund the vital services and infrastructure our state needs.

While the opposition's statement of reservation vaguely suggests that they will vote in support of this bill—and I look forward to hearing from the shadow treasurer—their past actions while in government reveal their true values and intentions. When it comes to policies to give first home buyers a leg-up, when it comes to backing doctors and protecting patient services, we cannot trust a word this opposition says, but we have good news for the people of Queensland. Not only do they now have a government which fundamentally supports the values of home ownership and the benefits it brings, and not only do they now have a government which fundamentally respects the centrality of general practice to supporting healthcare outcomes in Queensland, but through this bill the Crisafulli government enshrines these important tax reforms in legislation and protects them from any future Labor government. If the next Labor government want to reintroduce stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing new builds, and if the Labor Party want to reintroduce a patients tax which would end bulk-billing, push up emergency presentations to overcrowded emergency departments or drive up the cost of seeing the family doctor, they will need to come into this House, the people's house, and explain why they would want to sell out first home buyers, the sick, the aged and the vulnerable people of Queensland.

The bill delivers on several important commitments the Crisafulli government made during the 2024 state election campaign to support Queenslanders by helping address the significant cost-of-living pressures facing them relating to housing and health care. We will always fight to deliver structural, long-term cost-of-living support for Queenslanders. We promised before the election to deliver on this commitment, and that is exactly what we are doing today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.04 pm): Things cannot be going so well over there in the new LNP government if the Treasurer is already talking about what the next Labor government will be doing. After the first 100 days we have seen from those opposite, it might be sooner than we think.

When it comes to home ownership, we on this side of the House absolutely believe it should be in reach for hardworking Queenslanders, but right now that dream is slipping further away, especially for those young people who do not have the so-called bank of mum and dad. House prices keep climbing, yet wages are not keeping pace. Saving for a deposit is tough enough, but even those who manage to get there are left struggling with mortgages they can barely afford. This is not what we want to see in Queensland and it is why Labor will always fight to break down barriers to home ownership and ease the cost of entering the housing market for young Queenslanders.

The Labor opposition will always support attempts to improve housing supply in Queensland. However, we do share the same concerns as many stakeholders that the impact of the measures in this bill will be limited. Of course, it would be remiss of me whilst talking of home ownership not to mention the news today that the Reserve Bank has made a determination to cut the cash rate to 4.1 per cent. As Treasurer Jim Chalmers has said, this is rate relief that Australia needs and Australians deserve. Federal Labor has demonstrated the progress we have made on inflation, and each of the four major banks have already indicated that the benefits of this rate cut will be passed on in full, so that is very good news for Queenslanders.

When it comes to the stamp duty aspect of this bill, we note it was a key election commitment for the government. Whilst the Labor opposition will support the legislation, it would be remiss of me not to raise our concerns for its ability to achieve its intended outcome. The Real Estate Institute of Queensland has raised red flags stating that there is a lack of data on first home buyers purchasing new properties or vacant land in Queensland. Their submission to the Queensland committee stated—

There is, however, a lack of data available on first home buyer's purchases of new properties or vacant land in Queensland.

The REIQ would be interested to understand if the Government has modelling in relation to the expected take up of the new concessions and anticipated increase in the rate of homeownership in Queensland.

In our view, the use of the new concessions may be limited ...

Queensland Treasury confirmed in the committee hearings that they had not done the work—no modelling, no real evidence to show that this measure will move the dial at all for Queenslanders looking to buy their first home. I note in the Treasurer's contribution to the debate he talked about estimates, but it was clear from the evidence given to the committee by Queensland Treasury that no modelling has been done.

Labor's concern is that this policy will benefit those buying multimillion dollar properties—buyers who, let us be honest, do not need a tax cut. Someone buying a \$2 million property would receive nearly six times as much in first home tax support as a first home buyer purchasing a median property in

Bundaberg. To drive real change for prospective first home buyers, measures should be targeted, but let us be honest: completely removing the property value threshold for first home buyers is not a targeted approach. This is why the former Labor government took a targeted approach to stamp duty exemptions. We raised the first home concession threshold from \$550,000 to \$800,000 in the middle of last year to ensure we were inclusive in the face of rising property costs, whilst also targeting the demographic of first home buyers who needed support. We did the same thing with the first home vacant land concession and were prepared to review the property tax setting post October if re-elected. We listened to the Property Council's call to undertake this review, despite this being something the Treasurer would not commit to.

The next part of the bill allows for first home concession recipients to partially rent out their properties without losing their concession. The Labor opposition supports the removal of that requirement—so much so that it was actually already delivered by the previous Miles Labor government. Labor has always been supportive of removing barriers for first home buyers and ensuring we support renters throughout the state as well. We did in government and we will continue to do so in opposition.


It is interesting to see the LNP government act as though this is anything other than a minor change in legislation. However, if the LNP are interested in taking a page out of our book, the advice is that they must make it clear to first home concession recipients that they may be impacted by federal taxation such as capital gains tax. This was also noted by stakeholders during the committee hearing. The Housing Industry Association has suggested that this is likely to have little impact on improving housing conditions in the state. Much more is needed to ensure every Queenslanders has a roof over their head, and it is time for the government to step up and take action to ensure this.

The opposition has always supported exempting GPs from payroll tax. On 19 September 2023, the Queensland Revenue Office issued a revised payroll tax ruling in relation to medical centres. Essentially, the ruling meant that under normal business arrangements where patient fees are paid directly by a patient or Medicare to a general practitioner for that practitioner's services, it will not be subject to payroll tax. That includes the Medicare benefit and any out-of-pocket expenses. The LNP's scare campaign that patients will be paying more was completely unfounded. In fact, the Commissioner of State Revenue made it clear during committee hearings that the GP payroll tax amnesty had already been accounted for in the government's own forecasts. Why? Because the previous Labor government had already fixed the issue. The truth is that this bill will not fix anything, simply because the problem itself was manufactured by those on the other side so they could pretend to solve it.

The measures taken by the former Miles Labor government to ensure GPs were not subject to payroll tax were welcomed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, which actually encouraged other states to follow Queensland's lead. The reality is that Labor, both in government and now in opposition, has always prioritised our state's health workers. We recognise the important contribution they make to our communities and how much they sacrifice just to do their jobs to care for us every day. Under Labor, we delivered the biggest health budget in Queensland's history, investing in more hospitals, more frontline staff and more services, and that is the difference between us on this side of the room and those opposite. Labor backs health care with action, while the LNP plays politics with people's wellbeing.

It is obscene for the LNP to feign concern over access to health care while cutting health services for vulnerable mums in Townsville. We rejected the LNP's claims of a GP tax during the election campaign and we will continue to reject them as anything other than a hoax designed to scare Queenslanders. I ask the Treasurer: what was Treasury's advice in the incoming government briefing on forgone revenue from the LNP's election commitment to exempt GPs from payroll tax? I can guess the answer. There was no forgone revenue because Labor had already acted on this issue.

The Labor opposition is of the view that the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill is unlikely to shift the dial on housing and certainly does nothing more than recognise the work that the Office for State Revenue had already done to prevent GP practices from paying payroll tax. We have always advocated for the rights of first home buyers in our state, and that is something we will continue to do moving forward, in the hopes of achieving targeted policies that actually prioritise those Queenslanders who need the help the most.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.13 pm): I am pleased to rise in support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government doing what we said we would do: delivering cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders.

This bill reflects the delivery of two key election commitments from the Crisafulli LNP government. Firstly, this bill amends the Duties Act 2001 to abolish stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers from 1 May 2025 and allows new home owners to rent out a room within their first year of occupation without the fear of losing any transfer duty home concessions. Secondly, this bill amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971, scrapping Labor's patients tax by introducing an exemption that wages liable to payroll tax and the mental health levy do not include wages payable by medical practices to general practitioners. In short, this amendment will protect access to GP services across Queensland and means that Queenslanders will not need to pay more when they are seeing their local doctor.

I note that the relevant committee report found 'widespread support from inquiry participants for the transfer duty relief amendments' and, similarly in relation to the proposed amendments to the Payroll Tax Act, stakeholders such as 'The Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (Queensland Faculty) (RACGP) indicated strong support for the exemption proposed in the Bill'. In short, stakeholders overwhelmingly supported both initiatives reflected in this bill, and the Crisafulli LNP government has gone straight to work making these commitments a reality.

Turning first to the home ownership initiatives of this legislation, I note that Queensland, under the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government, managed to win the wooden spoon for home ownership rates in Queensland—not exactly an inspiring picture for Queenslanders hoping to become home owners. The former Labor government left a legacy of woeful economic mismanagement, budget black holes and blowouts whilst ignoring a critical tenet of individual economic security for Queenslanders: home ownership. As a result, the Queensland home ownership rate sits at a low 63.5 per cent, leaving many without the hope of home ownership thanks to the inaction of those opposite.

The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland by ensuring Queenslanders can have a place to call home. We have the Treasurer as the Minister for Home Ownership and have committed to Queensland being on top of the home ownership ladder by 2034.

Turning to the substance of the home ownership reforms, I note that various stakeholders throughout the committee process were again supportive of the Crisafulli LNP government's proposed legislation. By way of example, the Strata Community Association Queensland's submission supported our proposal to allow first home buyers to rent out a room within their home without losing transfer duty concessions as a 'sensible' proposal which will help 'alleviate mortgage serviceability concerns and release otherwise untapped rental supply'. I note that the association was also supportive of the policy's 'twin benefits in alleviating the ongoing housing crisis' and that the association is 'strongly supportive' of such measures.

Similarly, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland was supportive of our proposed introduction of concessions to provide stamp duty relief for first home buyers purchasing a new home or vacant land to build a new home. The REIQ confirmed that they expect this policy 'will positively encourage homeownership by removing part of the up-front financial barrier to purchasing a new home or building a new home for first home buyers'.

I note that the Treasurer actually implemented this policy by way of a ministerial directive in early December 2024, ensuring Queenslanders were able to benefit from these changes before they were formally enshrined in legislation this week. It is clear that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering a fresh start for Queenslanders, including for prospective Queensland home owners.

Before I return to the substance of the proposed scrapping of Labor's patients tax, I think it is worth reflecting on the incredulous behaviour of those opposite such that we even have to pass this legislation today. I was proud to stand alongside my colleagues, including the now Treasurer, and campaign against the out-of-touch and out-of-control decisions of the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government, including when the "taxer-in-chief", the member for Woodridge, decided it was a good idea to tax Queenslanders more to see their local GP during a cost-of-living crisis, and a health crisis, too, just for good measure.

In defending Labor's patients tax, the member for Miller, the now shadow minister for health, went so far as to claim that concerns from local GPs that vulnerable Queenslanders would be left without access to crucial health care was simply a beat-up. How ridiculous. How absolutely ridiculous. Those opposite, including the member for Woodridge, honestly could not see the issue with asking hardworking Queenslanders to pay more every single time they visited their GP, even if the visit was as simple as a script renewal or a blood test.



In fairness to the member for Woodridge, he probably should have received some help with the ill-fated scheme from the worst minister for health in Queensland's history, the member for Waterford. The former minister for health could have stepped in and given the member for Woodridge a health check because this was one of the sickest money grabs Queenslanders have seen in a long time—taxing the sick and vulnerable. Unfortunately for the member for Woodridge, the member for Waterford was too busy eyeing up the member for Murrumba's job to worry about what the member for Woodridge was dreaming up. Now the member for Waterford is too busy measuring the desk in the opposition leader's office. After a decade of Labor chaos and crisis, is it any wonder that Queensland was left with a cost-of-living crisis and a health crisis, thanks to those opposite?

With that said, the Crisafulli LNP government is well and truly up for the challenge of cleaning up Labor's mess and has already gotten to work. In relation to Labor's disgraceful patients tax which this bill seeks to scrap, I note the overwhelming support of industry stakeholders for our efforts to fix Labor's mess including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, who submitted—

The RACGP applauds and supports the Queensland Government proposed amendments to the Bill, which amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to introduce an exemption to provide that wages paid or payable by a medical practice to GPs will not be subject to payroll tax or the mental health levy.


...

Abolishing payroll tax on GPs is the best solution to help ensure essential GP care is affordable for all Queenslanders.

The RACGP's submission went further still, confirming—

Abolishing payroll tax on GPs is a critical step to providing certainty to general practices and supporting these practices to thrive in every Queensland community.

There are no two ways about it: Labor's patients tax was a patient tax on sick Queenslanders. If you were sick, your GP would have been forced to charge you more because Labor wanted to pick your back pocket. In a cost-of-living crisis when a sick family member needed the doctor, Queensland families would have paid more under the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. It was a sick joke on Queensland families that the member for Murrumba denied even existed during the election campaign. It needed to go, and this bill delivers that. I am proud to be a part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is working tirelessly to reinstate health services for when Queenslanders need them, to ease the cost of living and to deliver the fresh start Queensland so desperately needs.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.21 pm): As the shadow minister has outlined, we will not be opposing this bill. Supporting more people in their journey towards home ownership is a shared priority—one that we pursued relentlessly in government and one that we remain committed to now in opposition. However, as we expressed in our statement of reservation in the committee report, we hold significant concerns that the measures in this bill are limited in scope and will have a negligible, if any, effect in shifting the home ownership dial in Queensland. Before unpacking those concerns, I want to acknowledge the work of the parliamentary committee on this bill. I extend my appreciation to the chair, the member for Lockyer, and all the committee members, including those in opposition who contributed—the members for Kurwongbah and Aspley. This was our first act as a committee and I think we collectively did a fantastic job of scrutinising the scope and the impact of this bill.

This bill delivers on two election commitments made by the government. Firstly, it effectively removes stamp duty, or transfer duty, for first home buyers in Queensland. Secondly, it allows first home buyers to rent out a portion of their home without losing these stamp duty concessions. While the opposition agrees with the intent, we question the effectiveness of these measures in addressing the primary cause of the housing crisis—the lack of housing supply. The Director of Policy and Regions at the Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland, Ms Anna Cox, stated succinctly in her evidence—

... the only solution to the housing crisis is additional supply.

...

We need more houses of all types everywhere.

This bill represents an attempt by the government to fulfil its election commitment of making Queensland the state with the highest home ownership rate in the country by 2034. Unfortunately, as the inquiry into the legislation made clear, there is no evidence that this bill will contribute meaningfully towards that target in any way. The Real Estate Institute of Queensland, REIQ, noted in its submission to the committee that there is a 'lack of data available on first home buyer purchases of new properties

or vacant land in Queensland'. They also questioned whether the government had undertaken any modelling on the projected impact of these concessions. Treasury's response confirmed our concerns when they advised the committee that 'Treasury has not undertaken such modelling'.

This lack of evidence is troubling. If we are serious about increasing home ownership, particularly among those who need it most, then we need targeted evidence-based policy—not vague promises and untested assumptions from the Treasurer. One of the most significant oversights in this bill is the complete removal of a price threshold for first home buyer stamp duty concessions. We strongly believe that tax relief should be directed at those who need it most, particularly our young people and families on lower to moderate incomes who are unable to both pay the rent and simultaneously save for a home deposit.

Under the bill, a first home buyer purchasing a \$2 million property in the city would receive nearly six times the tax support of someone buying a median-priced home in the regions. That is not fair, or targeted use of public funds. As the Property Council of Australia and Q Shelter have called for, we need a comprehensive review of property tax settings to ensure they are equitable and effective. This bill also makes permanent the ability for first home buyers to rent out rooms while maintaining their stamp duty concessions. This is not a new initiative—it was implemented by the Miles Labor government as a six-month trial. While we support its continuation, I would have preferred to see the Treasurer undertake an evaluation before making it a permanent policy. Stakeholders have again questioned whether this policy will have any meaningful impact on rental availability or home ownership rates. The Housing Industry Association stated—

... the impact of enabling first home buyer concession recipients to rent out rooms ... will be minimal in terms of increasing Queensland's rental availability.

The opposition also believes that there must be clear government advice to first home buyers about the broader tax implications of renting out a room, or rooms, including the potential capital gains tax liabilities. We welcome the recommendation of a 12-month evaluation of the policy and will certainly monitor the implementation closely. As we heard repeatedly throughout the inquiry, supply remains the critical issue in the housing crisis. Paul Leven, the Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Industry Association, put it plainly—'Supply is the key. It is the No. 1 issue.'


This bill does nothing to address the fundamental issue of housing supply. It does not provide for more social housing stock, unlock land for development or invest in trunk infrastructure. Without these measures, it is difficult to see how Queensland will meet its ambitious target of a million new homes by 2044—a target already in doubt due to a lack of planning, modelling and consultation from the government. The government's own broad estimate suggests that this bill might be able to benefit maybe 3,000 first home buyers annually. This is a drop in the ocean, compared to the Queensland reality that we need 50,000 new homes each year to meet the demand.

This bill also formalises the exemption of general practitioners from payroll tax. We support this exemption; however, it is important to set the record straight. During the 2024 state election, the LNP engaged in a very misleading campaign that referred to a 'patient tax', stoking fear among the public. In reality, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners acknowledged that Queensland, under the Miles Labor government, was the first state to introduce a payroll tax amnesty for GPs—an initiative subsequently adopted by other states. Through the committee hearings we confirmed that no general practitioner in Queensland, to date, has made a payroll tax or mental health levy payment. I will correct the record: I think there was one person who made a pre-emptive payment before the amnesty which was partially refunded after the amnesty. The exemption contained in this bill will not cost the government any money in terms of forgone revenue because medical centres were never going to pay a payroll tax on GPs in the first place and it was not included in the forward estimates. Nevertheless, of course we support the measure as a formal protection for GPs, many of whom are small family-run businesses, from additional tax burdens particularly during difficult economic times.

This bill is emblematic of the government's approach to housing: headline announcements without substance or evidence-based policy. While we support removing stamp duty for first home buyers, we are concerned that the bill will miss the target of offering real relief to everyday Queenslanders who want to get into their first home and that it might add unintentional heat to an already tight housing market. People in my electorate want this relief targeted towards their children and their grandchildren, not wealthy investors who see an opportunity to move and reside in Queensland for 12 months, purchase a \$2 million property—not an uncommon price range in

electorates like mine—and avoid contributing almost \$100,000 in tax to the state. While we support allowing first home buyers to rent out rooms, we question whether the policy will have any meaningful impact on housing affordability or rental availability.


Most importantly, we are deeply disappointed that the bill does nothing to address the central issue of supply in the housing crisis. Without this being addressed, the bill is little more than a symbolic gesture. Queenslanders deserve real, evidence-based solutions to the housing crisis. We will continue to hold the government to account and to push for policies that genuinely make a difference in ensuring every Queenslander has a place to call home. Thank you.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.28 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. Queenslanders were told what we were going to do and I am pleased to be part of a government that is doing it. This is the fresh start for Queensland that Queenslanders asked for and I am proud to be the chair of the committee responsible for this bill. I commend the Treasurer on his speech earlier today and in recognising the problems this issue has caused for Queenslanders.

I take exception to members opposite talking about there not being evidence that this bill will be a benefit. The HIA outlined clearly to us that over the last 30 years it was between 99 and 96 per cent per year of private investment into the housing market that was the balance—99 to 96 per cent. So the first measure of this bill, targeting that relief for first home buyers and first home builders, directly targets that private investment and gives assistance.

I welcome the fact that this bill does not have a threshold, and I note that my colleague's statement of reservation questions that threshold. Thresholds are designed for social issues and addressing a lower cost housing solution. This is targeting and stimulating private investment in the housing market.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr McDONALD**: As I was saying before the break, the government understands the importance of private equity. The HIA outlined that over the last 30 years there has been between 96 and 99 per cent investment by the private equity system or private people as opposed to government funding, so to change the levers of supply we need to stimulate that private investment. This is one of the things. As I said before, I commend the Premier and the Treasurer for introducing this revenue bill. It is the first time in 10 years we have seen taxes cut. That is absolutely a fresh start for Queenslanders that Queenslanders voted for. It is hope over fear, and what a wonderful change it is.

As we heard from the 11 stakeholders, everybody supported the bill—and I note the opposition members also supported most of the bill. As I was saying before the break, removing the threshold of the tax exemptions for first home buyers or first home builders is actually a really smart thing because of the price of houses across the state. If you want to cater for a stimulus for lower value houses, that is a social issue; that is talking about getting people into a lower level of home ownership. This is about stimulating private investment into the market so we will increase supply. They are talking about at least 3,000 extra houses and there will be more than that across the forwards. As I said, stimulating that private investment is really important. Allowing the new home owners to rent out a room to avoid the previous rent-a-room problems is also a really smart thing because, again, it is actually creating supply. All of the submitters supported that arrangement.

We have been talking about—and I was pleased to have the conversation with the Premier and the Deputy Premier about this—the interconnectedness of the housing market. Many of the submitters also talked about this. People grow up and end up renting a house or a unit, and then as they get more of a deposit or have a higher income they make the move to home ownership. When they move to home ownership, particularly building a new home, it frees up the rental property they were in. From that time on they go through the rest of their life owning a property, unless they get to a later point in life when they want to downsize. This is all about stimulating the private investment in housing and the housing improvements and it is part of our commitment to see Queensland go from last on the home ownership ladder to first, and that is a lofty goal. As I said before, this is a fresh start for Queensland and it is about providing hope over fear.

Another major part of the bill deals with the issue of the patients tax. Many opposition members have said that it was not really a tax and the people were not paying it. If that is so, why did we need an amnesty? The tax was brought in and they put in place an amnesty to give people time, but it was a tax. It was sitting there and it was a threat to all of the good GPs and medical practitioners out there. I will refer to a number of my locals in a minute. I talked to dozens of medical practices. Some at the

committee also spoke about the cost of engaging professional services—legal advice and accounting—because of the threat of that tax, to put arrangements in place to try to minimise that tax into the future. The former treasurer spoke about that as well. That is because this is a tax. It is the second tax that the new Crisafulli government has removed, and I certainly welcome that.

I want to place on record my great appreciation of all of our medical practitioners and the GPs in our local communities who do a wonderful job, as well as the practice managers and the nurses. In fact, my daughter is a nurse at one of those practices. It is a wonderful service of primary care that they provide. While I am talking about primary care, I would like to draw the Treasurer's attention to the third or fourth recommendation regarding the issue of specialist non-GP services. We heard from submitters at the inquiry that many of those specialist non-GP clinics do not pay payroll tax but there are a few that do. We have asked the Treasurer and the department to look at those issues. I appreciate that we have a response from the government that has said they are going to do that. I very much appreciate that because it was a very great concern.


The Lockyer community is serviced by a dozen or so practices, but I have to place on record my appreciation and thanks to Dr Phil Burrell, who has been one of the great doctors in Laidley for many years, as well as Dr John Lamb and now Dr Mohammed Sultan who give care to me as my GP. Dr Sultan's practice, the Family Health Clinic, has won a number of Lockyer Valley business awards because of transport services and other services they provide to the community. These are great people in our local communities, and I am sure members have many of those champions in their own community who do a wonderful job in caring for all of our community.

I want to go back to the statement of reservation which my colleagues on the committee raised, and that was about there not being any evidence of extra supply being created from this. I note the REIQ had asked that question and we got the answer to that about modelling. There was also modelling done previously which showed thousands of houses were created and stimulated by this trend. I again reinforce the importance of that private equity market, private investment, to stimulate and improve supply, and that is what this government is doing. We are helping Queenslanders get ahead, and it is the fresh start that they all want.

Earlier I mentioned the interconnectedness of the property market, but that rent-a-room measure is a very sensible thing. Again, it is about giving inspiration to aspirational people. If someone can get an RTA lease on a property they can give it to a financial institution and say, 'I've got one or two rooms in that new property rented.' That can be identified as revenue for that property, assisting them in getting conventional finance for that property. That makes a heck of a lot of sense to me.

This is a personal issue for me, too, because I have family members who are trying to get into the property market and this will help them. I have a son and some nieces and nephews who are in that bracket and they, like many, have almost lost hope that they will own a home in the near future. I come back to the issue of removing that threshold, because there are a lot of people who have been to uni or have completed their studies who have great jobs. They have been having a good time for the first five or 10 years of their working life and they have not saved up that deposit, but they might be getting close and want to get into the market.

This is one of the solutions that the government said that we would do before the election—and we are doing what we said we would do—and there are going to be other solutions that will come along. As the Treasurer said, we are looking at equity schemes and social housing solutions that will unlock tens of thousands of houses. I look forward to being a part of those solutions so that Queenslanders can get ahead.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.39 pm): This evening I rise to speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I want to start by thanking my fellow committee members. We did have a pretty collegiate process during this committee inquiry and worked well on it. I also thank all of the stakeholders and secretariat team. These reports would not happen without them and we do appreciate it.

This bill removes the obligation on first home buyers to pay stamp duty on the purchase of their first home. I am also pleased to report that this bill continues the former state Labor government's exemption from payroll tax for GPs employed in medical practices, and I want to begin with my views on this point before we move into the impacts of the bill in terms of the housing sector. I am supportive of the exemption from payroll tax that this legislation will grant to medical centres that pay their general practitioners directly and want to go back over the events that led to this particular legislative provision. I note that the previous speaker said that it is a new tax. I say to the member that payroll tax is not new in Queensland. Employers who pay more than \$25,000 a week in Australian taxable wages to Queensland employees pay payroll tax in our state.

Prior to Labor's tax exemption, businesses such as medical centres that paid doctors as employees were subject to the same tax laws as other Queensland businesses, though it is my understanding that not all medical centres were paying the payroll tax on doctors' wages due to differing interpretations in how the tax laws related to contracted doctors. After a landmark tax ruling in New South Wales which clarified the tax law—it did not change the law—affected medical centres and GPs in Queensland were granted an amnesty from payroll tax by the previous government backdated to 2018. In fact, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners acknowledged that Queensland, under the former Miles Labor government, was the first state to introduce an amnesty for GPs which was then taken up by other states. New South Wales has now tied its payroll tax exemption or rebate to bulk-billing rates in that state. Perhaps that is something that we could have examined if the legislation was not rushed through, because we know that after 10 years of LNP neglect of Medicare and bulk-billing at the federal level of government more of the healthcare burden than ever fell to the states during its term.

During the 2024 state election the LNP employed a very misleading campaign—some might say a fear campaign—about GP payroll tax, the very tax it had exempted them from. In desperation, the LNP actually invented the term 'patient tax' and put notes in people's letterboxes promising to stop its own fake tax. I am pleased to be on the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee that examined this legislation, so I took the opportunity to ask some questions about the LNP's patient tax during our committee hearings. Here are some further facts that we gleaned on this topic. We got confirmation that no GP in Queensland has gone broke nor has any patient paid a GP tax, contrary to the fear and outrage stirred up by those opposite during the election.

The exemption contained in this bill will not cost the government any money in terms of forgone revenue as medical centres were never going to pay payroll tax on GPs in the first place, and this was reflected in the forward estimates. When asked during the hearing whether anyone was actually paying payroll tax, Dr Yim answered that prior to the amnesty an AMA Queensland member had a retrospective payroll tax liability that he paid under legal advice but when the amnesty was announced he was able to recover the funds, and this was all quite reassuring for him to continue. The fact is that there was never such a thing as a patient tax. The LNP's fake campaign was mean and was designed to incite fear. It was playing dirty to win at all costs and now it has been exposed, so we are supportive of this legislation exempting GPs from payroll tax because it is exactly what Labor was planning to do.

I turn now to what this bill does for housing in Queensland. It was interesting to hear the concerns from stakeholders, specifically the REIQ, that no modelling on predicted uptake had been done by Treasury, and this was confirmed by Treasury during our hearings. The LNP so often proclaims its budget management prowess, yet here we have a policy being legislated with no idea what it will cost Queenslanders. Another concern that I have is that over the years I have heard anecdotal complaints from homebuyers who feel that developers 'build in'—no pun intended—government rebate amounts to contracts, effectively increasing the total sale price before anyone receives the government assistance. I do not know if this is true, but if it is, even in some cases, I would like to know how the government intends to offset the inflationary effects it might have.

As we expressed in our statement of reservation, it is critical that the government policy is targeted to help those who need assistance most. That is why we expressed our concerns about completely removing the threshold on first home transfer duty concessions. Whilst we will not be opposing this legislation, we are concerned that first home buyers in the fortunate position to afford multimillion dollar homes—and there are some out there—will now be subsidised by taxpayers who may never even be able to afford their own homes. As we saw highlighted in the committee's hearings, a first home buyer purchasing a \$2 million property will receive nearly six times the tax support of someone buying a median priced home in the regions. This is not really fair. Both the Property Council of Australia and Q Shelter called for a comprehensive review of property tax settings to make sure that legislation is not only effective but also equitable. I would welcome this from the new government along with the assurance that we have been asking for—that is, how it will be keeping the products and policies that we brought in to help renters and those without housing to get into housing and stay housed.


Queensland needs well thought out solutions during this difficult time, not shots from the hip from a government more focused on rushing legislation to meet a deadline than supporting the mums and dads of Queensland. No-one here disputes that we need more housing, and we know that getting people into housing is not only a problem in Queensland; the struggle for housing supply and affordability is also reflected both nationally and internationally. The cost of building materials, labour,

the shortage of skilled tradies and the need to balance getting administrative decisions and long-term planning right with the need to speed up our building approval processes are all factors that need to be considered and addressed, so I am glad that helping people into housing is something we can all agree on that we all support.

In my neck of the woods development is going great guns, with the City of Moreton Bay being one of the fastest growing local government areas in the country. The big developments we can see in Narangba Heights—I just want to give a quick plug to our local candidate for Longman, Rhianny Douglas, who has announced an infrastructure upgrade to help that particular development—along Raynbird and Callaghan roads, the new community of Kinma Valley as well as North Harbour in the member for Bancroft's patch and numerous new developments in the electorate of Morayfield next door—

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr KING:** We have some great electorates out there and great members. This growth is possible thanks to the policies of and cooperation between all levels of government in recent years—initiatives like the SEQ regional plan and its infrastructure companion and free TAFE and investment in industry training infrastructure to help skill more tradies. We also doubled the First Home Owners' Grant to be the equal highest in the country, we opened an online housing idea portal for Queenslanders to put forward solutions and we introduced Homes for Homes. They were working and were all good policies, and we can tell the LNP agrees because we can see a few of them in this legislation. That is why I am happy to support the intentions of this bill—to help more Queenslanders into homes.


 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (7.47 pm): We have a housing crisis, so additional supply is the No. 1 priority. It now takes 10 years to save a deposit for a typical housing loan. Construction costs have doubled over this time. Currently, one-third of the cost of building a new home is tax imposed by the three levels of government; hence, a fresh start is required, a fresh approach. Young Queenslanders will be a step closer to owning their first home due to changes to stamp duty proposed by the Crisafulli government. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 is the first piece of legislation delivering major cost-of-living relief to Queensland first home buyers, paving the way for thousands of first home buyers to save on up-front transaction costs and unlocking home ownership for more Queenslanders whilst also boosting housing supply.

We have had a decade of Queenslanders being locked out of the housing market, with this state recording the lowest rate of home ownership of any state in the nation. This is just the start—just one of the actions the LNP government is taking to boost home ownership. A first home owner purchasing a house and land package in Toowoomba at the median price could save \$24,750. The bill also removes restrictions on home owners renting out a room within the first year of occupation without losing any concessions.

We are the party of home ownership. Queensland Treasury has estimated around 3,000 first home buyers per year will receive additional benefits from this measure. In years to come that number will grow substantially. Abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers is just one of the actions the Crisafulli government is taking to boost home ownership, including unlocking underused church and charity owned land for community housing, removing restrictions preventing first home buyers renting out rooms and kickstarting new development with a \$2 billion investment in infrastructure. Scrapping homebuyer stamp duty on new builds provides real savings and puts the great Australian dream back within reach.

There is more: the LNP is axing Labor's patient tax. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 also amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to introduce an exemption from payroll tax and the mental health levy for wages paid or payable by a medical practice to a general practitioner. By axing payroll tax for general practitioners we will save Queenslanders paying more when seeing their local doctor and, in particular, safeguard access to local services across the state. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has labelled the tax as illogical and warned that medical practices would have no option but to pass on the cost to patients. The AMAQ described it as a crippling patient tax that will mean the end of bulk-billing in Queensland. Doctors also warned that after-hours practices would be particularly vulnerable to the tax and could wind back their hours as a result. This would mean that more Queenslanders would be forced to go to already overstretched, overcrowded and under-resourced hospital emergency departments. This will give GPs and patients certainty. It will help ensure essential GP care stays affordable and practices remain viable and, in particular, keep their doors open.

This bill is also a big relief for GPs across the state who just want to get on with helping Queenslanders stay healthy and reducing pressure on our health system. People are struggling with cost-of-living pressures. They require affordable access to GP care; otherwise, the pressure will increase on our hospitals that are struggling to cope now. This bill delivers on our commitments to the people of Queensland to provide cost-of-living support, deliver health services when and where Queenslanders need them and help Queenslanders find and secure a place to call home—the fresh start Queenslanders voted for.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.53 pm): The Labor opposition will always support attempts to improve housing supply; however, we share the concerns of experts that the impact of measures in this bill will be limited. In fact, the interest rate cut we have seen today will probably have 20 to 30 times the impact of this measure. To drive real change for prospective first home buyers, measures need to be targeted. Tax cuts for multimillion dollar houses will not move the dial on home ownership. Someone buying a \$2 million property would receive nearly three to four times as much in tax support as a first home buyer purchasing a median priced property in Zillmere. I am concerned that completely removing the threshold of property value for first home concessions is not a targeted approach.

We note calls from the Property Council of Australia for a review of property tax settings more broadly. Unfortunately, the Treasurer would not match Labor's commitment prior to the election with a post-election review of property taxes. As we heard in the sole committee hearing for this bill, addressing supply shortages remains the unanimous view of the housing experts who provided evidence to the bill. The Housing Institute of Australia stated—

... supply is the key. It is the No. 1 issue ...

The UDIA stated—

... fundamentally the important thing to remember is that supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types everywhere.

Q Shelter stated—

The current housing situation faces many challenges ... insufficient supply to meet needs ...

This bill does not address supply nor the majority of these themes. Instead, it focuses on the issue of home ownership, specifically first home buyers in Queensland. The bill implements an election commitment. Recognising that Queensland already has one of the most beneficial schemes for first home buyers, including a high stamp duty concession threshold and first home owner grants, submitters were questioned on the modelling to demonstrate this bill's effectiveness but, notably, no submitter could point to direct evidence or modelling to support the LNP's promises. Stakeholders echoed our concerns. The REIQ noted—

There is, however, a lack of data available on first home buyer's purchases of new properties or vacant land in Queensland.

The REIQ would be interested to understand if the Government has modelling in relation to the expected take up of the new concessions and anticipated increase in the rate of homeownership in Queensland.


In our view, the use of the new concessions may be limited ...

We heard during the 19 December committee hearing that Treasury has not undertaken any modelling. Put simply, this bill does not change the game on housing. In my area of the north side the LNP has actively opposed sensible housing supply for many years. We have had the Carseldine Urban Village—hundreds of affordable homes, useful in themselves but also having a useful impact on the northside market. It is difficult for the young people on the north side to purchase their own home, yet for three election cycles the LNP has opposed this project. The LNP council is chopping up koala habitats and wildlife corridors in Bridgeman Downs instead of supporting medium density—sensible density—around train stations in the eastern part of my electorate. We have the worst of both worlds from the LNP on the ground.

In relation to other parts of the bill, specifically payroll tax exemptions for general practitioners, the opposition supports exempting general practitioners from payroll law. Legislating this exemption is only required because of the LNP's obscene scare campaign. Changes were already made by the Miles government that enabled GPs to avoid being subjected to payroll tax. These measures were welcomed by the RACGP. In fact, the RACGP were encouraging other states to follow Queensland's lead. As we made clear when we announced our support for an exemption, this will not cost anything to the budget because we factored in that medical centres were never going to pay payroll tax on GPs. This exemption will not cost the government any money in terms of forgone revenue and it will therefore not save general practitioners anything in tax.

The proposed application of payroll tax by Queensland GPs arose through an interpretation of state payroll law in the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal which was subsequently upheld in the New South Wales Supreme Court. It is regrettable that the LNP embarked on a fear campaign during a state election referring to this as a patient tax when, in fact, it was acknowledged that we were the first state to roll out a payroll tax amnesty to prevent practices being hit with this retrospective tax. Many other states have followed suit since. We were therefore pleased to confirm through the public hearing process that no Queensland GP had to date made a payroll tax payment or paid a mental health levy. We applaud the government for continuing the important work of the Miles Labor government that we commenced to protect general practices, most of which are family-run businesses, from any additional taxes during tough economic times.

In conclusion, this is one of the last pieces of legislation we will see from this government which they flagged before the election. In terms of their legislative agenda, after this and re-establishing the Productivity Commission the cupboard is very bare. After this we will be coming back to clean up their rushed-through legislation. Then it will no doubt be back to the electoral gerrymander in terms of voting and rolling back donation reform, which they have flagged and will no doubt take up with a passion. This is a government that has already run out of its legislative agenda. Today we saw two motions after question time trying to fill up time. The cracks are starting to appear.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (7.59 pm): I have waited 10 years for this moment. Finally, I am back here to give this speech. It is particularly important because only two weekends ago I helped my daughter and her husband move into their first home here in Brisbane.

**Mr McDonald:** The bank of dad.

**Mr KEMPTON:** The bank of dad; no mum, just dad. Poor dad! I purchased my first home in 1980 in the ACT. My partner and I purchased a modest ex-government three-bedroom house for \$30,000 in a well-established suburb. With some trepidation, we signed a mortgage for \$25,000 with a fixed interest rate of six per cent. As a young aspiring lawyer, that purchase represented about twice my annual income. In 1980, there were no queues, endless inspections or long searches to find a house. It was pretty much a matter of saving up the deposit and moving in. If we fast forward 40 years from that date, that same modest three-bedroom, one-bathroom ex-government house in the Australian Capital Territory would fetch over \$1 million, which is about 10 times what an aspiring young lawyer might be paid. However, that is not all that has changed. Since the 1980s, we have seen interest rates soar to double figures and settle back similar to what they were in 1980. However, what has changed is the cost of houses and the amount that people pay by way of interest in any one year.

My daughter and her husband have lived in Brisbane for over a decade. Both are hardworking professionals. Notwithstanding that they saved and had a significant deposit, it has taken a number of years for them to secure their first home. It is a three-bedroom townhouse that cost about \$750,000, which is about six times my daughter's annual salary. A large part of their income is diverted to paying the mortgage but, in any event, that is better than the rent that they were paying prior to purchasing the home. Like many other young Australians, the dream of owning their own home was only possible with the support of their parents, in particular, me.

Several factors have contributed to the runaway increase in the cost of owning your own home in Australia. Prior to 1985, section 26AAA of the taxation assessment act provided that the profit on any house sold within 12 months of purchase would attract ad valorem stamp duty. In 1985, the act was changed to include capital gains tax on the profit on the sale of any property other than the principal place of residence. On other properties there was a sliding exemption. Later, a 50 per cent exemption on the profit from a sale was introduced and negative gearing resulted in more and more investors entering the housing market—an investment strategy from which today any government would find it difficult to retreat. All of those factors led to the family home becoming the target of investors, which saw the valuation of properties soar as housing demand outstripped supply. In fact, that supply has not kept pace with population growth or immigration and has been the single biggest factor in the housing crisis. Many other factors such as planning laws, environmental, cultural and heritage considerations and so on contribute to the situation we now face. Increasingly, first home buyers are facing stiffer competition and many are losing hope of owning their own homes.

As a member for the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I would like to congratulate the chair, Jim McDonald, the committee members and the support staff for the huge effort that it took to prepare the report in respect of this very important legislation. The bill amends the Duties Act 2001 to effectively abolish stamp duty for first home buyers who enter into eligible transactions to



purchase a new home on or after 1 May 2025—too late for my daughter. It includes purchases of vacant land on which the first home buyer will build a home to live. Under these measures, first home owners purchasing a new build for \$850,000 will save more than \$24,000. The legislation will remove a significant cost burden for first buyers and will support the demand for new dwellings.


The committee heard from the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Housing Industry Association and the Strata Community Association. They not only offered their support for the legislation but also gave us some very useful insights. The committee heard how Queensland had the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation, including the lowest number of first home buyers. In Queensland, in the 25- to 35-year age bracket more people are renting than living in their own homes.

After years of neglect by the previous Labor government, the housing crisis facing Queensland poses considerable challenges to our LNP government. However, it is not a challenge that we will shy away from. As promised in the lead-up to the 2024 election, we will address the problem head-on and restore the faith of Queenslanders and, in particular, first home buyers that they will be able to fulfil their dream to live in a house that they can in fact call home. This legislation will go a long way to restoring that faith. Other measures we will take include the appointment of a minister for home ownership, increasing supply through opening up land, providing essential infrastructure and reducing red tape.

The second part of this important bill relates to the abolition of Labor's patients tax. This involves amending the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to introduce a payroll exemption for general practitioners that will take away an impost and allow doctors to do what doctors do, that is, provide affordable and timely medical services to their patients. The main complaints about this crippling tax were that it would increase the cost to patients, bring about the end of bulk-billing and force patients into already overcrowded and under-resourced hospital emergency departments. In response and as promised prior to the election, through the passage of this bill the LNP will put an end to Labor's patients tax, easing the cost of medical services to Queensland. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to introduce an exemption from payroll tax and the mental health levy for wages paid or payable by medical practices to general practitioners. The bill will mean that wages paid or payable by medical practices to GPs will not be subject to those taxes.

In considering this bill, the committee heard from Dr Nick Yim of the AMAQ who suggested to the committee that the bill would bring certainty to doctors and patients, and that the removal of the patients tax is something that his members have been calling for for a number of years. Importantly, he said that the LNP leader, David Crisafulli, promised to begin the process of axing the tax in his first week as Premier and that that promise has been kept. Passing this bill is the final step in fulfilling that promise. The committee also heard from Dr Cath Hester of the RACGP who, in supporting the bill, advised the committee that her organisation had long advocated for the abolition of the tax to ensure that essential GP care stays affordable and that practices remain viable and their doors remain open for patients.

I was contacted by a number of practitioners in the Cairns region who totally support this bill and are also quite grateful that we have moved so quickly to deal with it. Labor's cynical amnesty, due to end on 30 June 2025, will be made obsolete by this bill and our government will bring certainty to the medical profession. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (8.07 pm): My heartfelt congratulations go to the member for Cook. He waited 10 years to give that speech and it felt like it went for 10 years. It was a wonderful contribution from the member for Cook. It was almost as good as that of the member for Mulgrave. I did not think you could have a 'backer bench' but that is where he will be going after his contribution. It will be all the way to the 'backer bench' for the member for Mulgrave. I want to start my contribution by reflecting what the member for Kurwongbah said about Rhiannyn Douglas being a fantastic member for Longman. That absolutely will be the case.

How wonderful it is to know that this bill went through the proper committee process. It was not pushed through with urgency. I congratulate the chair, the member for Lockyer. I was a member of the committee with him last term. He is a wonderful representative for doing things with decorum. In fact, he should have been made a minister. We are happy to move a motion—no, we are not. He should have been made a minister for primary industries.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Bundaberg, you have spoken for nearly one minute and 15 seconds. Maybe come to the bill, if you could.

**Mr SMITH:** Wonderful! I will not reflect on who has been Speaker. What we have heard from the LNP is the same old diatribe, this whole fearmongering around a patients tax. We know that there was never a patients tax. We know that there was never a GP tax. As the member for Kurwongbah said quite clearly, there is an interpretation in New South Wales around the payroll tax. The Miles Labor government knew the importance of health care. We knew how important it was for everyday mums and dads and their kids and our pensioners to see a GP, especially in the regions, without having to be any more out of pocket than what they were. That is why we put in an amnesty. We put in an amnesty so that we could then work with the AMAQ, work with our GPs, to find a solution.

The LNP did not like that. They did not like the fact that they could not run their fear campaign successfully. I know because I saw it everywhere in Bundaberg—they said it was Tom Smith's patient tax. The people of Bundaberg—the heart of regional Queensland—saw through it because they know that when it comes to health care it is only Labor that delivers. Labor delivered Medicare. Labor put in the amnesty to protect the GPs. We made sure there were no \$7 co-payments. Remember that?

Old 'Dutto', Peter Dutton, the then health minister, made regional Queenslanders pay more to go to the GP. The government backbench are very quiet all of a sudden because the history of the LNP is coming back on them. It was more expensive. The federal member for Hinkler is off to the Vatican. He does not even want to be near Peter Dutton. He is going to another country because he does not want to be near Dutto so badly.

**An opposition member:** He has repented.

**Mr SMITH:** That is right: he has repented, has seen the light and has gone off to the Vatican because he does not want to be near Dutto.

We know that, in Queensland, people did not believe the LNP when they talked about their GP tax. The people of Queensland did make a decision, but those opposite should not fool themselves into thinking it was because of some GP tax, because it was not. When the LNP came through Bundaberg, the people of Bundaberg knew what was at stake when it came to health care: a brand new hospital was on the line. What do we know? It is already under review.

In their first 100 days, the LNP have done nothing for health care but make cuts and put the new Bundaberg hospital infrastructure project under review, saying that it has already blown out. That is a new thing that has been said by the LNP. When we spoke to CPB, the contractors, they said that everything was at cost, everything was on budget and everything will be delivered on time. The health minister responded to a question on notice saying it is all under review because there have been blowouts. They are magical LNP blowouts and austerity measures. It is just another fear campaign, just like the GP tax that never existed.

That is why the backbenchers are up there using the same old talking points. I know that there are new members here. I said it all last term: they should not do what the work experience kids in the Premier's office tell them to do. They should not listen to the work experience kids. They got elected by themselves. They do not need to listen to those kids anymore. They can be themselves. Come on, member for Mulgrave, you will be right.

We know that the LNP have no credibility in this situation. They have no credibility whatsoever when it comes to health care in this state. That is why the leading industry bodies actually backed in the Miles Labor government. That is why other states wanted to watch what our government did to make sure their patients were not out of pocket like they were when Peter Dutton last had his hands on health. We know that will absolutely come back again.

As I said, we will support this piece of legislation, but let's not fool ourselves into thinking that by giving millionaires a tax break we will suddenly fix the housing crisis. How will the LNP fix it? They will not fix it by cutting social housing projects. What good will that do? They will cut social housing projects, which means that people who are living in absolute despair, trying to find crisis accommodation, will not have a place to go but a couple of millionaires will get an extreme tax break on the Gold Coast. What a great idea! The LNP are amazing! That is their silver bullet, apparently.

We know that all the LNP can do is hand in Labor's homework, especially around the GP tax and around policy that has been put forward such as 50-cent fares. They are not addressing cost-of-living measures. They are not addressing increasing supply, which we know is the only way forward.

**Mrs Gerber:** Is it a GP tax or isn't it?

**Mr Janetzki:** Is it real or isn't it?

**Mr SMITH:** There is no GP tax. It is wonderful.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Members! Member for Currumbin and member for Toowoomba South.


**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney! Order! Members to my right!

**Mr SMITH:** I love riling up the backbench. I love riling up the frontbench. They have no gusto. There is no ticker left in them—no ticker at all. That is why they had to fearmonger their way through the election. That is why they had to make up these phoney ideas that we were taxing people out of pocket. That is why they are now thinking that the only way to solve housing in Queensland is to give tax breaks to millionaires. That is their plan. That is what they think is their silver bullet.

We know that, when it comes to social housing, there will be cuts across the board. We know that, when it comes to health care, there will be cuts across the board. That is their record. We know that that is their record.

We will not stand in the way of ensuring that Queenslanders have confidence when it comes to the housing market. We will not stand in the way of ensuring that Queenslanders have confidence when it comes to health care. They can have confidence because, once again, the LNP are handing in Labor's homework. When we talk about urgency—I know that a bill was declared urgent earlier today—wasn't it urgent when the member for Maryborough got a call and was told to take down a post because 'you are not allowed to fight your constituents'?

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.16 pm): Sometimes when we come into this place we listen to a member give a speech and we scratch our heads and wonder what on earth they were talking about and what point they were trying to make. Occasionally that happens and we think that member will learn something and they will not make the same mistake time and time again. Unfortunately, when it comes to the member for Bundaberg, our education system, of which he was a part, has a lot to answer for. Who can remember some of the wisdom that he imparted when he was on this side of the House in the last term? Even his own team did not want to give him an extension of time to continue talking. I remember that when we moved a motion to allow the member for Bundaberg to be further heard his own team voted against it.

I say to those most welcome new LNP backbench members: do not take any advice from the member for Bundaberg when it comes to making a speech in this House. What he calls 'gusto' everyone with a modicum of common sense would call bluster. That is exactly what we are waiting for. After listening to him all last term and, unfortunately, tonight, we are still waiting for him to say something worthwhile.

When he praised the member for Lockyer—and he deserves praise as an outstanding member—he highlighted the talent that is on the LNP's side of the House. When we look at the frontbench on the opposition's side, all that is highlighted is the absolute dearth of talent on that side of the House. People whom former premiers of the Labor Party would not have had within cooe of the frontbench are now sitting over there. Colleagues, I say: pay as much attention to the member for Bundaberg as anyone else does—that is, none at all.

Queensland families know that this side of the House will always be on their side as we deal with the cost-of-living pressures. The same cannot be said about the Labor Party. One thing we know about the Labor Party is that there is not a tax that they did not like, there is no-one's hard-earned money that they did not want to trouser and there is not a tax or levy that they did not want to increase. That is why we took decisive action in the first revenue bill introduced by the Treasurer in the new government to actually deal with cost-of-living pressures and to reduce the cost of living for ordinary Queenslanders no matter where they live. Nowhere is it more important to do so than in the area of health and the delivery of health services. When it comes to doing that, we are doing what we said we would do within the time that we said we would do it. We are continuing to deliver on our 100-day commitment to deliver a fresh start for Queensland. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start because they were tired of Labor's excuses.

What has happened since then is that ordinary Queenslanders have come out and said what a good idea it is that we have taken the steps we have to remove Labor's GP patient tax. Guess what? The fewer people who go to GPs the more people who turn up in our emergency departments and the greater the load on the health system. That means the slower the system will become. We are taking

positive steps to deal with the issues that Labor presided over for 10 years—those being, the worst ambulance ramping rate in the nation at 45 per cent and a blowout in the number of people on elective surgery waiting lists to over 64,000 people. That is why we are taking decisive action to deal with it. That decisive action includes removing the patient tax that was being put on by the Labor Party.

Do not just take our word for it. Take the word of Maria Boulton, the former president of the AMAQ. It is not easy for these organisations to stand up with an opposition and say the government is getting it wrong, especially when it comes to tax. Dr Boulton joined with us and made it clear that it was so important to her members that this tax be dealt with and that certainty in relation to the payment of tax was delivered in the state of Queensland. There is one thing that people hate and that is an uncertain tax system. That is what they had under the Labor Party.

What has happened since the Treasurer has brought this in? Nick Yim, the President of the AMAQ, has endorsed this measure, as he endorsed the real-time data portal that we opened. He said that this will give GPs and patients certainty. The AMA Queensland has been calling for all private medical practices to be exempt from this new interpretation. What did Cath Hester, the Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Queensland and a board member of one of our health services—so she knows the impact of it—say? She supported the measure saying that as Australia's peak body for general practitioners and GP training, the RACGP has long advocated for the tax to be abolished. This is a good move and it continues a proud tradition of the LNP introducing revenue bills in the very early stages of a new government to reduce taxes, fees and charges that have been hiked up by the Labor Party.

I now turn to the exemption that is being provided for first home buyers when they buy their first home. There is a sense of *deja vu* about this. I can remember in 2011 when Andrew Fraser removed the principal place of residence concession for people who were buying their first home, increasing the cost for first home buyers by up to \$8,000. He did it in the June 2011 budget. He increased this on top of increasing all the other charges, including the scheduled increase in public transport fares. The first thing that the LNP government did at that time was to reintroduce the first home buyer concession, saving first home buyers \$8,500.


Andrew Fraser—the intellectual of the Labor Party at the time—said that stamp duty is a 'relic of times gone by'. He said it is inefficient. He said that it would be at the top of the state's hit list if he could afford to do it. We knew that they had already lost the state's AAA credit rating and he could not afford to do it. What did he do three months later? He effectively doubled the stamp duty for first home buyers claiming the principal place of residence concession. It is in Labor's DNA.

Nothing shows that more than the arguments we have heard here tonight. It is still the old arguments of envy and avarice when trying to raise stamp duty. What they say is, 'All the millionaires out there buying their first home for \$5 million will not be paying stamp duty.' As if that happens. We know that under Labor at a federal and state level people are struggling to get a deposit, let alone buy a reasonable house in a reasonable place.

We have been lectured to about supply. Why is supply so constrained in the state of Queensland? Labor tied it up in red tape for 10 years. People cannot buy a block of land to build on because of Labor's red tape and regulation. We are taking another step to implement the policy that we took to the election to ensure that first home buyers are given the best opportunity they can to buy their first home. Whether it is an apartment, whether it is a small house, whether it is a large house or whether it is acreage, your dream can still come true in Queensland under the LNP—a dream that increasingly was being choked off by the avarice, envy and incompetence of the Labor Party after 10 years in office.

We know the Labor Party hate home ownership. They hate private home owners. They hate aspiration. They hate people working to improve themselves in life. They want to tax people out of existence. They want to make everyone who wants a home pay fealty to the state—to rent off the state of Queensland or to buy a Queensland government developed house rather than support private industry to develop, build, sell and provide housing. That is the way we do it. That is the way we secure home ownership—the great Australian dream for Australians, as it has been since the time of Menzies. It is the LNP—the coalition parties—that have delivered the great Australian dream of home ownership for over half a century here in Australia. It is the LNP here in Queensland that will continue to deliver that dream for young Queenslanders no matter where they live.

From Currumbin to the cape and from Brisbane to Bedourie we will continue to deliver services to Queenslanders. We will continue to make cost of living affordable. We will continue to make it appropriate and affordable for people to see a GP. It is only a pity the Albanese government are not doing the same thing and are pushing it all back on the state of Queensland and the LNP to solve their problems. No doubt their time will come soon enough.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (8.26 pm): I rise to speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The amendments in this bill include removing the current stamp duty eligibility threshold of \$800,000 for new properties purchased by first home buyers, allowing first home buyers to partially rent out their first home purchased while receiving first home concessions and for GPs to be exempt from payroll tax.

We in the Labor opposition will always support efforts to improve housing affordability and housing supply. Labor's Homes for Queenslanders initiative introduced major reforms that would boost housing supply by committing to build a million new homes by 2046. The best thing we can do for housing affordability is deliver more supply.

First home buyers are not on an even playing field when it comes to purchasing their first home. The lucky ones can access the bank of mum and dad, but many cannot. When Labor was in government we knew first home buyers had it tough so we doubled the first home owner grant and increased the first home concession threshold on stamp duty to \$700,000. The LNP now want to remove the threshold entirely. For a party that has done a lot of scaremongering about Labor's so-called debt disaster, it seems a bit rich.

This new measure will mean that the state will miss out on potentially millions in tax revenue. In fact, Queensland Treasury stated in a committee public briefing that removing the threshold entirely would result in approximately \$47 million per annum in revenue forgone for each full year of implementation to 2027-28. That is not all. A first home buyer who has had help from the bank of mum and dad to purchase a \$2 million home would receive multiple times more tax support compared with a first home buyer in Ipswich who scrimped and saved to purchase their first home. It is debatable whether this new measure will even have a significant effect on the supply of affordable housing. With more first home buyers receiving this concession, demand in the housing market could increase and push house prices up further. This would effectively remove any benefits the stamp duty exemption might bring. Sellers can also raise prices knowing that buyers have more purchasing power without the stamp duty.


It is difficult to know how helpful this non-targeted measure will be for the average first home buyer in Ipswich who struggles to even get into the housing market with or without this concession. The Real Estate Institute of Queensland has noted in their submission to the committee that in their view the use of the new concessions may be limited.

The bill also allows first home concession recipients to partially rent out their property such as subletting a room without losing eligibility for their concession. We do support this measure, and I would like to note that this change has already been delivered by the Miles Labor government. We would just remind the LNP government, however, that they should make it clear to first home buyers that this change would have impacts on federal taxation, with the property likely to incur capital gains tax.

While we commend any effort to make it easier for Queenslanders to have a roof over their head, this measure feels like a stopgap solution to the housing crisis. It really is not ideal to have to rent a room in someone else's house because of a severe lack of rental properties in your area. Delivering more housing supply is crucial. We would call on the LNP government to ensure they commit to building more homes in Queensland so that renters do not have to choose between renting a room in a stranger's house and ending up homeless.

Lastly, the amendment in this bill to exempt payroll tax for general practitioners is commendable, but I would like to note that it has only been required in this legislation because of the LNP's outrageous scare campaign. In September 2023, Labor had put in place changes that enabled GPs to avoid being subjected to payroll tax. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners welcomed this measure and, in fact, encouraged other states to follow our lead. When we announced our support for a permanent exemption before the state election we made it clear that this will not cost anything to the budget because we factored in that medical centres were never going to pay payroll tax on GPs anyway, so this exemption will not cost the Queensland government any money in terms of forgone revenue.

I am a strong supporter of our GPs and the amazing work they do every day delivering primary care to patients across Queensland. As our state's population grows and ages, our GP workforce also needs to grow. They do important work when it comes to primary health care but they are also significantly important in managing chronic health conditions in the population and preventing hospitalisations. This payroll tax exemption will make it easier for general practices to recruit and keep staff and make health care more affordable for Queenslanders.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.31 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—a crucial step in delivering on our government's promise to restore home ownership, ease the cost-of-living pressures and ensure that Queenslanders have access to affordable health care. For far too long the previous government allowed home ownership to become unattainable for young people. Young Queenslanders were locked out of the housing market—a housing market that favoured investors instead of families who need housing the most, forcing them to rent in a market with high demand and low housing stock. We have also suffered from a healthcare system that punishes patients instead of supporting them.

I enjoyed hearing from the member for Cook as he shared some insights into his own family. As a father of four, I have had the pleasure on many occasions of sitting with my son and his friends and listening to them talk about the challenges of getting into the home market. Sadly, many young people have actually given up. They believe that they will never be able to own their own home. In fact, the Premier has spoken on many occasions about a group of young leaders whom he came and addressed in my office one Saturday morning about a year ago. There were 20 young people in the room. There were university graduates, construction workers, people working in retail and a couple of architects within the group. He asked the group: 'How many of you in the room still believe in the possibility of owning your own home?' Sadly, out of a group of 20 young people only four on that occasion actually put their hand up and said, 'That is something I still aspire to.' The others indicated that they thought it was way out of reach.

I love it when the member for Bundaberg gets up and speaks in the House. It is akin to a comedy spot at one of those late-night bars in Surfers Paradise or in the Valley where you go to hear a comedian rail against all sorts of nonsense. There is a reason Labor are sitting on this side of the House. There is a reason the Labor Party is in much disarray. It is simple: they have lost their way. About 18 months to two years ago we had the biggest surplus in Queensland that we had ever experienced—a \$12 billion surplus, or that is what the Treasurer told us at the time. Disappointingly, not one extra cent was committed to public or affordable housing in the state of Queensland.

I would contend that this party has absolutely lost its way. They love to rail against us saying, 'We're here for the battlers. We're here for the workers. We want a fair go for everyone. We're here to make sure that the evil LNP look after people. We hold them to account.' The reality is that I think there are members on this side of the House who need to perhaps go online, go to the Labor Party website, download a copy of their constitution and get a refresher on what they stand for.

Consistently in Queensland over the last 15 years—and I have been tracking this for some time because public and affordable housing is something of a passion of mine; supportive housing is something I am very passionate about—we have seen the state budget for housing sit at around \$440 million. For 15 years that budget has barely moved. Of that \$440 million, typically about \$100 million has been for maintenance and servicing of the current public housing stock. Typically about \$80 million to \$120 million has been allocated to community housing providers and dished out as grants to provide other forms of housing. The balance has been spent on land acquisition and some of it on constructing new houses.

On the Gold Coast we have seen years when there were eight new public housing dwellings built or other years when there were only 15 or 20 houses built. If you look at those figures and the proportion that has been spent on the Gold Coast over the last 15 years compared on a pro rata basis to population, we have seen massive underspending on the Gold Coast and in South-East Queensland compared to other parts of the state. When the member for Bundaberg rails against us and says how we do not care, I find it personally offensive and somewhat galling.

I remind the House that it was the LNP under Jeff Seeney as deputy premier that introduced the planning provisions and the codes of development in Queensland. That actually made it possible to develop affordable housing in Queensland. That actually provided codes that allowed for less parking in some developments. That allowed for developments to have high bedroom rates and higher density in key locations and suitable locations so that it was possible to construct more affordable housing.

What a pleasure it was this week to join the new housing minister, Sam O'Connor, at Southport as we turned the sod on a project. The Brisbane Housing Company will construct 200 new apartments. It is affordable housing. It is blue-collar worker housing and housing for teachers, administrators, nurses and other people who typically cannot afford to get into the market but who need a roof over their head.


In just a few weeks we will see the sod turned on a project that many of us have worked on for a number of years, and that is the establishment of Common Ground at Southport—a complex that will be designed to provide support to people who simply struggle to maintain a tenancy—people with mental health issues, people with PTSD, people with drug and alcohol challenges who require long-term tenancy and long-term support. I am proud to be part of an LNP government that is committed to these projects—that does not just talk about projects but actually delivers.

I want to turn to the other part of this bill in terms of the patients tax. What a great way for Labor to reward the doctors of Queensland in the middle of a health crisis when GPs are struggling! I had the privilege of sitting on the health committee for a number of years now. Members on this side of the House and I have travelled around Queensland.

We heard stories from GP practices in some of the most remote and regional parts of the state. We also heard from GP practices in Ipswich, Logan, Gold Coast, parts of the Sunshine Coast, Nambour, Mackay and other centres. Everywhere we went we heard stories of GP practices that were struggling to cope with the rising demand and the health crisis. What does the Labor government of the day do to say thanks to all those GPs who are working so hard to provide adequate health care across Queensland? They hit them with a tax. Let's change the rules and make it more difficult for them to attract people into their practices. Let's make it more difficult to make those practices viable. Some of those practices in some of the most remote parts of our state are doing it really, really tough.

I have had great feedback down the Gold Coast from some of the local practices. Southport Doctors and Her Medical at Australia Fair are practices that provide services to everyday Queenslanders who need access to a GP. They do not want to line up at a hospital, but if these GPs are not there doing the work then that is where more and more of these patients would end up. People such as the team at the Myhealth medical centre and Gold Coast After Hours Doctors have been toiling away for probably decades providing 24-hour medical support as a GP practice. We want to thank them, so let's slug them with another tax. Labor is so good at kicking them when they are down.

These changes are important. I certainly have not covered every aspect of the legislation that I would like to. I do want to commend the bill to the House. I do want to re-state that this bill is about helping Queenslanders build a better future and delivering better healthcare services. It is a very serious and sincere attempt at restoring home ownership in Queensland.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.41 pm): I rise to speak to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. At the outset I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for their excellent work on this bill. It is really refreshing to speak on a bill that is not urgent. This bill delivers on the government's commitment to cut stamp duty for first home buyers when they purchase or build a new home, it enables recipients of transfer duty home concessions to rent part of their property whilst retaining the full benefit of the relief, and it delivers on the government's commitment to provide that wages paid by medical practices to GPs will not be subject to payroll tax—what the LNP during the election campaign duplicitously described as a patient tax. It was so duplicitous that I even had GPs asking me during the campaign what a patient tax was. They were completely perplexed because there is no such thing. They just make stuff up, but we all know that. We know that the LNP loves a good slogan.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Could members please keep the noise down in the chamber so we can hear the member speak.

**Ms FARMER:** As we know, the LNP loves a good slogan. It does not really matter to them whether there is any substance to it or not. On this side of the House we know that they have a slogan for pretty much every single portfolio. In my own shadow portfolio of youth justice I know they had five slogans for the whole of their youth crime policy. We know how that went for them because they kind of duped Queenslanders into—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Bulimba. I cannot hear the member speak at all. We have had quiet for the past hour in the chamber. I would still like everybody to be quiet now so we can hear the member speak.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. They had five slogans for the youth crime policy. Youth crime was going to drop straightaway, and we know what happened there. Quick as a flash, youth crime went up. Previous opposition speakers have made it clear that we will not be opposing this—

**Mr HEAD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I encourage the member to come back to the substance of the bill.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. Previous opposition speakers have made it clear that we will not be opposing this bill. Of course we support the aspirations of so many Queenslanders for home ownership. A number of speakers have talked about the young people of their communities, and I acknowledge the member for Southport. That was a really lovely description of some of the conversations he has had with young people in his electorate. I have had the same. I acknowledge the despair that many young people feel. I want to mention in parliament the name of a young person in my electorate: Chris. He has had many, many detailed conversations with me. He has become a real voice for young people in my electorate on the sorts of things they struggle with. I say his name out loud so he knows that I really appreciate those conversations.

It is why the Miles Labor government did so much to support those aspirations. In our Homes for Queenslanders plan we lifted the stamp duty threshold and passed laws to pass the federal government's Help to Buy scheme that Peter Dutton opposed. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan was a multibillion dollar plan that addressed every single aspect of the housing and homelessness crisis that is gripping Queensland, Australia and in fact the world. It is a shame that this bill does not appear to really address some of the hopes and dreams that young people have about home ownership. It certainly appears from a number of submissions that there is some doubt about whether the measures that are proposed in the bill will achieve anything, primarily because it does not go to the foundation of the housing crisis, which is housing supply.

I have heard various LNP members as opposition members say 'but it will help'. Seriously! With respect, I do not know if any of them are experts in housing. I would much rather hear from submitters like the REIQ, the Housing Industry Association and the Urban Development Institute of Australia, who made it quite clear that although these are very important goals there was not much in this bill that was actually—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order in the House, please. Let's keep the background noise down.

**Ms FARMER:** There is not much in this bill that is going to make a difference. I think it was the REIQ that asked that really embarrassing question about whether modelling had been done on the projected impact of concessions, and of course Treasury had to say they had not done any modelling. It was just a bit awkward. We know that pretty much in every portfolio they have done these big statements about what they were going to do. They have done no modelling whatsoever in any portfolio, and it is all starting to come out now. In my own shadow portfolio of youth justice they had not done any modelling on how many new detention centres they would need to fulfil their big promises about all of these people they were going to arrest. Now that is turning into a bit of a disaster for them, so it is all coming out. Never let good policy or data get in the way of a nice slogan; that is what the LNP thinks. This GP tax they claim was their idea—well, talk about stealing our homework. We know they have a track record. The Minister for Transport, what a cracker when he got up and tried to—

**Ms BATES:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance. Can we bring the member back to the long title of the bill? She is straying.


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, if you could address the long title of the bill.

**Ms FARMER:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. They are claiming that this GP tax exemption was their idea. As I said, it is a bit like stealing our homework and a bit like claiming the 50-cent fares was an LNP idea. Oh, my goodness.



Going back to exempting GPs from the payroll tax, I have firsthand experience of this because I talked to many general practitioners in my electorate when this issue first came to light. Members who were across the issue might recognise that it came about as a result of a court decision in New South Wales. I had a number of very detailed conversations with GPs and I have a number of GPs in my own family. I want to acknowledge the then treasurer, the member for Woodridge, and the way he listened to those concerns that were raised by me and my colleagues. The RACGP acknowledged that Queensland, under the Miles Labor government, was the first state to introduce a payroll tax amnesty for GPs—an initiative that was subsequently adopted by other states.

As I have said, the opposition is not going to oppose this bill. I think all of us know that home ownership, housing and homelessness—all of those issues along the spectrum of having a roof over your head—are absolutely critical. I encourage LNP members now that they are in government to base their policies and decisions on good data and to have solid consultation with stakeholders so we can make sure we are addressing those issues in fact and not just in words.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (8.50 pm): I would like to make a contribution to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. It would be remiss of me if at the outset I did not thank the members for Bulimba, Bundaberg and Aspley for their guidance on what not to do when delivering a speech in this august chamber and for their examples that could go into a training instruction manual. Only a few months ago, many of us worked and slaved away to be deemed worthy in the eyes of our constituents to wear the mantle of the member for X, Y or Z. Today has been a textbook example of why many on the other side of the chamber have failed to come to grips with the fact that they are now in opposition. As some on this side know, the way back will be long with many dark days, but members on that side will not begin to get back if they operate or perform like that.

I move to the substance of the bill. The explanatory notes for the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 list the policy objectives and the reasons for them, and I will speak to them in no particular order. The bill amends legislation administered by the Commissioner of State Revenue to implement revenue related commitments made by the Queensland government during the 2024 state election campaign. To implement these 2024 state election commitments, the Duties Act will be amended.

I would like to go back a little bit in time to come up to speed with the present. Many people on this side of the chamber know—and maybe some on that side know this too—that I love music. I have also made it clear that I have zero musical talent, and because of that I was a DJ and I love the ARIA charts. I will go back to 1995, and there is a reason I want to go back to 1995 in relation to this bill and how it pertains to housing affordability. Would anyone like to tell me—and I will take the interjection if it is right—what the No. 1 song in Australia was in 1995? It was *Tomorrow* by Silverchair. Why is 1995 relevant to my contribution on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024? It is because that was the check marker to where we have come now, to have the worst housing affordability index since 1995.

About seven months ago, I rose in this chamber and said that we have a housing affordability crisis. I said that we all had examples of young people in our respective electorates who were struggling desperately to get into the home ownership market. In fact, I think I recalled an example from when my son and half a dozen of his football-mad mates were watching a game of the English Premier League at midnight. As they were grabbing a drink, casual conversation flowed about who was looking to put down a house deposit and not one of them even remotely thought they would ever be able to afford a home. That is why I am incredibly proud that on this side of the chamber we are introducing some real measures in relation to making sure that home ownership is a bit more of a reality for particularly young people. Under Labor, Queensland has become the state with the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation.

**A government member:** Shame.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I will take that interjection. It is truly shameful. Many members on that side of the chamber have made some pretty poor contributions. They have waffled and waffled and waffled. I do not know what tree they were living in during the last campaign, but housing affordability was pretty much the top cost-of-living pressure. We made it crystal clear going into the election that if we gained the confidence and the faith of the people of Queensland we would do something about it. Home ownership is now at 63.5 per cent, with only 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 owning their own home today. Let me repeat that figure: only 35 per cent. There has been a steady decline in home ownership in Queensland almost without exception since 1971.

We are going to abolish stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers from 1 May 2025. Everyone knows, regardless of where you live in Queensland, that that will be a significant savings measure for people who are buying their first bit of the Australian dream, some bricks and mortar. Whether it is a detached house or a townhouse, it is their little slice of the Australian dream. We want to make that dream more realistic and I totally support the measures in this bill. We have made abolishing stamp duty on new homes from 1 May one of our biggest commitments.

Some members on this side of the chamber have made the important distinction that this bill is more than just that measure. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 will also remove the restriction on homebuyers from renting out a room within the first year of occupation without losing any of their concessions. That is a fundamentally important measure in this bill. Many young Queenslanders would desperately like to use that as part of an income stream when they are seeing their mortgagee or bank manager. It is going to make a huge difference for many young people.

I have heard some of the inane assertions in relation to the patients tax, et cetera. I was privileged, along with several of my colleagues, to listen to the heartfelt story of a GP and a medical administrator based on the Sunshine Coast who were lead proponents in relation to taking this battle on and getting Labor's patients tax repealed. I put on the record in this chamber tonight how empowering it was to hear their plight. In any agitation for change, someone has to be at the forefront. The member for Kawana played a lead role in getting this GP clinic on the Sunshine Coast to go into bat and weather the storm, particularly for those other members of society who were not prepared to go into bat. I pay full tribute to their contribution. I pay full tribute to the Deputy Premier for the way he was able to rally the opposition leader at the time, the member for Broadwater, now the Premier and get him activated. He has absolutely brought about some of this change so that we will proudly pass this legislation.

The reality is this: every contribution, maybe with the exception of two, that I have heard so far in the debate from that side of the chamber shows they have to get a grip on reality. The fact of the matter is they had a very precious gift. They squandered it. They were the government of the day. On 26 October, people grabbed that most powerful weapon democratically known to humankind, a 2B lead pencil; they marked their ballot papers. Those opposite have fallen short. It is now beholden on them as an opposition to make sure when they get up here they cannot speak with a forked tongue and absolutely pillory and bag the new government but then at some stage just try to sneak in the fact that, 'By the way, we will support this.' Then they go back to the 'but'. The best thing that they can do is make sure they take stock of the new situation and be a responsible opposition and earn their way back. With every breath of my body, I will try to make sure that that return to the government benches is indeed many years away. We need to support good legislation such as the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I am indeed very proud to make a very small contribution to the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Minnikin, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.01 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

## Cost-of-Living Relief




**Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.01 pm): I welcome the Reserve Bank's decision to lower the cash rate today, a decision that brings much needed relief to the hardworking families in my electorate of Sandgate. This rate reduction is clear evidence that our former Labor government was making the right economic decisions, such as providing much needed cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. I acknowledge the good work of the federal Labor government. It is due to their decisions and things they have done to help families across our country and in Queensland that we have seen the first rate cut in four years. For someone in my electorate with a mortgage of \$500,000, this will mean savings of about \$960 a year. We are also seeing inflation trending down and wages are going up.

What this LNP government did not want to talk about when they inflated the debt figures for Queensland was the positive economic outlook. There was no mention or acknowledgement from them on the great work the former Labor government did to lower unemployment. This reduction in interest rates presents real progress for families in my community, families like Peter from Bracken Ridge who came to see me at one of my mobile offices recently at Guru's Cafe at the Bracken Ridge Plaza. Peter asked me to keep this LNP government honest and to continue fighting for struggling families in our community.

I must speak of the devastating impact of the housing pressures that continue to grip our suburbs and the impact it is having on our wider community across the electorate of Sandgate. In my electorate, I regularly meet constituents who are sleeping rough, families forced to share overcrowded homes and young people who see the dream of home ownership slipping away from their reach. The rate cut we welcomed today, while significant, does not address all the challenges facing Queensland families, which is why I call on the Premier and this LNP government to stop sitting on their hands and deliver meaningful cost-of-living action and support for Queenslanders.

The previous Labor government worked to ease cost-of-living pressures, tackled housing pressures and delivered real economic reform, in contrast with this new government which offers nothing but empty rhetoric and inaction. Every week in my electorate office, I hear stories of housing stress. I see the human impact of this crisis. Queenslanders deserve better from their government. In a housing and cost-of-living crisis, this LNP government has done nothing but cut funding to specialist homelessness services, services which are vital in my community to help people deal with the significant housing pressures that they are facing. The Premier likes to talk about Queensland's prosperity, but I ask prosperity for whom? Where is the action on housing? Where is the action and plan to address homelessness? I call on this LNP government to match Labor's commitment to address housing and cost-of-living pressures. My community of Sandgate and, indeed, all Queenslanders deserve more.

### Townsville Electorate, Weather Events


 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (9.04 pm): Today I rise to express my gratitude and acknowledge our extraordinary communities in North Queensland—the resilient people of Townsville, Magnetic Island, Palm Island and the wider North Queensland region, places like Ingham, Cardwell, Giru and Charters Towers. From late January and over two weeks, we were struck by unprecedented rainfall that caused significant flooding, structural damage, water ingress and the distressing intrusion of sewage and mud into homes. Essential services have been cut, household items have been lost, and the emotional toll on our communities has been immense. In addition, we have faced the development of mould spores in homes and vehicles, the displacement of families into crisis accommodation and the need for alternative living arrangements with friends and families unexpectedly taking in extra people and pets. There has also been substantial income loss for many of our community, particularly those employed casually or on a contract basis.

Despite these challenges, our communities come together, showing incredible solidarity and support for one another. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Premier, ministers and my colleagues for their physical presence, assistance, guidance and for personally checking on the safety and wellbeing of the disaster response and recovery teams.

My heartfelt thanks go to the police, the fire, the ambulance, the SES, Red Cross, Salvos, community recovery and Ergon Energy teams, councils and their local disaster management teams, cafes, hospitality services, community organisations, volunteers, sandbag fillers and the many others who have selflessly stepped up to help their fellow Queenslanders in their time of need. In addition, the assistance of the Defence Force was incredibly valuable and greatly appreciated.

It is often in the darkest of times that we see the best in our communities. The last few weeks have been tough, but the residents of Townsville electorate have been resilient and, despite the continuous cloud cover and relentless rain, our community spirit continues to shine brightly—mates helping mates, neighbours helping neighbours, strangers helping strangers, Queenslanders helping Queenslanders. I am honoured to represent these communities here in our parliament, but, more importantly, it is a privilege to stand alongside the wonderful people of Townsville electorate as we work together to overcome our challenges and continue to forge forward on the road to recovery.

### Evans, Mr B, OAM

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.07 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the late great Beres Evans OAM, a much loved local Ipswich identity who had a long and proud history working in the Ipswich coalmines. Beres is fondly remembered for his services to the community as the former chair of the Ipswich and Rosewood Coalminers Memorial Trust. This trust was set up to work on the development of the Ipswich and Rosewood Coalminers Memorial in Limestone Park, Ipswich, which was completed in 2016.

Beres passed away last year on 31 July, an incredibly inauspicious date in Ipswich because it marks the anniversary of the Box Flat disaster. This year will be the 53rd anniversary of that disaster. Beres himself was a former general manager of the Box Flat Mine several years after that disaster.


Beres had coalmining in his blood. He was a fifth-generation mine worker who had his own first experience of mine work as a child when he would accompany his father, a colliery electrician, around the mines of Ipswich and Rosewood.

Beres left Ipswich Grammar School in his senior year to become an apprentice colliery electrician himself, following in his father's footsteps. He started at Haighmoor Colliery in 1953. With coalmining rapidly mechanising in the 1950s, Beres had his work cut out for him. In 1958 he married his wife, Lynn. Soon after, Beres studied to qualify for his colliery electrician's certificate with Lynn by his side. He did reminisce to historian Margaret Cook in an interview that their early married life consisted of bedtime reading of the Electrical Mines Act which he had to study as part of his electrician's certificate. It was extremely romantic! He remarked that Lynn probably knew more of the act than he did.

Beres was at the forefront of the mechanisation of mining in Queensland. He described these as 'exciting times'. He did his Diploma of Mining at night college so that he could qualify to become a mine manager, which he did in 1965, quickly going on to become a mine superintendent in 1967.

Beres was influential in bringing new technologies to the mines to improve productivity and efficiency. In 1979 he joined the Westfalen Collieries to become a general manager, where he presided over Box Flat Mine. He was proud of introducing innovative new equipment to the mine such as the flexible conveyor train, which he was able to trial with the help of a \$1.4 million federal government grant secured with the help of the former member for Oxley, Bill Hayden. During Beres' later years, he was a major influence in establishing the Ipswich & Rosewood Coalminers Memorial, holding the role of chair on the memorial's trust. His efforts, along with those of many other members, helped raise \$1.2 million to get the two-stage memorial built in time for Saint Barbara's Day on 4 December 2016. I am proud to have helped him with that. Beres had an enormous heart and he wanted to preserve the memory of the 186 men and boys who tragically lost their lives in the Ipswich and Rosewood mines from 1958 until 1997. He will be remembered by his family and sadly missed by Ipswich.

### Zmuda, Ms C

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.10 pm): I rise tonight not only with a heavy heart but also with deep admiration as I honour the life of Charlize Zmuda, a young woman whose presence brought light, joy and inspiration to our community. Charlize was more than just a dedicated surf lifesaver; she was the heart of the Bribie Island Surf Life Saving Club, a nipper from age 8, vice-captain of her patrol, a role model, a mentor and a friend to so many. To those who knew her, she was our favourite 'little red'—a young woman whose passion for the ocean and for helping others was unmatched. Her best friend, Charlie, watched her grow into a kind, intelligent and gifted individual. It is her wish, and the wish of the Zmuda family, that we remember Charlize not for how she was taken from us but for the incredible life she lived. Charlize was an active and vibrant member of our community. She was not just a surf lifesaver; she was a talented netballer, a former Little Athletics member and a gifted musician. Her dad, Stephen, said—

She could hear a piece of music and then pick up and play it at the drop of a heartbeat.

Whether she was on the court, at the track, in the ocean or playing music, she poured her heart into everything that she did. Charlize loved the ocean. She respected it, embraced it and found joy in it every single day. Her family and friends want people to continue enjoying the beach—just as she would. Charlize would never have wanted fear to take away what she loved most. She would want us to keep swimming at Bribie and to cherish our oceans.


I want to acknowledge the incredible first responders who were there that day: our local police, led by Senior Sergeant James, who handled this tragedy with the utmost respect and professionalism. To Jeff Butler and the entire Bribie surf club team, who not only dedicate their lives to keeping our beaches safe but who are now also grieving one of their own: we stand with you. To the emergency services personnel who arrived swiftly and did everything they could: we thank you for your service.

This week, as many from our communities gather at the Billie Eilish concert, we encourage everyone to honour Charlize during one of her favourite songs, *Wildflower*. When the song plays, we ask you to put up your phone lights to shine a light for Charlize, just as she shone so brightly in all of our lives. Finally, I invite everyone to join us this Sunday at 10 am at Woorim Beach for Charlize's memorial. This is a time for all who knew and loved her to come along and celebrate the life she lived. To the Zmuda family—Renee, Stephen, Stef; to Charlie and Emily; to the Bribie surf club, St Columban's and St Michael's community and all who are grieving: the people of Pumicestone stand

with you. We will honour Charlize not only in words but in the way we continue to embrace the values that she lived. Rest in peace, Charlize. Your spirit will always be with us—in the waves, in our hearts and in the lights that shine for you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### Cooper Electorate

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.13 pm): I have spoken before in this place about a pending development application in Ashgrove for a McDonald's restaurant. We have all partaken of the occasional Big Mac and I accept that there are communities that love their golden arches and the employment and training opportunities it brings, but the Ashgrove community is overwhelmingly against this. We are standing by small business.

**A government member** interjected.


**Ms BUSH:** Small business is not a joking matter. It is important to stand by those small businesses, who are very anxious about the impact that this DA will have on their small and family businesses. I do not think it is funny.

Two thousand people in Ashgrove have signed our petition demanding that the Brisbane City Council reject the application. That is a third of the suburb who want their voices to be counted. I thank them for their advocacy in sending such a strong and united message to Brisbane City Council that we want to get behind our small businesses and not foreign owned multinationals. Regrettably, council has chosen to ignore the views and wishes of our local community and has granted conditional approval for the application. I understand that McDonald's is fighting that and has resubmitted a fresh application. Our office will continue to stand up for the small businesses and locals who are concerned about the environmental and health impacts of McDonald's in that area.

I want to touch briefly on the incredibly important issue of flooding in the Paddington, Rosalie and Milton areas. For context, this is ground zero for the Olympics. Milton is home to Suncorp Stadium, host of the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2032 games. It floods often and many residents have lost cars and possessions and had their homes flooded. The cost of insurance has trebled since 2022. Businesses bear the brunt of that, including through clean-up costs and slumps in sales. I have written to the relevant ministers. I acknowledge that the Minister for Small Business has written back and offered a meeting—I will take him up on that—but the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning has palmed me off onto the Minister for Local Government. I have not had my letter acknowledged by the Minister for Sport. Our constituents would like to respectfully request a response from these ministers on something that is an extremely important issue for our area. Ensuring a climate-resilient community is one of the greatest priorities in Paddington, Milton and Rosalie. Our office will continue fighting for that.

The 2032 Olympics are just around the corner. We do not want to be subjected to flooding when that time hits. It is important that the ministers start to prioritise infrastructure in that area and meet with us and engage in looking at what we can do to make that the most successful games we can possibly have, not only for putting us on the global stage but also for our residents, small businesses and community and sporting groups. It is an area that has been neglected by council. We are asking the state government to use their influence with the LNP city administration to get vital infrastructure put into this area before that opportunity is lost.

### Redcliffe Electorate, Award Recipients


 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.16 pm): I rise tonight to highlight three remarkable Redcliffe locals who were recently awarded public accolades for their service to the community of Redcliffe. Two received an Australia Day Medal of the Order of Australia and the third a City of Moreton Bay Community Spirit Award. I would like to first speak about Mrs Teresa Bourke, who received her OAM in the 2025 Australia Day Honours List for her service to swimming as a coach and to people with a disability. Teresa has had a distinguished career as a registered nurse for 45 years, but her OAM was for her service volunteering with Special Olympics Queensland, Down Syndrome Swimming Australia and the Redcliffe City High Performance Centre, where she currently continues to volunteer. If she was not busy enough, she also volunteers with the Breakfast Club Redcliffe, helping to feed the homeless. Congratulations, Teresa.

The second person I would like to acknowledge is Mr Wesley Bleakley of Kippa-Ring, who was also awarded an Australia Day OAM for his service and advocacy for people with a disability. Wes has been the CEO of the Redcliffe Opportunities for People's Enhancement Association, affectionately known as ROPE, for 12 years. I have known Wes for over a decade, and his leadership has introduced multiple social enterprise businesses to provide real-world employment for participants of ROPE in retail, cafes, film and TV, with the first-of-its-kind TV show called ROPE TV, hosted by young adults with a disability. This has now evolved into a national program called AbiliTV.

The third person I would like to acknowledge is Tracy Lech, another outstanding Redcliffe local, who recently received the City of Moreton Bay's Mayor's Community Spirit Award. Tracy established the not-for-profit charity Salt No Limits more than 20 years ago. Her charity supports children and young people experiencing disadvantage on the peninsula. She has assisted thousands of children and teenagers through various volunteer-run programs and weekly sporting events. She ensures all activities promote social inclusion, belonging, healthy choices and wellbeing. Tracy provides these young people opportunities they may never have experienced. I invite everyone who visits the peninsula to pop in to either the ROPE cafe at Margate or the Salt Cafe in Sutton Street, Redcliffe for a coffee that reinvests into the young people.

In closing, I again congratulate Teresa, Wes and Tracy. Thank you for your service to the people of Redcliffe and beyond.

### Queensland Economy

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.20 pm): I rise tonight to talk for the first time in my capacity as the shadow assistant minister for housing and homelessness. I want to state that one of the best ways we can help Queenslanders to own their own home is to build a strong economy and strong jobs across Queensland and Australia. Today I have been listening to Queenslanders Jim Chalmers on how Labor is doing that across the nation.

I really welcome the news that the independent Reserve Bank today has cut the cash rate to 4.1 per cent, so Queenslanders thinking about borrowing to buy a home or who were worried about their mortgage stress can rest a little easier tonight. As the federal Treasurer said, it is welcome news for millions of Australians and it is the rate relief that Australians need and deserve. It will not fix every challenge in the economy and home ownership, but it is a great help.


Added to that is the news about the progress in Queensland and across Australia that we have made on inflation. When Labor came to office federally inflation and interest rates were rising and now both are going down. We now have the lowest average unemployment for 50 years under the federal Labor government. A total of 53,600 jobs were created in December and over 1.1 million jobs have been created under the Albanese Labor government. Good, stable jobs are the foundation for home ownership. Not only that, inflation has come down by more than half under this federal Labor government. Real wages growth is going up after a decade of deliberate wage suppression by the coalition. The average worker is earning an extra \$150 a week compared to two years ago. Queenslanders wanting to get into their own home can sleep a little easier tonight because Labor is on the job. One of the most important things—

**Government members:** Ha, ha!

**Mr WHITING:** Members opposite might laugh at that. Did they see Morrison's record and what he did? That completely destroyed any precept that the natural economic managers were Libs. He suppressed wage growth, chasing down votes in culture wars. They will never get that mantle back of being natural economic managers. They can thank their former prime minister for smashing that.

We know that one of the most important things we can do to drive home ownership is to have a solid economy and have workers in safe and secure jobs, and that is what Labor is delivering across Australia. Interest rates have gone down, inflation is going down, unemployment is going down but wages are going up. It is great news for all of Queensland.

### Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.23 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, did you know that Queensland has the highest number of people with boat licences and registered vessels in Australia? In September 2024 Queensland had over one million boat licences. The state also has more than 277,000 registered watercraft, which is more than any other state in Australia. It should come as no surprise that this puts considerable demand on our hardworking and professional volunteer marine rescue services.


Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay has come a long way since it was established in 1972. That is 52 years of dedicated and selfless service, that is 52 years of saving lives at sea and that is 52 years in supporting our boating community and keeping our waterways safe and secure. Since 1972 our Hervey Bay marine rescue volunteers have served our boating community. It started with the Air Sea Rescue where volunteer members used their own boats, then Volunteer Marine Rescue and more recently Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay. Hervey Bay transitioned to Marine Rescue Queensland on 3 December 2024. MRQ is now a state funded volunteer marine rescue service which operates as part of the Queensland Police Service.

MRQ Hervey Bay has retained its own local identity and governance structure and has a distinct blue and yellow uniform. MRQ Hervey Bay is strategically well positioned having made substantial contributions in strategic planning, governance, standard operating procedures and vessel management protocols. Their mission statement is SOLAS: saving of lives at sea. I commend our 80 active and dedicated MRQ Hervey Bay volunteers for their service under the leadership of the unit commander, John Gibson, and the deputy unit commander, Kevin Lategan, including the skippers, crews, radio operators and their families.

Our marine rescue volunteers are on call 24 hours per day, seven days per week and dedicate about 300 volunteer hours per week to our Hervey Bay community. There are about 340 activations per year ranging from medivacs tasked by Queensland Ambulance Service to search and rescue missions. Volunteer members also assist with the safety backup for local boating competitions and vessel management during local events. MRQ operates from its base at Urangan boat harbour with an operational area inside K'gari Fraser Island from Stewart Island in the Great Sandy Strait to north of the Sandy Cape.

My electorate of Hervey Bay commends our hardworking volunteers and their families for their service in the saving of lives at sea.

### Youth Crime


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.26 pm): It has now been two months since the Making Queensland Safer Bill was passed introducing Adult Crime, Adult Time and already we are again seeing the previous conflicting debate on statistics. It needs to end as Queenslanders have had enough of the bickering. The reality is there is continued car theft; terrorising of households by armed gangs with knives, machetes and steel bars; masked youths breaking into homes; communities afraid to walk the streets; stabbings; and attempted murder. The threat of increased incarceration has not stopped these offenders.

Like all Queenslanders, I had hoped that the government's policy, which went against everything we had been advised or was evidenced during the youth justice inquiry, nor was put forward by the now government, would work in some way to decrease the trauma inflicted by a specific minority of youth offenders. However, it appears it has not and alongside this legislation, government must now fast-track all recommendations from the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee's report, which emanated from expert advice, frontliners and the voices of Queenslanders. It is a positive to see that four of the 60 recommendations have been committed to so far. This includes a 12-month transition plan when youth are released from detention and ensuring full access to Childrens Court proceedings for victims' families and the media. However, not targeted so far anywhere that we can see is the 500 or so youth across Queensland who are identified as a risk to communities.

Also a lowering of the threshold for serious repeat offender declarations has not been initiated as recommended. This would at the very least allow them and their families to be mandated into long-term rehabilitation, whether that be an extension of the on-country program or otherwise. We need to intervene now before this cohort commit their next dangerous offence, not wait until they do. These identified violent youth who have spent their whole life in domestic violence households, who have brain injuries or multiple comorbidities are beyond early intervention, gold or otherwise, or a reset program of two weeks. Required are serious, long-term and extensive commitments which election slogans cannot address. Only solid, bipartisan agreements over long terms can achieve this.

I now ask again that the recommendations from that inquiry continue to progress, as committed to by the previous government, and that the data on all crime be simplified through recommendation 60 to end the cherry-picking that has occurred in the past and is continuing again. As I said when I agreed to independently chair that select committee, it was time to move beyond the politics to create greater safety now and into the future. I am saying it still and I will keep saying it. Our communities do deserve much better.

### North Queensland, Weather Events

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.29 pm): I rise to speak on the recent wet weather disaster event in Townsville and North Queensland. To put it into context, there were 16 days of consecutive rain. Seven days into February, we had already broken the month's rainfall record. Some 2,300 millimetres of rain was received at Paluma Dam and the Ross River Dam peaked at 173 per cent. The 2025 North Queensland floods certainly made an impact. Many homes were inundated, many small businesses were impacted and many sporting clubs and organisations had damage. Roads were cut and vital infrastructure was down but, as the saying goes, 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.' Our community pulled together and I have many people to thank.

To all of our emergency services personnel who were out there supporting our community 24/7 when we needed it the most, thank you. To all of our volunteers and to our amazing SES workers who continued to do what needed to be done, thank you. From evacuation assistance to tree lopping, our SES were always there. To the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment of the 3rd Brigade which constructed a temporary bridge by hand, making it possible to deliver the critical services that Ingham and the north needed, thank you. To the small businesses that were offering support in every way they could, even though they themselves had been impacted, thank you. A special shout-out to Nicki from Missy Moo's Coffee who truly exemplified that community spirit when she saw a group of hardworking SES workers assisting one of my constituents and then went and offered them all free coffees and snacks. Thank you, Nicki.

To our resilient community, thank you. So many of you heard the weather warnings and were instantly reminded of the 2019 floods, but you faced it head-on. In the clean-up and recovery, which so many of you are still on, you continue to face it with the same attitude. I am so proud to represent such a strong, resilient community. I am so proud to represent a community that embodies the North Queensland spirit that values mateship and putting others before yourself. To my fellow Queenslanders, I invite you to come to visit the north. By visiting for a holiday or a long weekend you will support our communities in getting back on their feet, so book your next holiday to Townsville and North Queensland. We would love to have you in our beautiful part of the world.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, 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, 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, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young