



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 19 February 2025

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## WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the member for Macalister will be absent from, and including, 18 February 2025. I am satisfied that the member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

#### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from Ipswich East State School in the electorate of Ipswich and Dayboro State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers.

### TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

SPEAKER'S PAPER


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

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Weir)—

[93](#) Oath of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Stafford (Mr Sullivan)

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.02 pm): Our government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland, just as we promised. Queensland voted for a government that would deliver safety where you live, health services when you need them, respect for your money and a place to call home. Importantly, they voted for change and a government that works for them. That is exactly what we have delivered in the first 100 days. We hit the ground running and all 43 commitments in our 100-day plan are complete. The challenges we have inherited are significant, but they are not insurmountable. We are ready to address the youth crime crisis, our health system challenges, housing affordability and the cost of living.


Within our first week we took action on the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We scrapped the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project and stopped the GP payroll tax. By the end of this month our government will begin rolling out a plan to reduce ambulance ramping and stabilise waiting lists. Real-time hospital data is now live, boosting transparency for people—a change delivered in 100 days that those opposite could not deliver in 10 years. We also put a pause on the Best Practice Industry Conditions in the construction industry to return productivity to Queensland worksites. The flow-on effects will benefit not just major infrastructure projects but the residential building sector as well. We

established the new Ministerial Housing Taskforce Cabinet Committee and the House is debating the abolition of stamp duty on new builds for eligible first home buyers. We also commenced unlocking church and charity owned land for more community housing.

Our government has delivered important cost-of-living measures like a maintenance guarantee on our power plants and locking in 50-cent fares permanently. The Resources Cabinet Committee has been established to ensure Queensland's strong resources sector strengthens our economy and our communities. Our 20-year tourism plan will make sure our great state is a world-class destination, guided by our new Tourism Cabinet Subcommittee. By the end of 2024 we legislated the Making Queensland Safer Laws, including Adult Crime, Adult Time, removing detention as a last resort and putting victims' rights first. Our recently appointed expert legal panel will advise on the second tranche of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. We boosted Queensland police resources to deliver stronger and safer communities right across the state. We are also restoring integrity in our justice system by cleaning up Labor's DNA lab and launching a review into the blue card child protection system. We re-established the Bruce Highway Advisory Council and appointed an independent authority to review and map out infrastructure and transport needs for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Delivering change will take time, but we are heading in the right direction. We have set a strong foundation and will continue to deliver generational change for the people of Queensland. We have delivered our 100-day plan, but we are just getting started on delivering a fresh start for Queensland.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.06 pm): I am proud to say that the Crisafulli LNP government has, in our first 100 days, taken swift action to begin the undoing of the economic vandalism by those opposite. The suspension of BPIC—aka the CFMEU tax—was one of the first measures the new government took to finally return productivity to worksites across Queensland and end the sweetheart deal done by the Labor Party—the former Labor government—with its union thug mates in the CFMEU, who were incidentally out the front again today. There were not as many protesting against me as Grace Grace, I might add.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Queenslanders will be saved billions by this decision. The Crisafulli government is particularly determined to repair—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Who would have thought? The Crisafulli government is particularly determined to repair industrial relations policy in this state after 10 years of the Labor Party driving down productivity through ridiculous red tape, leading to critical infrastructure projects being subject to cost and time blowouts—all accepted by the former Labor government.

I can advise that the federal Labor Minister for Workplace Relations, Senator Murray Watt, wrote to me on 10 December last year seeking the Queensland government's support of a national labour hire scheme which would see—ready for it—Victoria lead the nation in labour hire at a time when it is responding to calls to fix the integrity of its own labour hire framework. I am pleased to advise the House that the Queensland government will not be supporting the harmonisation of a labour hire scheme at this stage, particularly with Victoria as proposed to be the host jurisdiction. This reckless approach was agreed to in principle by the former minister for industrial relations, the member for McConnel, who co-led the Labour Hire Harmonisation Working Group with representatives of the Victorian Labor government to develop the model of this approach. The model endorsed by former minister Grace would enable Victoria to head up an independent statutory body to regulate labour hire licensing workers and businesses across the country.

Given the serious allegations of systemic abuse and corruption in the construction industry levelled against the CFMEU, the LNP government must put the interests of Queensland workers and businesses first. The Labor Premier of Victoria herself called the culture in the construction sector in her state rotten given the alleged infiltration of the CFMEU by bikies and organised crime figures in the labour hire industry. I also note that this matter has been referred to the independent, broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission for investigation. A recent scathing report into Victoria's construction industry cannot be ignored. This report found Victoria's own labour hire licensing legislation enabled the granting of labour hire licences to criminals—individuals who would have likely been refused licences in other jurisdictions.


While this would be addressed adopting Queensland's fit and proper person test, the fact remains that Victoria is not capable of leading the nation. The Victorian government simply cannot be trusted when it comes to industrial relations policy. The former Queensland Labor government would have seen Queensland follow Victoria down this path, beyond the culture of fear and intimidation which was already allowed to flourish by those opposite. As long as Victoria remains the host jurisdiction, the Queensland government will not be entrusting the safety of our workers to Victorian Labor, who are known to be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. I table a copy of the letter I sent to Senator Murray Watt.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 19 February 2025, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to the federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon. Murray Watt, regarding national labour hire regulation [94].

In addition to this action, I can advise the House that I have also written to Mr Mark Irving KC in his role as CFMEU administrator outlining my concerns with respect to his stated intention of 'rebuilding the CFMEU as a lawfully militant union'. Let me make it abundantly clear: the LNP government will under no circumstances support or cooperate with an investigation whereby the intention is to reignite militancy on Queensland worksites. Queensland workers and workplace health and safety inspectors know too well the intimidatory practices, the violence and the criminality of the CFMEU which was bolstered by a bad Labor government. Unlike those opposite, a priority of this side of the House is to stamp out violence and aggression on Queensland workplaces. I intend to take action on this important issue by addressing the gaps in existing legislation in the work health and safety framework inherited by the LNP government. I will do this by ensuring that incidents of work-related violence and aggression come to the attention of the regulator and the more serious events are triaged for an inspectorate response. Our government's focus is to ensure Queensland workers are kept safe and well paid and I have advised Mr Irving in the strongest possible terms to reconsider his priorities. I table a copy of my letter to Mr Irving.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, to CFMEU Administrator, Mr Mark Irving KC, regarding conduct within the Queensland construction industry [95].

## Economy

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.11 pm): I rise to inform the House that the credit ratings agency S&P has just issued an outlook downgrade for Queensland, as we predicted.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Your legacy!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr JANETZKI:** The state's credit rating has fallen from AA+ stable to AA+ negative. This is Labor's legacy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I just called the House to order. If I hear another voice you will be warned.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The fiscal implications of this downgrade will be determined, but there is no doubt that this will add to the cost of borrowing. The responsibility for this outlook downgrade lies solely with the former Labor government and its reckless management of the finances of the Queensland people.

This is Labor's outlook downgrade. They were warned. In June S&P warned of the waning fiscal discipline of the previous Labor government. The credit ratings agencies told those opposite in no uncertain terms that they were on shaky ground, but they ignored those warnings. S&P warned that Labor's decisions showed 'waning fiscal discipline, revenue headwinds, and a growing infrastructure pipeline' that was 'eroding the buffer for our rating on Queensland.' S&P said that Labor's fiscal settings would 'increase pressure on key credit rating metrics, with deepening fiscal deficits translating into continuing strong growth in debt levels'.

Did those opposite listen? Absolutely not. In fact, the former treasurer repeatedly goaded S&P to downgrade Queensland. A few months later, in September, S&P reported on Labor's 2024-25 budget, noting multibillion dollar one-off spending and 'an upsizing of the state's already large

infrastructure pipeline.’ Labor ploughed ahead with an election platform that S&P described as ‘lavish’: state-owned school lunches; state-owned energy retailers; state-owned medical practices; state-owned service stations. They promised it all and they did not care. The members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Waterford were reckless and wasteful with the money of Queensland taxpayers. They were all complicit. The shadow treasurer attended more than 30 Cabinet Budget Review Committee meetings from May 2023. She was at the heart of Labor’s flawed decision-making.

Within weeks of the Crisafulli government taking office in early December, we were up-front with Queenslanders about Labor’s dire financial legacy. I informed Queenslanders that on credit rating metrics, the state’s performance was equivalent or inferior to other states that had already been downgraded. I pointed to my pre-election comments that I never wanted to be a Treasurer who had a ratings downgrade on my watch, but conceded ‘knowing what we know now, I am in an unenviable position where that could well be the case. It is highly likely that we have inherited an outlook downgrade, or even a rating downgrade.’ That was before we even knew the true state of the books here in Queensland. We released Labor’s last budget update at the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review last month—a sea of red in deficits and a debt path to \$218 billion.

S&P’s actions today sadly confirm what we had been saying for months about Labor’s legacy of debt, deficit and deception. Queenslanders are paying, and will continue to pay, a high price for a decade of Labor budget blowouts, expensive failures and chaos and crisis. Labor’s fiscal vandalism was so bad that from here it will take a miracle to avoid a rating downgrade. But we are acting. We have stopped Labor’s \$37 billion Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, we have paused CFMEU BPIC conditions that would have cost the budget \$17 billion over five years and have committed to not provide more funding towards hydrogen. The serious challenge ahead is clear, and we are up for it. We will continue targeting budget improvements in a calm and considered way and we will never let Queenslanders forget that Labor can never, ever be trusted to manage Queensland’s finances again.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government**



**Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.16 pm): Since the election the Crisafulli LNP government has been implementing the right plan to deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for: ensuring safety where we live, providing health services where Queensland needs them when Queensland needs them, respecting taxpayers’ money, delivering a place for Queenslanders to call home and driving a government that works for the people. In our first 100 days the Crisafulli LNP government delivered on all 43 key commitments in our 100-day plan that we took to the election. We have begun fixing the mess that Labor left behind, particularly in youth crime, health, housing and cost of living. We are a government that is about stability, certainty and growth.

We are doing what we said we would do: a refreshing change from the chaos and crisis that Queenslanders endured under a decade of Labor. In my own portfolio areas Labor’s mess is on full display. Labor’s last budget update revealed the true extent of financial mismanagement, black holes and blowouts that those opposite left behind. This is the financial legacy of the member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford: record deficits totalling over \$30 billion forecast in the next four years, reaching \$9.2 billion deficits in 2026-27 and 2027-28; \$217.8 billion in debt by 2027-28—that is \$39,082 of debt per Queensland man, woman and child, the highest per capita debt in the nation; the four-year capital program blowing out by \$22.6 billion to \$129.9 billion. Labor cannot be trusted with a toy abacus, let alone Queensland’s finances, as the Treasurer unfortunately has just had to outline again and as the Treasurer predicted at MYFER. As we have said, the Crisafulli LNP government will take a calm and methodical approach to delivering budget improvements. We will deliver the essential frontline services that Queenslanders rely on, we will deliver the critical infrastructure that our growing state needs and we will respect taxpayers’ money, something that Labor never did.

Queensland simply cannot afford the future of debt and deficits that Labor’s last budget update revealed. Debt can be lower by having a disciplined approach to expenditure; debt can be lower by stopping blowouts and delivering projects on time and on budget; debt can be lower by increasing the capacity and productivity of the public sector, including our government owned corporations across the energy, finance, transport and water sectors; debt can be lower by growing Queensland’s economy; and debt can be lower by encouraging investment in local jobs and industries and building stronger relationships with our trade partners.




As trade minister, I must say that the importance of these relationships cannot be overstated. After a decade of neglect from Labor, our message to investors and trade partners is this: Queensland is open for business. We are committed to stability, certainty and growth, which our trade partners never got from Labor. We want to facilitate investment in our state and grow trade markets to boost jobs and our economy.

Last year, I completed my first trade mission to our key partners of Japan and South Korea. Indeed, yesterday I had the honour of hosting His Excellency Admiral Seungseob Sim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and I have been speaking with Mr Ishikawa Katsutoshi, Consul-General of Japan in Brisbane. From tomorrow I will be undertaking my second trade mission, to Singapore and India, alongside Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland.

By respecting taxpayers' money, being disciplined with expenditure and growing our economy and jobs for new opportunities, the government can hopefully avoid another nightmare of Labor's last budget. Labor's mess will take time to clean up but the Crisafulli LNP government is up to the challenge. Through the steps that the Crisafulli LNP government has already taken, Queensland is heading in the right direction. Our focus will continue to be on implementing our plan and delivering the fresh start that Queensland needs.

### Natural Resource Management

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.20 pm): As Queenslanders, we know that the best way to protect our natural environment is to protect our natural assets. Whether it is Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville or Alligator Creek, nowhere else on earth boasts the natural wonders of this beautiful state. That is why the Crisafulli government is taking action to protect Queensland's environment by delivering a major boost to protect our natural assets for our children, our grandchildren and future generations. That is why we are partnering with Natural Resource Management Regions Queensland to deliver a \$117.84 million funding boost. It means more money where it is needed for on-ground land, water and biodiversity programs across our state over the next four years. The package we have delivered is about taking real action to protect our environment, working with local experts to deliver the best outcomes and supporting landholders in regional Queensland.


Unlike those opposite, we are a government that honours its election commitments so it is important to point out that the \$117.84 million funding boost to NRM Regions Queensland was delivered within the Crisafulli government's first 100 days. We have wasted no time delivering this important funding package, just as we said we would. We are walking the walk to showcase our commitment, working with the experts on the ground to get the best outcomes for Queensland's environment and economy.

We are working with the sector and the experts to ensure the best available science is used to protect Queensland's natural landscapes. Landowners know all too well that Queensland is a state of extreme droughts, floods and increasing threats, and the Crisafulli government is committed to protecting our natural assets for generations to come. This funding will support the vital work undertaken by our NRM groups by controlling invasive species, improving grazing land management, restoring high-priority habitats, improving water quality and more.

Our commitment to supporting NRM groups stands in clear contrast to those opposite. The former Labor government left our NRM groups high and dry, with no meaningful funding. We know that those opposite do not support practical environmental programs that benefit regional Queensland. That is why Queenslanders sent those opposite a very clear message back in October. It is why places such as Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville rejected Labor's failed approach and backed the LNP's plan for a fresh start for Queensland. They know that the Crisafulli government backs our regions and delivers on our promises. They trusted us to back our natural resource management groups and we have.

I am excited about the opportunity to partner with NRM Regions Queensland on this strategic investment that supports landholders across our state. I look forward to updating the House on some of the new projects to be funded under that partnership in the months to come.


## Schoolteachers

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.24 pm): The Crisafulli government's More Teachers, Better Education plan commits to freeing up teachers with 25 per cent less red tape and the associated administrative burden. Under those opposite, teachers and principals were drowning in red tape and paperwork and the focus on student learning had shifted. As a result, learning outcomes are at an all-time low. Our commitment is about respecting and valuing teachers by taking away excessive paperwork and putting time back in their day to do what they are trained to do, that is, teach. It is also about giving students the opportunities for success that come from having a teacher alongside them in their classroom, guiding and supporting their learning.

Under the first-100-day plan, the government committed to establishing the Teacher Red Tape Reduction Working Group. The working group has been established and met for the first time on 9 December 2024. Teachers and school leaders have been consistently raising red tape as an issue and they will play a critical role in steering the implementation of this commitment. Teachers and principals, in consultation with the working group, have provided significant feedback. Based on that, three early actions have been delivered: one, introducing a one-plan-per-student approach to student needs management assessments to reduce the burden under the current policy, which requires numerous duplicative plans per student; two, simplifying time-consuming procurement processes by reducing the number of quotes required for low-value routine purchases, which will improve efficiency and reduce paperwork while ensuring value for money is maintained; and three, launching a single point of contact for teacher recruitment to make the process faster, easier and more efficient for principals. Based on what educators tell us and the advice from the working group, the Crisafulli government will continue to support teachers to stop, reduce, clarify or refine administrative activities that increase their workloads and refocus efforts on teaching and learning with students in the classroom.

I refer to the comments made yesterday by the shadow education minister, who does not support our efforts to reduce red tape. Today I have the same job as I did 12 years ago, that is, to ease the burden on Queensland teachers imposed by the Labor government. Under Labor we have seen declining enrolments, declining NAPLAN results, declining attendance, declining morale amongst teachers, a record number of disciplinary absences and a record number of WorkCover claims for assaults on teachers. This is just the beginning. We will continue slashing unnecessary red tape and fixing the decade of Labor's failures.

## Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.26 pm): The Crisafulli government is creating an environment in which small and family businesses are not just surviving but are thriving. It is in the LNP's DNA to back those businesspeople who put their heart and soul into creating something for their families and their communities. We are delivering our Small Business First policy, supporting small and family businesses to succeed by putting in place the right business operating environment. This includes a clear focus on reducing costly red tape, streamlining government services and fostering innovation that will back small and family business owners and back Queensland communities with growth and employment opportunities.

Last month, the Crisafulli government fulfilled a key commitment in our first-100-day plan to refocus the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution. Let us face it: red tape has been weighing down businesses across Queensland for far too long. These are the first steps to unleash the true potential of small and family businesses here in Queensland. I say to small and family businesses: we want you to get on with the job of running your businesses free from unnecessary red tape.

Recently I wrote to more than 120 chambers of commerce across Queensland, asking for their feedback and tangible examples of red tape impeding small business from operating efficiently and profitably. As representatives of many Queensland small and family businesses, I am seeking the support of Queensland's chambers of commerce to assist in gathering examples of the red tape that the small business community faces when attempting to comply with the weight of regulation.


Work across the Crisafulli government to reduce red tape is already underway. I congratulate the housing minister. Many Queensland small and family businesses are tradies, and his building regulation renovation initiative is a great step to reduce red tape and unnecessary costs in an industry that is so vital to the state. The Deputy Premier has put Labor's best practice industry conditions on hold, which is another example of stopping red tape flowing through to small and family businesses.

Finally, last week I spent some time in North Queensland to meet with flood-affected small and family businesses. I was pleased to see joint state and federal government grants of up to \$25,000 being made available to flood-affected primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit agencies. I would urge anyone affected to visit our website and apply for those grants.

Just before Christmas, I met some small business owners in Cairns who were only getting back to normal one year after suffering severe flooding from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in late 2023. I want to see us move even quicker this time around in getting those grants in the hands of affected businesses across those eight local government areas. I thank the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the federal agency NEMA for their quick response to making financial support available.

We have delivered on what we said we would by refocusing the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution as part of our 100-day plan. We are getting on with the job of tackling red tape and ensuring Queensland is, once again, the best place in Australia for small and family businesses to thrive.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.30 pm): I rise today to update the House on the Crisafulli LNP government's 100-day commitment to kickstart Queensland's tourism industry with our Destination 2045 plan. We said we would deliver and we are.


We have travelled the length and breadth of this great state to hear firsthand what tourism operators and stakeholders need from us to ensure this \$33 billion industry can continue to thrive. In the words of the great bush poet Lucky Starr, 'I've been everywhere, man.' I have been to Mount Isa, Townsville, Longreach, Barcaldine, Winton, Cairns, Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Airlie Beach and Mackay. We held a session earlier this week in Brisbane, and there is more to come. The Sunshine Coast is next. Assistant Minister Bree James will be carrying the torch to the Torres Strait and to Roma. Then we will round out next week with our final sessions scheduled for the Gold Coast and Toowoomba. We have already received more than 100 submissions through our online portal, with ideas, suggestions and feedback contributing to our plan.

The industry is crying out to be heard. For a decade, it has been given lip-service by those opposite, content to take the economic uplift tourism provides—did I mention \$33 billion in overnight visitor expenditure?—without any return or consideration. We have a vision for tourism here in Queensland: we want to be the No. 1 destination in Australia again. We have the best in Australia right here. Whether the attraction is beaches, rainforests, dinosaur footprints or bucolic farmstays, there is something for everyone. There is something for everyone to do. Tourists can watch turtles hatch on the beach, help reef tour operators measure coral growth, mountain bike through the rainforest in Cairns, listen to a concert among desert dunes or help scientists unearth fossils in the far west. As my good colleague and the Deputy Premier can attest, one can even enjoy skating on melons in Chinchilla.

We have to make sure the tourism industry has what it needs from the government, especially as we look to capitalise on the green and gold runway in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Already we have heard that industry wants decisiveness—no more approval applications languishing in Labor's too-hard basket for up to a decade. We have heard they need to get more people further from the traditional tourism hubs and into rural and regional Queensland, where there is so much on offer.

Experienced operators have told us that visitors want to be really involved in their visit—immersed—whether it is through connection with culture and history or through activity, and the Deputy Premier set a fine example for us all. We want Queensland's ideas. There are nine days left to contribute a submission to the Destination 2045 public consultation portal and then we get down to work. There is no pre-prepared plan sitting in the bottom drawer of my ministerial desk. We are starting with a clean slate. This is a chance to give tourism in Queensland a fresh start.

### Bruce Highway

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.33 pm): The 1,673-kilometre Bruce Highway is the spine of Queensland's road network, connecting Brisbane to Cairns as well as providing critical linkages for freight movements, ports and major regional centres. More than half of all Queenslanders rely on the Bruce to keep them moving but, after a decade of neglect and inaction from those opposite, we have seen a drastic decline in the performance of our national highway.

Last year alone, the Bruce experienced 81 separate instances of closure in both directions. The total time the Bruce was closed last year was around 31 days—a whole month where Queenslanders' mobility was restricted and where the supply of essential goods was delayed. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to ensuring our Bruce is more productive, efficient, reliable and safe.

In delivering on that commitment, we already have runs on the board within our first 100 days because we have re-established the Bruce Highway Advisory Council after the former Labor government axed it following just a handful of meetings. At the end of last year, I joined key industry stakeholders and regional representatives in convening the first of these advisory council meetings. Importantly, the membership consists of regional representatives and everyday Queenslanders—from truck drivers to small business owners who rely on the Bruce day in and day out—so they can have their say on how we can best get on with the job of making the vital improvements that are needed.

Through the advocacy of the Bruce Highway Advisory Council, and alongside the Crisafulli government, we have already been able to do what those opposite could not: restore the 80-20 funding for our highway alongside the Australian government's injection of a total of \$9 billion in additional funds for safety upgrades. Previous Labor transport ministers abandoned the 80-20 funding for the Bruce. As a result, Queenslanders have been worse off because the investment in Queensland roads was left on the federal government's table.


I am pleased to share that the second meeting of the Bruce Highway Advisory Council will be held in Rockhampton—another key regional centre along the Bruce—on 19 March. By bringing the Bruce Highway Advisory Council members back together to discuss how the Crisafulli government can maximise safety outcomes through the delivery of the \$9 billion program, we are giving them the chance to consider and provide advice on how we go forward. This will build on their important role to date and support the Crisafulli government to deliver on our commitment to the Bruce and to our regional communities.

Unlike the Labor Party, we will not take Queenslanders for granted. Our government, the Crisafulli government, will continue to listen to the voices of those who regularly use the highway to ensure we get back to delivering those vital upgrades. This \$9 billion investment will focus on those sections of the Bruce Highway which have the poorest safety records. It will deliver upgrades such as overtaking lanes, intersection upgrades and heavy vehicle rest stops in addition to pavement strengthening works and other upgrades.

The Crisafulli government is doing all of this to ensure the severity and frequency of accidents are reduced. An improved safety record and a more reliable Bruce Highway will mean that families can be better connected. It will mean that Queenslanders will spend more time at home rather than commuting or sitting at the scene of an accident. It will mean that the goods and services our regional and remote communities rely on will get to them when they are needed. It will mean that the Bruce Highway can be a road all Queenslanders can be proud of.

Labor's decade of inaction and neglect is over. The Crisafulli government will continue to deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

### **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence**

 **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) (2.37 pm): Five years ago today, four innocent lives were cut short in one of the most horrific acts of domestic violence this state and our nation has ever seen. Thirty-one-year-old Hannah Clarke and her three children—Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey—were murdered by their father, Hannah's estranged husband, on a suburban street here in Brisbane. It was a crime that provoked shock, outrage and a community conversation about a form of domestic violence that had not been talked about—coercive control. Coercive control is an insidious pattern of manipulative behaviour that breaks down a person's boundaries, self-esteem, judgement and independence. Ultimately, it takes over their life. It is costing Queenslanders' lives.

This morning, I had the privilege to spend time with Sue and Lloyd, Nat Clarke and his family along with members from Small Steps 4 Hannah, Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Deputy Mayor Fiona Cunningham at Hannah's Sanctuary where we planted trees in an aim, over time, to attract the beautiful yellow butterflies that appeared the day after Hannah's murder. Through their grief and trauma, they have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the signs of coercive control and educate children and young people on respectful relationships to help end cycles of violence and domestic violence. Today, we pay tribute to them.

Last month, Sue and Lloyd were awarded an OAM for their service to domestic violence awareness. Today, they thanked this House for the commitment to take forward legislation. On 26 May this year coercive control will be a criminal offence in Queensland. We commend them for their courage, resilience and commitment to this cause as they travelled the nation spreading the word about the need for legislation around coercive control. They will be taking a step back to take time for themselves, and we respectfully thank them as they do. Their legacy continues through the Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation; the HALT program, which is educating young people; and Hannah's Story. We are committed to continue their work, and I know that many in this House have championed their efforts.

The Crisafulli government is under no illusion about how much work lies ahead for all of us to achieve generational change in attitudes and behaviours. It will take a whole-of-community approach. I am humbled to have been given the opportunity to take on this incredibly hard and complex portfolio. Working through the Crisafulli government's Safer Families, Safer Communities policy we will hold domestic violence offenders to account and we will have zero tolerance for the perpetration of domestic violence. We will roll out 500 GPS trackers, with the first 150 to be issued to high-risk perpetrators this year, so victims remain safe with the 24/7 surveillance provided.

We will also be expanding Beyond DV's Hope Hub recovery centres, with three additional sites. We are reviewing the state's leading domestic violence 24/7 response, DV Connect, to identify gaps in service and failures in the system—gaps that have been left by those opposite. In our first 100 days I have established a working group for survivors of domestic and sexual violence who have been impacted by system failures in recent years. It is through education, supporting victim-survivors, strengthening our laws and holding people who use violence accountable for their behaviour that we will achieve much needed change. For Hannah Clarke and her three children and, sadly, the many victims we have lost since their deaths and those affected by the scourge of domestic and family violence, we will not waver in our commitment to do more, and we must.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.42 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 53:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—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, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

### Membership



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.47 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Cairns be discharged from, and the member for Stafford be appointed to, the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee.

In addressing this motion, I wish to inform the House how section 91B of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 currently operates with respect to portfolio committees. Section 91B(2) provides for the following—

The committee comprises 6 members, being—

- (a) 3 members nominated by the Leader of the House; and
- (b) 3 members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

As such, it is for the Leader of the Opposition to nominate three members to a specific portfolio committee. In relation to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee of the 58th Parliament of Queensland, I have received formal correspondence from the Clerk of the Parliament in which the Leader of the Opposition has asked for the member for Cairns to be discharged from this committee and the member for Stafford to be appointed to this committee. I table a copy of the correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 17 February 2025, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Steven Miles MP, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding a change of membership of portfolio committees within the Queensland parliament [96].

I inform the House that, as a matter of protocol, convention and required obligation, it is a requirement for the Leader of the House to move a motion to satisfy the Leader of the Opposition's statutory right to nominate members to portfolio committees of the Queensland parliament. Now is an opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to formally address this motion and justify his nomination of the member for Stafford to this committee and provide an explanation about outstanding issues that remain in the public interest with respect to certain matters before parliamentarians vote on this motion.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of personal privilege suddenly arising. The imputations in that motion are again a disgrace, as we saw yesterday. It is on the public record and it is on the record of this House that there are no outstanding matters. I take personal offence and the member should withdraw his remarks.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is not a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The fact that you did take personal offence: I will accept that.

**Dr ROWAN:** I withdraw.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a longstanding convention in this House—and you have indicated this to all members as recently as yesterday—that you expect this House to observe silence when you are taking advice and considering a ruling. Secondly, I would make it very clear that the member for Stafford publicly addressed these matters yesterday. There is nothing further to add.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion be agreed to. Those of that opinion say 'aye'. Those against say 'no'. I think the noes have it.

**Ms Fentiman:** Divide.

**Mr Crisafulli:** You're not going to divide!

**Mr Bleijie:** Are you going to divide and support your member?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Divide?

**Ms Fentiman:** Yes, we said divide.

**Mr SPEAKER:** A division has been called. Ring the bells.

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

*In division—*

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we are not going to have a repeat of yesterday in divisions.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I was speaking. I will ask for some decorum in the House while the division is taking place. That was sadly lacking yesterday. I do not want to see a repeat of it.

**AYES, 34:**

**ALP, 34—**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, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.


**NOES, 51:**

**LNP, 51—**Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Crime and Corruption Commission, Documents


 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (2.56 pm): I lay upon the table of the House a certified copy of the *Register of reports and recommendations to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, ministerial directions and tabled ministerial reasons 2024* and related correspondence, dated 3 February 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2024, pursuant to section 4.7(3) of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [\[97\]](#).

The register reflects that no communications were made which qualify for recording in the register in 2024, and the register was furnished without comment from the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The committee is required to table the register within 14 sitting days of receipt. The committee received the register on 3 February 2025.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.57 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes that the LNP promised Direct Sunshine Coast Rail with LNP Deputy Leader Bleijie stating in September 2024: 'it has to be Maroochydore and it has to be Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games'.
2. notes the LNP's promise of Direct Sunshine Coast Rail is already coming off the rails, with the LNP softening Queenslanders up to cut this important rail project, with LNP Deputy Leader Bleijie indicating the 'government would look at alternatives'.
3. notes that the LNP member for Caloundra is reported saying 'the LNP remained committed to the fully funded \$5.5 billion Stage 1 to Caloundra', with no mention of the rail line to Maroochydore.
4. notes that in September 2024 an LNP media release featuring an image of the member for Caloundra stated: 'only the LNP will end the Caloundra car park with a congestion-busting traffic plan and delivering Sunshine Coast Heavy Passenger Rail all the way to Maroochydore'.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Excuse me, members. I will hear the motion in silence, please.

**Mr MILES:**—

5. condemns the LNP member for Caloundra for their inability to advocate effectively for their community to ensure that the rail line continues, as promised by the LNP, to Maroochydore to end the 'Caloundra car park' that the LNP member for Caloundra promised to do and is failing to deliver.
6. condemns the LNP Crisafulli government for their 'rail betrayal'.


**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, could we have a little bit of quiet before we even start question time, please?

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 3.59 pm.

### Coomera Connector

 **Mr MILES** (2.59 pm): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Residents of the Gold Coast are concerned about media reports in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that the LNP government is planning to toll the Coomera Connector. Will the Crisafulli LNP government rule out charging Queenslanders?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I think it is very interesting that Labor have not learned their lesson. They took a betrayal to the last election. Labor deliberately sought to mislead Queenslanders before the election in October, and here they are with the same playbook—again and again.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Only one person has the call. Minister, you have the call.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Let's have a look at Labor's record when it comes to building infrastructure here in Queensland. The member for Miller's record as the transport and main roads minister was a litany of failures. On that project there were cost blowouts and lanes were cut. It has not been built. How many times has Labor promised to deliver the Coomera Connector and it is still not built? That is Labor's record. Labor's record is one littered with sweetheart deals with the CFMEU and special interest groups. Only the LNP has had the courage to take the action required by suspending BPIC and ending the CFMEU's sweetheart deals. We are focused on getting on with the job. Let's have a look at Labor's record when it comes to delivering on infrastructure on the Gold Coast. What is Labor's record on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The next time I speak I will be issuing warnings. Take note.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They do not like it because they know it is true. Under Labor, Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 blew out by \$330 million—\$330 million! It was a Labor project, signed off by them.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We do not like it because the question was about tolls and the answer has been nowhere near relevant to tolls. We would ask you to bring the member back to responding to the question about tolls.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Whether you like it or not is irrelevant. I will look after the House. Minister, you heard the point of order. You can address it—

**Mr MICKELBERG:** No worries, Mr Speaker. The only toll that exists on the Coomera Connector is the CFMEU tax paid for by every Queensland—\$17 billion of Labor toll because of the CFMEU tax. Labor's sweetheart deal with the CFMEU means that Queenslanders pay more for roads, rail, schools and hospitals—their sweetheart deal with their union mates. We saw them protesting outside rather than working on delivering for Queenslanders when it comes to rail and roads like the Coomera Connector. In fact, workers were trucked in by the CFMEU from the Coomera Connector today so they could pursue Labor's agenda of trying to destroy productivity on Queensland job sites. That is Labor's record. Labor's CFMEU tax is a toll on every Queensland and we will not stand for it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I said that the next time I spoke people would be warned. Member for Lytton and member for Bulimba, you are both warned.

### **Government Accountability**

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. The Premier promised Queenslanders that all projects will be delivered on time and on budget. Will the minister stake his job on this commitment?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** That is an interesting question from the member for Waterford. What stands in stark contrast between this LNP Crisafulli government and the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments is ministerial accountability. It is writ large in every single one of our ministerial charter letters. The Premier's expectations are very clear: projects will be delivered on time and on budget. I accept that responsibility because that is what Queenslanders deserve. Let's look at the contrast with former Labor transport ministers. What did the member for Miller and the member for Aspley preside over in their reign? They presided over failed projects like 'rail fail' and Cross River Rail blowouts.

I was criticised in December for being too negative about the blowouts so I went back to the department and said, 'Can you give me some examples of any projects that are under budget or have been delivered on time so I can be a little more positive?' They are still looking. I was told they do not know of any. Let's have a look at QTRIP. What has been delivered on time and on budget? Nothing. Cross River Rail blew out to \$17 billion under Labor. They said it was going to cost \$5.4 billion. They said it would be delivered in 2024. Here we are in 2025 and it is not even close to finished. That is on the member for Miller and the member for Aspley. They were incompetent ministers who were not held to account for their failures by weak leaders like Anastacia Palaszczuk and the opposition leader, the member for Murrumba.



The Premier has made it very clear that he expects ministers to deliver for Queenslanders. My task as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is to ensure that projects are delivered on time and on budget. I relish that task. It is why we have made decisions like scrapping Labor's sweetheart deal with the CFMEU. BPIC has been destroying productivity across this state since it was implemented by Labor. Labor struck a sweetheart deal with their mates—the people who installed them in this place—to the detriment of Queensland taxpayers. We are not going to stand for it. Yes, I accept responsibility for what is in my charter letter, which says that projects will be delivered on time and on budget. I look forward to being held to account, shadow minister Fentiman.

I could go back and look at the litany of failures the shadow treasurer presided over in her former ministerial portfolio, some of which resulted in tragic outcomes for young Queenslanders, but I will not in this forum. Suffice it to say, this side takes ministerial accountability seriously. We are focused on delivering for all Queenslanders.

### Government Accountability

**Miss DOOLAN:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline the importance of accountability and integrity in government, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that might differ?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Accountability and transparency are very important. In the parliament it is important there is equal time for the government to be quizzed. So far today the Deputy Premier has written a private member's motion and the first two questions have been written by the Minister for Transport. Now there is an opportunity for the member for Pumicestone and shortly there might be an opportunity for one of those opposite to ask me a question about transparency and accountability.

What we have seen opposite is a former government running from its record. The member asked me about transparency and accountability. They are the cornerstones of good governance. If we are to address the big four crises we spoke to Queenslanders about, we must keep that front and centre in all that we do. If we are to address the health crisis we cannot say that people are making up stories. You have to conduct yourself with integrity and transparency. That means making sure that information about ambulance ramping is done monthly. If a commitment is made for it to be at 28 per cent, for example, by a certain month or that a surgery waitlist will stabilise after 10 years of going in the wrong direction, it is delivered or there is ministerial accountability. That is accountability and transparency.

When it comes to youth crime, if you do not have accountability and transparency, you say it is a media beat-up and you try to manufacture your own story. That is why we passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws by Christmas. More must be done, and I look forward to those opposite finding a consistent position to support us in the journey to a safer Queensland.

If you want to attack the housing crisis, then accountability and transparency matter. If you have a summit and your only signature policy is really nothing but a stitch-up between a couple of mates and it never delivers a single home despite spending a couple of million bucks, that does not help vulnerable Queenslanders. I will tell members what does help them: scrapping a tax to allow young people to get into the market; the state's first ever shared equity scheme to get young people who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad a house—that helps; to allow people in our Indigenous communities a rent-to-buy scheme so they can have a crack at home ownership—that helps.

When it comes to cost of living, you have to be honest about things. If you say that something is \$12 billion but it is really \$37 billion, you are not being honest with Queenslanders. You have to be up-front. If something is not permanently funded beyond an election, you have to call it a trial and not a permanent 50-cent campaign. We will always conduct ourselves with accountability and transparency because we value taxpayers' money.

### Public Transport, Fares

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Workers at Brisbane Airport are now paying 114 per cent more to travel to work by train under the Crisafulli LNP government. Will the minister act to reinstate reduced Airtrain fares for workers?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am surprised the former treasurer wanted to ask a question today—the day that Queensland has received a credit rating outlook downgrade because of this man, because of the former treasurer. He presided over debt, deficit and broken promises. We had debt, deficit and broken promises under Cameron Dick. That is Labor's record.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The Labor Party are quite fond of claiming LNP initiatives, like our 50-cent fares—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, use the correct titles when addressing somebody across the room. Member for Pine Rivers, you are joining the list. You are warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite are quite fond of claiming credit for the LNP's initiatives and the LNP delivering on our election commitments. Let us talk about the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares—something that those opposite like to claim credit for. They like to claim credit for it. The Queensland Labor Party like to tweet about it. The opposition leader likes to tweet about it, but what did they do? They had 10 years to fund it and they did not. They squibbed it. That is the Labor Party's record and it is the Labor Party's record time and time again.

If we look at Airtrain, the case is exactly the same. There was a six-month commitment by the Labor Party to reduce the fares by 50 per cent—under political pressure, I might add. One might cynically suggest that it was an election ploy to try to get re-elected rather than a genuine commitment. One might suggest that, if you were the government and you had the opportunity to make something permanent, you would take it through the budget process, you would fund it through the budget and you would deliver it—just as we have done with permanent 50-cent fares. We made a promise that we would make 50-cent fares permanent. It is written in my charter letter. I have done that in the first 100 days because that is what we promised to do and we have the capacity to do it because we are the government.

You would think the shadow treasurer or the opposition leader, as the then deputy premier and premier, might have had the capacity to implement things they thought were important. I know the union movement can control those opposite. We know they take their riding orders from Blocker and the CFMEU. We know that Jackie Trad is still pulling the strings behind her apprentices, like the member for Waterford. For those opposite to suggest that the LNP is not delivering on our commitments is nothing more than a misleading mistruth. I would use another word but it is unparliamentary. Those opposite like to spin the facts in their own favour, but when they had the opportunity to deliver on these things they squibbed it. They are not up to the job and the opposition leader knows it.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

### **Workplace Safety**

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier inform the House about the Crisafulli government's commitment to foster safe workplaces, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any Queenslanders who may not feel safe at work?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you for the question, member for Rockhampton. What a fine member for Rockhampton you are. You are making an outstanding contribution to this place and we have seen your great work in just over 100 days of the Crisafulli LNP government and what you and your Central Queensland colleagues are achieving for the area.

The Crisafulli government does take safe workplaces very seriously. I noted earlier in my ministerial statement the furore out the front with the ETU and the CFMEU. Let it be known that I had an email from the union this morning wishing to meet me. Ordinarily, when people want to meet me, they contact the office and say, 'Let's catch up,' 'Let's have a cup of coffee,' or whatever the case may be. These guys emailed me to say, 'We're happy to arrange a safe place to meet through the Sergeant-at-Arms at Queensland parliament.' If you are organising a meeting in the panic room at Parliament House, what on earth is the meeting about? That is the CFMEU and the ETU. That is their modus operandi.

We have taken action against the union by reintroducing 24-hour right of entry permits so workers, particularly Workplace Health and Safety officers and the inspectorate, feel safe on their worksite. Everybody knows that under the laws of the former Labor government, particularly the former union official who was the industrial relations minister for 10 years, workers were less safe because of

the CFMEU's fear, intimidation and bullying. Parliament House should also be a safe workplace for members of parliament, parliamentary staff and women members of parliament in the Labor Party. We read this morning in the *Australian* the following—

Police responded to a “reported domestic violence incident” at the Stafford MP's suburban Brisbane home on the evening of Sunday October 27; no criminal charges were laid but officers took civil action in the Brisbane Magistrates Court against the second-term politician.

I table a copy of the *Australian*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 18 February 2025, titled ‘Queensland Labor MP Jimmy Sullivan back in fold after domestic violence case resolved’ [\[98\]](#).

This issue was canvassed at length yesterday but so many questions still remain unanswered. The member for Stafford stood up and he said that the Tory government are just attacking him. There are confirmed reports now that civil action was taken by the Queensland police. What was the civil action taken against the member for Stafford?

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Oh, he is going to explain it. Feel free.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I cede my time to the member for Stafford—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will listen to the point of order, thank you, Deputy Premier.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Firstly, the matters have nothing to do with the portfolio of the Deputy Prime Minister—sorry, the Deputy Premier. I just gave him a promotion. They are not relevant to the question. Secondly, I take personal offence. Those matters have been canvassed in this House and in the media. I find the imputations in his comments personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will have a quick look at that question. The matter of taking personal offence is legitimate, but workplace safety was part of the question. Minister, I will ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. Workplace health and safety—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take workplace health and safety very seriously. It was the Labor Party members who reported that they felt unsafe around the member for Stafford; it was not LNP members. What is really concerning is that the Labor Party voted for a motion earlier wanting to give the member for Stafford a pay rise of nearly \$30,000, despite the unanswered questions. Not one member of the leadership team—the former premier or the former minister who just interjected—has said anything about the member for Stafford and explained what the issues were.

Why were the police called to his property? What was the civil action, and why on earth did the opposition leader think it was appropriate to give him a \$30,000 pay rise on a parliamentary committee—

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—when there are so many unanswered questions that he ought to answer—

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Speaker—

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—and he has been given the opportunity?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Mr Speaker, I was on my feet before you suggested the time had expired. I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the imputations. I ask the member for Kawana to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

### Project Costings

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister guarantee that every infrastructure project that he and his department are responsible for will now include any future maintenance, like he did to inflate the cost of Cross River Rail?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Mr Speaker—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the minister, there is more noise coming from the right when the minister gets to his feet than there is coming from the left. Listen to the minister's answer, please.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to two points of order. One relates to standing order 115 that questions must not contain imputations. Secondly, I would ask the member to authenticate the question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on. We will have a look at the question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members can still be warned while I am taking points of order. There is no point of order.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I have a lot of time for the member for Nudgee, so I will not beat her up like the former treasurer. Unlike some Labor members opposite, I do not take that approach. I am, however, surprised that the member for Nudgee would come in here and talk about projects being delivered on time and on budget.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin and member for Whitsunday, you are both joining the list. Member for Woodridge!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am surprised that the member for Nudgee would come in here and ask about projects being delivered on time or on budget or appropriate expenditure of taxpayers' money on infrastructure projects here in Queensland, given that under Labor they have built a brand new fire station in a gazetted corridor for expansion of the Gateway Motorway—a project that was funded in the early stages under Labor. They literally built a new fire station in the spot where the new Gateway Motorway lanes have to go. Fair dinkum! It is written like an episode of *Utopia*, and this is in the member for Nudgee's electorate, I might add. It might be in Sandgate—you are all around the same part of the world. Ultimately, Queenslanders know what Labor's record is when it comes to delivering on infrastructure.

Let us look at Cross River Rail. Labor signed Queenslanders up to a \$2.5 billion secret deal. Under Labor, there is a fixed obligation of \$2.5 billion for the rail maintenance contract in relation to the Cross River Rail tunnels. We have to pay that. Ironically, it was actually signed up to so we should have already started paying it because Cross River Rail under Labor should have already opened. However, because of the incompetence of people like the member for Miller and the member for Aspley, we are still waiting.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the House rose to a point of order and sought to have the question ruled out of order based on the precise element which was the question about inclusion of maintenance costs to inflate the project costs. It is ironic that the minister is not now addressing the very thing the Leader of the House sought to protect him from. We would like you to draw him back to the relevance of the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The member for Miller may yet have a chance at being the Manager of Opposition Business. I have literally just said—

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am sorry. Mr Speaker, I have literally just said that the \$2.5 billion fixed obligation that Labor signed Queensland taxpayers up to for Cross River Rail is an obligation that we must pay. I would suggest to you that spending \$2.5 billion on the project should be included in the real cost of Cross River Rail. That is the promise we made to Queenslanders—that we would disclose the real cost of Cross River Rail. Those opposite chose to hide \$17 billion from Queensland taxpayers.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Seventeen billion dollars! They are ashamed of it because they know it reflects on their gross mismanagement and their wilful disregard for taxpayers' dollars. They should be ashamed of it, and they are not up to the job.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the next question, member for Algeester, you have just joined the list.

### **Domestic and Family Violence, Programs**

**Mrs STOKER:** My question is for the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Will the minister update the House on the importance of domestic and family violence programs and how the Crisafulli government will ensure they will be properly funded?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for Oodgeroo for the question. It is a very important topic, and I know it is something very close to her heart, as it is to all members on this side of the chamber. Yesterday we spoke in this place about the Crisafulli LNP government's Safer Families, Safer Communities plan, including the implementation of GPS trackers for high-risk domestic and family violence offending. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to combating domestic and family violence through the delivery of a comprehensive reform package over the next four years. I thank Minister Camm for leading that. I commend the Minister for Families and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for her work in this space. This government will deliver on these important reforms. Unlike those opposite, we will deliver the funding needed for essential public services.

The member for Woodridge, the member for Murrumba and the member for Waterford were out of their depth and living in a fairytale when it comes to Queensland's finances, and that was revealed in Labor's last budget update. The Crisafulli LNP government will deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders need, while those opposite are too focused on their own crises and internal factional warfare to deliver for Queenslanders.

Queenslanders deserve to know what the opposition leader knows about the allegations made against the member for Stafford, and they deserve to know what he is going to do to address the concerns raised by his own Labor members who do not even wish to sit with the member for Stafford. The opposition leader has not fronted up and he has not been honest with Queenslanders. In fact, the opposition leader's silence speaks volumes. Is it any wonder his colleagues are considering their already limited options?

The opposition leader is clearly not up to the job, and the silence of the so-called shadow minister for women is deafening. Labor is so focused on protecting the member for Stafford. Despite knowing all he knows, the Leader of the Opposition was still planning to put the member on a committee and give him a pay rise, and today he voted for it. Labor is a rabble and the Leader of the Opposition is just not up to the job. The opposition leader is clearly not up to the job. We have not heard a word from the so-called shadow minister—not one word—when normally she is screeching across the chamber about things that apparently only the Labor Party can deliver.

Here in the LNP we have a track record on addressing domestic and family violence. We will continue to deliver on that track record. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept, and the opposition leader and the shadow minister for women might do well to reflect on that.

### **Barron River Bridge**

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Now that the Deputy Premier has committed to building a new Barron River bridge and getting the existing bridge up to scratch, how much longer will the people of Far North Queensland have to wait for a business case to get work started on this important bridge?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am surprised to get this question from the member for Cairns. So 10 years of Labor government—Barron River bridge has been a problem for a while. I used to live in Atherton and in Trinity Beach. I used to drive that road every day, twice a day. It is a beautiful part of the world—an ordinary road because of the Labor Party and the Labor Party's lack of attention.

**Mr Mellish:** When are you going to fix it?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Hello, mate. Welcome to the party, member for Aspley.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Aspley, you will listen to the response in silence. You are now on the list.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** He has just remembered he is the shadow minister. He has just remembered he is the shadow transport minister and he was the minister. You would think that he would probably be asking a few of these questions, but I understand why he does not want to. He is ashamed of his record. He is ashamed of his record when it comes to the Barron River bridge. He is ashamed of his record because all Labor could do is commission a business case—not finish it, mind you, just start it—and hide it from Queenslanders. Now I have received that business case and the government are reviewing that business case and, unlike those opposite, we are committed to fixing the Barron River bridge. It is something we made very clear before the election. One of my first visits as minister was to the Barron River bridge with the hardworking new member for Barron River, Bree James. The member for Barron River is committed to delivering for her community—unlike the Labor Party. The former Labor Party member for Barron River—

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, I thought you would be interested in the reply. You are on the list.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The new member for Barron River, the hardworking, energetic Bree James, is delivering for her community. This is a member for Barron River who, despite not sitting around the cabinet table like her predecessor for years, has delivered more in three months than he did in his entire tenure in this place—zero.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Now the member for Cairns is interjecting. I take his interjection. Let's have a look at the Labor Party's record in his electorate. The Cairns common user facility is a facility at the port. The Labor Party said they would build it—\$360 million I think it was off the top of my head. I have been advised that that project will cost \$832 million. That is Labor's legacy. That is why Queenslanders today have received a rating downgrade. Labor's legacy of economic mismanagement, a lack of attention to detail and a lack of ministerial accountability is why Queenslanders are paying the price today. The LNP are committed to getting on with the job of fixing these issues that we have inherited after a decade of Labor incompetence.

*(Time expired)*

### **Domestic and Family Violence, Programs**

**Mrs POOLE** (3.32 pm): My question is of the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister inform the House about the critical role of domestic and family violence support programs and the steps the Crisafulli government is taking to bolster these services?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. She is a former police officer who sadly knows all too well the impacts of domestic and family violence particularly in her community of Townsville and North Queensland, where the numbers indicate there is a lot of work to do. The Crisafulli government is taking forward a significant reform agenda to bolster support services with regard to domestic and family violence—not just for victims but also for perpetrators. As I outlined in my ministerial statement, we have a significant investment with regard to recovery centres and supporting victim-survivors. I look forward to hearing from our working group that will identify gaps in the system. I will also be asking that group to identify gaps in perpetrator accountability.

As I have outlined, we are undertaking a full review of DVConnect which houses the state's men's helpline. It is important when men are perpetrating violence—or at risk of perpetrating violence or abusive behaviour—that they receive the help they need when they reach out for it. A lot has been said in this House with regard to the media reports in relation to the member for Stafford. This is my portfolio responsibility. The domestic violence act is very clear about civil matters that police refer to the court. I note that what was reported in the *Australian* was that the Leader of the Opposition said the member for Stafford had 'fulfilled his obligations in addressing his personal matters'. I am afraid I disagree. As

the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I disagree. When police are called to a domestic incident at a home and take action in putting forward a civil application in the court, they take that very seriously to protect victims of domestic and family violence.

All I heard from those opposite yesterday was gaslighting and silence, apart from when one of my colleagues used a word in jest and, all of a sudden, the women of that side erupted. But we have not heard one female from the opposition—not the shadow minister for women, not the shadow minister for domestic violence prevention, not anyone—stand up and say they are happy with the response from the member for Stafford. On this side of the House, this government will not stand for it.

*(Time expired)*

### **Public Transport, Fares**

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. The member for Chatsworth called 50-cent fares a 'con job'. Why should Queenslanders trust this LNP government not to cut the former Miles Labor government's nation-leading 50-cent fares?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Who is writing these questions? Fair dinkum.

**Mr Crisafulli:** The member for Waterford!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The member for Waterford—the puppetmaster who wants to oversee the downfall of the opposition because, fair dinkum, I cannot come up with another reason you would ask a question about the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares. The LNP is funding 50-cent fares for the entirety of the budget—a promise made, a promise kept. Let us compare and contrast that with the Labor Party's course of action. The Labor Party, as I said yesterday, spent more on advertising 50-cent fares than they did funding it permanently. That is the opposition leader's record. That is the member for Murrumba's record. He wanted 50-cent fares. He thinks it is important so he could not fund it when he was the premier. He could not make it permanent when he was the premier. He wanted to talk about it. He wanted to review it and consider it and now it is his idea of course—despite presiding over 10 years of Labor. We had 10 years of Labor government and they could not deliver it.

Now the member for McConnel comes in here and asks this question. Why could they not make it permanent? Why do members think the Labor Party were struggling to pay for 50-cent fares? Could it have been they had no money left in the piggy bank? Could it have been that the piggy bank had been emptied due to sweetheart deals with the CFMEU—sweetheart deals presided over by the member for McConnel, the chief union architect in the former government? That is why the Queensland budget is shot—sweetheart deals with the CFMEU that cost Queenslanders every single day. Now the LNP Crisafulli government made promises to Queenslanders. One of those was to make 50-cent fares permanent. We have done it in the first 100 days. It is funded through the budget—\$1.5 billion. That is the LNP's legacy. That is the Crisafulli government's legacy for public transport here in Queensland, and we are proud of it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They do not like it. In fact, I have countless examples of the members opposite trying to run a scare campaign about us cutting 50-cent fares. The member for Mansfield, the former member for Capalaba and others all said we would cut it. We made it permanent in the first 100 days. They could not do it in 10 years. We have done it in 100 days because when we say we will do something, we follow through and we deliver on it.

The Crisafulli government said that we would make 50-cent fares permanent and we have. The Labor Party had 10 years to do it. They could not do it, and the member for McConnel is ashamed of it. She should be ashamed of it. I would be ashamed if I had 10 years around the cabinet table and did not deliver for my community. Those opposite are not up to it. The opposition leader knows that he is not up to it.

### **Workplace Safety**

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the Crisafulli government's first 100 days and how the return of the 24-hour right-of-entry permits will work, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I can. I want to thank the member for Nicklin for the question. How refreshing to have the new, returned and fresh-looking member for Nicklin back in the House. It is amazing to have him here. I must say that I am feeling particularly bad, because in 16 years in this place I have never had a question time quite like this where there is an hour of Dorothy Dixers to ministers. I feel bad because, of course, I knew the Dorothy Dixier was coming but I wanted to give it to my honourable colleague. I have been enjoying it so much. I think our questions were probably harder than the ones from the Labor Party today. It just shows how bereft the Labor Party are. They had 10 years in office and now they are trying to claim our policies as their own. Can members believe it? It is like when the former minister for education was claiming air conditioning in schools when it was our policy. We delivered air conditioning in all the schools across Queensland. I am getting distracted. I will return to the question at hand. I say to my honourable colleagues that I am always happy to have an extension of time. Feel free!

On the subject of the 24-hour right of entry, we did it within 100 days because we promised we were going to do it and it is important for workplace health and safety officers. The independent inspectorate of Queensland are the ones to go to worksites and deal with workplace health and safety issues—not a union thug, not a militant thug and not a member of the Labor Party but an authorised inspector from the Workplace Health and Safety office. That is why we reintroduced the 24-hour provision: to stop what we have seen happening at construction sites. Do not forget: this was the former Labor government that allowed the CFMEU to storm the TMR building. They are asking plenty of questions about transport today, but they did not mention that they supported the CFMEU storming the TMR building a couple of years ago. They forgot about that. Let's not forget that the former minister for industrial relations, now the shadow minister for industrial relations, consistently defended and shielded the CFMEU for 10 years or whenever we raised it—time and time again. She said the LNP—

... embarked on one of the most disgusting union bashing, continually broken-record talking about one particular union—the CFMEU ...

It is lucky we did, because there is one particular person—Helen Burgess—who worked at the Office of Industrial Relations about whom I had been raising issues in this parliament for 10 years. Guess what? Her house was raided by the CCC two weeks ago and this government has suspended her from her employment. The former minister opposite refused to take action for 10 years despite the LNP raising these issues.

We will put workers first—not the CFMEU and certainly not militant thugs who are the cornerstone of the Labor Party in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Regional Queensland, Water Security**

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water. Regarding the gulf water plan, which, based on the former minister's own performance report, has failed dismally on the economic front, can the minister please outline what new and innovative approaches she will take to this plan to ensure the highest and best use of these precious water resources, to the benefit of the broader mid-west community?

**Ms LEAHY:** I want to thank the member for Traeger for the question. It is great to have a question in this House that is about water and regional development for regional communities in Queensland from a regional member. I have been to his region many times and I understand the importance of water to his region. We will ensure that unused water is put back onto the market to drive Queensland's growth.

When we look at the Flinders system—I was very pleased to meet with the mayor of the Flinders shire yesterday and she gave me some very interesting insights into what had happened in that Flinders catchment area—we know that there is water available under the gulf plan, but there was 10 years when that water was not being made available. It is there in the plan, but there is something that is stopping it from being used. I have to say: the members opposite had 10 years in government to unlock that water, but they have not done that. It is still sitting there in the Gulf Regional Development Plan. It is a similar situation in the Gilbert catchment as well: there is water there which is available for development under the plan that is currently in place.

What we did see—and I think this is the disappointing thing—was a dam built by Labor, the Paradise Dam. It was built by Peter Beattie and then it was torn down by Labor.

**A government member:** Not well built.



**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection; it was certainly not well built. When you see what happened with that dam under Labor's watch—and the member for Gladstone knows that well—it is so disappointing because Queensland needs to ensure we catch as much water as we can so we can use it for agricultural development and also for our urban suppliers. That is why in the LNP we will be looking for sustainable, secure water resources that are central to Queensland's economy and particularly the economies in the north-west.

I was pleased to hear from the mayor yesterday that the Flinders shire, the Richmond shire and the McKinlay shire have actually got together as a group, and I think that is a really positive thing. What they want to do and are doing through their councils is foster future water development for that region. We know there is a growing demand for irrigated agriculture and also mineral developments in the gulf region, particularly looking at the McKinlay shire in terms of what they will need.

The water assessment is ongoing in conjunction with the gulf water plan. We will work our way through that and will keep consulting with the member's community. We want to see some outcomes. That is what I am about and that is what the Crisafulli LNP government is about: making sure we get more water supply out there so that Queenslanders and particularly people in regional Queensland can utilise that water.

### Productivity

**Mr CRANDON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Crisafulli government's commitment to returning productivity to worksites and outline how this differs from the approach of previous governments?

**A government member:** That's the hardest question you've had all day!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** This is the toughest question I have had all day, the most probing question I have had all day. In all seriousness, the LNP want to see Queensland workers be safe, be productive and be well paid. I think all Queenslanders want to see that on worksites. What we have seen under Labor is the consistent action of the CFMEU to make worksites unsafe and unproductive. Under Labor and their sweetheart deals with the CFMEU we saw workers at worksites, like the Cross River Rail worksite, being assaulted by CFMEU thugs while going about the business of doing their job. As a consequence, because of the CFMEU's actions and because of the tacit support of the Labor Party for the CFMEU, Cross River Rail sites lost 140 days to industrial action last calendar year, in 2024. That is productivity that cost Queenslanders and that is why Cross River Rail has blown out to \$17 billion under Labor. That is just one project.

If we look at the Centenary Bridge Upgrade in Western Brisbane, on the border of the Moggill and Mount Ommaney electorates, we see that CFMEU thugs were coming over the fence and intimidating workers. The effect of that is that workers do not feel safe. I have been to that job site twice since I was appointed Minister for Transport and Main Roads—once with the member for Moggill. I can tell honourable members that workers told me they did not feel safe. They did not feel safe because of the actions of the CFMEU. That is the same CFMEU that back the Labor Party. They fund them, they support them and they install the leader. They own the Labor Party and those opposite know it. That is why they are hanging their heads in shame right now. They know that the CFMEU control the Labor Party. They should be ashamed of it.

Queenslanders also know that, but what is most disturbing is that workers feel unsafe on sites, that job sites are unproductive and that Queenslanders pay the price. Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 blew out because of the actions of the CFMEU. It blew out because of BPIC—the CFMEU tax—to \$330 million under the Labor Party. That is what the blowout was. Those opposite signed off on it in September. They hid it from Queenslanders. They did not tell anyone. It took the incoming LNP government to disclose that to Queenslanders. Why did they not tell Queenslanders? They are ashamed of it, and they should be ashamed of it. Queenslanders deserve better than what they got under the former Labor government, the now opposition leader and the now shadow treasurer—members of parliament who endorsed the actions of the CFMEU and presided over a decade of failures.

### Public Transport, Fares

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The member for Mermaid Beach called 50-cent fares a strain on the economy.

**Mr Stevens:** Rubbish!

**Mr MELLISH:** Why should Queenslanders trust this LNP government not to cut the former Miles Labor government's nation-leading 50-cent fares?

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take serious offence at what the shadow minister has said and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, the member has taken personal offence to that part of the question.

**Mr MELLISH:** Mr Speaker, just seeking your clarification: I am quoting directly from the member's newsletter. That is a direct quote that the member has made.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member still has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am happy to withdraw that part of the question.

**Mr Mickelberg:** No, we want the question! We still want the question!

**Mr MELLISH:** Would you like me to restate the question, Mr Speaker?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Mr MELLISH:** Why should Queenslanders trust this LNP government not to cut the former Miles Labor government's nation-leading 50-cent fares?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I think it is the same question we answered just before, but we will have another go for three minutes. The LNP is proud of its commitment to make 50-cent fares permanent, funded through the budget delivering on a promise—promise made, promise kept. The LNP has done more for better public transport in Queensland than the Labor Party could deliver for 10 years, and we think it is an investment in reducing congestion on our road network and saving Queenslanders in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** You would think that the member for Logan would want to hear the answer; they have asked it twice. This is an investment in reducing the pressure on the cost of living for Queenslanders. We recognise that, because of a decade of Labor incompetence and mismanagement, Queenslanders are doing it tough and have been doing it tough for many years. We recognise that family budgets are under pressure and our commitment to make the LNP's 50-cent fares permanent is a recognition of that. It is a recognition that Queenslanders are doing it tough and it is something that we are proud of and I will continue to talk about it every single day, so keep bringing on the questions!

I will tell members what though: if I was the member for Aspley—the former minister—I would not be asking this question. In fact, if I had been offered the shadow portfolio of transport and main roads as the member for Aspley has, having been the former minister, I would have said, 'Thanks but no thanks, mate. My record is so abysmal I cannot defend that period—so abysmal that I will be ashamed every single day I walk into this place.' I would reckon that if you were the member for Aspley then delivering on the upgrade at the level crossing at Beams Road would have been a priority for you. After all, you are the local member, you are the minister responsible and it is a key issue in your electorate. I reckon you would be pretty focused on delivering that particular project. He could not even deliver the upgrade to a level crossing in his own electorate! Is it any wonder that projects like Cross River Rail blew out to \$17 billion under the member for Aspley?

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I hear the member for Everton and minister interjecting about the Linkfield overpass—another example of Labor incompetence writ large, and it is Queenslanders who pay the price. Queenslanders pay the price because those opposite cannot deliver on projects. Queenslanders pay the price because those opposite are more focused on spin and they forget about substance. Those opposite are all about the photo op but they forget about the follow-up, and 50-cent fares is a prime example of that. Those opposite spent more on advertising than they did on making it permanent. They spent \$4 million talking about it and nothing doing it. That tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about the Labor Party. It is simply not up to it.

*(Time expired)*

## Housing and Homelessness

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Can the minister inform the House about the Crisafulli government's delivery of housing support for vulnerable Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any scare campaigns on this issue?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I want to first acknowledge the member for Southport. Anyone who has had a conversation with the member for Southport or even just run into him would know what a passionate advocate he is for affordable housing and social housing in his community and across our great state of Queensland. I want to acknowledge the contributions that he has made over many years from his time in council, and that included his advocacy for a site that we were turning the sod on just last week—a new BHC project in his electorate that will deliver 158 units, including 61 social and 97 affordable homes. This was of course supported by the Housing Investment Fund. It will be a new build—something that the former government could not deliver at all in its term with the HIF.

The member asked me about our support for vulnerable Queenslanders. The last budget delivered by the former and now shadow minister put in a 20 per cent uplift in specialist homelessness service funding that was due to end in June this year. Thanks to the leadership of the now Premier as opposition leader in his budget reply and the visionary minister to my right in a former shadow housing minister, the member for Everton, we committed to lock in that 20 per cent uplift across this entire term if we were elected, and that is exactly what we will be delivering. For too long these organisations have had service agreements with government but not funding agreements to match. They have had workers who have not had their own housing certainty while they are spending every hour of their day helping Queenslanders in difficult situations, helping Queenslanders put a roof over their head.

The former failed now shadow minister keeps pushing around a figure of \$41 million and claims that the LNP is cutting this. You cannot fudge a percentage. We promised 20 per cent; we will deliver 20 per cent. I looked into this \$41 million figure to see where it came from and, to my great surprise, this \$41 million figure that the former failed now shadow minister claims is a cut that was first canvassed publicly by a guy called Steven—by the opposition leader. In September last year—and I will table the *Courier-Mail* article—the then opposition leader said that he would make this \$41 million package permanent if elected: 41—the exact figure that the former failed now shadow minister is pushing.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 18 September 2024, titled 'Labor's tent city rescue' [\[99\]](#).

Why would the member for Gaven be wanting to make the opposition leader look a little silly? It is the internal chaos of the Labor Party on display once again—sending the opposition leader out at the start of the new year to push this figure knowing that it is wrong, knowing that the LNP will deliver this 20 per cent uplift, knowing that we will support these organisations that help vulnerable Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

## Public Transport, Fares

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. The minister has tried and failed to take credit for my 50-cent fares initiative. Would the minister support legislation to actually lock in 50-cent fares forever?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have one minute.


**Mr MICKELBERG:** Fifty-cent fares are permanent under the LNP, but the future of the opposition leader is not. The sharks are circling—the member for Waterford, the member for Gaven. The opposition leader is living on borrowed time.

I cannot claim credit for making 50-cent fares permanent. In fairness, that was the Premier's idea. I am just implementing his intent. The Premier made it very clear to me that we needed to make 50-cent fares permanent within the first 100 days. I took that direction. I went to the Treasurer and I said, 'I need \$1½ billion to make this permanent.' That is a big number, but an investment in Queensland's future. Compare the Premier's course of action to that of the opposition leader—a whole lot of rhetoric, advertising without commitment. They are all about spin. There is no substance there. They are not up to it.

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

## LOCKING IN COST OF LIVING SUPPORT (50 CENT FARES FOREVER) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 for a particular purpose. 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:* Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[100\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[101\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[102\]](#).

I have said it before, but it has always struck me as odd that we used to charge the people who travel the farthest the most for public transport—the same people we want to get off our roads and onto our buses and trains. It is something I thought about a lot on my commute from the north side to university—something that I knew would make a big change in the lives of so many Queenslanders who rely on public transport to get from A to B. That is why introducing 50-cent fares meant so much to me. No matter where you are, your mode of transport or how far you go, you are paying just 50 cents for your trip.

It is a good Labor policy, one rooted in creating equity and opportunity for all. It is a policy so good the LNP have adopted it and are now attempting to claim it as their own. As with everything when it comes to the LNP, they say one thing and do another. This is why it is not good enough to just believe the transport minister when he says that he will make 50-cent fares permanent. It is not good enough to believe there will be money in the upcoming budget when there was not a single cent put towards the initiative in the midyear economic update. It is not good enough to just believe the LNP when they say they will not cut 50-cent fares, because without strong action it is clear 50-cent fares are on the LNP's chopping block.

Today Labor is taking strong action. Today we are acting to lock in 50-cent fares for Queenslanders forever. This bill will guarantee to Queenslanders that public transport fares will never be more than 50 cents. This policy has driven major behavioural change and reduced congestion on our busy roads. Over the first six months of 50-cent fares more than 93.3 million trips have been taken on our buses, trains, ferries and light rail. That is an over 18 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023. Millions more Queenslanders are choosing to leave the car at home and get on board—all because we have broken down the cost barrier. When one looks at that by mode, there has been a massive 42.8 per cent jump in ferry patronage, an 18.6 per cent lift in rail use and a 15.6 per cent increase on our buses. On the Gold Coast, patronage on the tram has increased by 27.6 per cent. It makes one wonder why the LNP would continue to oppose light rail down there. Even in regional Queensland we are seeing about a 20 per cent increase in bus use.

All in all, 50-cent fares have helped to put \$181 million back in the pockets of Queenslanders at a time when households are feeling the crunch. It is a small change delivering a big impact. Do not just take my word for it. In September I met Olivia and Hayden on the train into town from Mango Hill. They were spending the day in the city with their grandad. They all agreed 50-cent fares should be here to stay. On Facebook, Stacey told me that the \$67 per week she is saving on train fares is now going towards weekend outings with her partner—something they struggled to afford before. I recently met Mark at the Golden Gecko in Mackay. He is a local bus driver. Mark said that his passengers are mostly pensioners travelling from Sarina into Mackay and back, and they are now saving up to \$10 a day.

The list continues. Tristan, who I met at a citizenship ceremony last month, told me that Australia is one of the best countries in the world and 50-cent fares came up as a highlight for him. On the first day of our trial, Brendan from Dinmore told me it would save him \$30 a week. Just this week, students at O week at Queensland's unis told me they were saving at least \$20 a week as a result of our policy. It is fitting that the policy I first thought of as a university student is benefiting them the most. Those savings add up when you are on a fixed income and can make a real difference. That is just a sampling of the people I have met and the stories I have heard over the last six months.

It strikes me how significant an impact 50-cent fares have had. From that very first Monday, when I joined thousands of Queenslanders to commute into the city on the train, there was a genuine excitement. For me, it was about fulfilling a decades-long dream to make a real change to public transport fares. For others, I am sure it was about saving money with every tap-on and tap-off.

Queensland has set the bar for a major shift in how public transport operates in Australia and around the world. We had experts from around the world watching intently how the six-month trial went and the behavioural change that would come from it. We also now see other states looking to us for inspiration. I am incredibly proud of that and proud of the hard work of all of the public servants and transport planners who helped to make it the success that it is.

With this bill, 50-cent fares will be secured in perpetuity, making them truly permanent—safe from the Crisafulli LNP government's campaign of cuts. The LNP government have already shown that when they say something it means nothing. This Premier has already backflipped and broken his promises to Queenslanders and it has been only 114 days—114 days of disappointment from a government that seems too busy redesigning signage to do what matters for Queensland. At a time when Queenslanders need a helping hand, their government is seemingly leaving them behind. There has not been a single cost-of-living relief measure from the Crisafulli LNP government; no guarantee that energy rebates will continue, meaning households will be up for an over 200 per cent increase on their power bills; and no commitment to continue the 20 per cent discount on rego or the successful \$200 FairPlay voucher scheme.

It is simply not good enough. Good governments help with the here and now while also mapping a bold vision for the future. I am yet to see that bold vision, which leaves me wondering whether this LNP government even has one or whether we are in for four years of weasel words without any substance. Frankly, Queenslanders deserve more. We already know that big cuts are on the cards to explain away the Treasurer's cooked books. I think I have seen this movie before and I did not like the ending the last time.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MILES:** The ending of the ending, member for McConnell. I want a Queensland where your postcode does not determine your future, a Queensland where your leader's word means something. That is why when I say that Labor is making 50-cent fares permanent, we are doing it to lock in cost-of-living relief and to make public transport fair and affordable for all. If the Crisafulli government truly believed in affordable transport they would stop playing politics, support this bill and enshrine 50-cent fares in Queensland's law. Now comes the true test of this government's word. Will the Premier and his transport minister support Labor's '50-cent fares forever' bill? If not, they must explain to Queenslanders why not. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.10 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.

Before calling the member for Hill, I remind the House of those members who are on a warning until dinnertime. They are the members for Lytton, Bulimba, Pine Rivers, Miller, Waterford, Mudgeeraba, Whitsunday, Currumbin, Algester, Aspley and Cairns.

## CROCODILE CONTROL AND CONSERVATION BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.10 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority and for related matters. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025 [103].

*Tabled paper:* Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025, explanatory notes [104].

*Tabled paper:* Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [105].

The Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill is necessary because North Queenslanders are angry about losing more of our recreational waterways to the increasing crocodile population. The constant threat of attacks, recent deaths and near-death experiences are dramatically affecting North Queensland's outdoor lifestyle. We have not had to worry about the threat of crocodiles in our recreational waterways and beaches until the past two decades. This has happened because back-to-back governments have not had the intestinal fortitude to take action. This is the sixth time I have presented a bill aimed at controlling the crocodile problem and the threat to human life in North Queensland. I will keep presenting bills until the government and departments start to listen to North Queensland voices, take meaningful action to protect human lives over crocodiles and stop using throwaway comments such as 'be croc wise', putting up more crocodile signs and closing beaches as a solution.

Over the past few weeks, the flooding in North Queensland has presented additional issues because of the overpopulation of crocodiles in our waterways. There are reports of crocodiles swimming past front porches and being seen on farming properties and in residential yards as well as on our main roads and highways. When rivers break their banks, crocodiles end up in farming drains, populated waterways, dams and every possible area where there is water.

According to historical data from the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, there were 1,216 saltwater and estuary crocodile sightings reported in 2023 compared to just 176 sightings in the year 2010. In 2017 a study found crocodile related deaths had risen sharply since hunting was outlawed in 1971. The report revealed that there were 10 deaths in the 33 years from 1971 to 2004, which has drastically increased to 14 deaths in only nine years between 2005 and 2014.

In the past 12 months, there have been four fatal crocodile attacks in our northern waters. In April 2024, a 16-year-old boy was horribly taken by a crocodile in the Torres Strait. In August 2024, we heard about the terrible death of a New South Wales doctor who fell into waters near Cooktown, Queensland and was taken by a crocodile. In July 2024, a 12-year-old girl was taken from a remote swimming hole in the Northern Territory, sparking an enormous outcry. In February 2025, an Aurukun elder was snatched by a problem crocodile.

It is gut-wrenching when crocodile deaths occur and I hear insensitive statements such as 'they should have known better; they're in croc country' or 'they should have been croc wise'. Since when did we become so unconcerned about human life? Since when did it become okay to prioritise crocodiles over human life? My office constantly receives reports of near-miss attacks and sightings. Unfortunately, because little to no action is taken by the authorities, the majority of North Queenslanders do not officially report anymore as they know it is a complete waste of time.

There is no denying that the crocodile population has exploded and crocodiles are encroaching more and more into populated waterways, creating an unacceptable risk to human life. Waterways that previously people regularly swam in are now infested with crocodiles. Many people can remember those good old days. I am saddened that the tourist industry is trying to promote our beautiful beaches and waterways, but when tourists arrive all they see are crocodile signs and they are told that if they swim there they could be ripped to pieces. It does not matter how 'croc wise' you are if you are threatened by a crocodile when trying to launch a boat, fish on a river bank or beach, or paddle your kayak at a place where your family has swum without fear all their lives. North Queenslanders want sensible crocodile management to restore the balance between the crocodile population and protecting human life.

As almost 80 per cent of the crocodile population is located in North Queensland, this bill will establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority, which will be based in Cairns with all staff sourced regionally—not from Brisbane, but from the region. The bill will also establish an authority committee to provide recommendations to the authority on a balanced management policy that will take into account the conservation of the crocodile population to ensure that they do not become extinct, commercial opportunities and reducing the threat to human life. It is important to ensure that Queenslanders have the best possible advice on managing the crocodile population—not more poor advice or advice from Brisbane—while protecting Queenslanders and creating a crocodile industry that will financially benefit the state and its landowners for many years to come.

Under the bill, the Queensland Crocodile Authority will be solely responsible for all aspects of crocodile management in Queensland, including: a complete review of the current management zones under the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan to implement a zero-tolerance zone where all crocodiles reported in areas deemed to be populated waters will be killed or moved to an approved

crocodile farm or sanctuary; the development of flexible policies on crocodile management through consultation with different individual Indigenous communities to deliver a specifically designed management program that considers cultural sensitivities; increasing the current allowable egg harvesting limits and overseeing egg harvesting permits with incentives specific to Indigenous communities to encourage egg harvesting enterprises; managing approvals and permits to allow traditional owners to hunt or remove crocodiles on private land, with the landowner's consent; importantly, allowing landowners to contact the Crocodile Authority to ask to have crocodiles immediately removed from their property by an approved person; and conducting controlled annual crocodile removal programs along Queensland's populated east coast to constrain population growth and reduce crocodile numbers in populated areas and waterways.

The bill aims to eliminate from our waterways any crocodile that poses a threat to human life while continuing to protect crocodiles from becoming extinct. As well as protecting human life, the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill aims to create a significant and sustainable crocodile industry in Queensland. This bill will allow tangible economic opportunities to Indigenous landowners to benefit from the fast-growing crocodile industry. I say that again: this bill will allow a tangible economic opportunity to Indigenous landowners to benefit from the fast-growing crocodile industry, which is estimated to be worth more than \$100 million a year in the Northern Territory. Indigenous landowners have a connection with and an understanding of the land. They should be empowered to manage that land as they see fit. The bill will empower Indigenous landowners by placing a value on crocodiles and thereby creating an unprecedented economic opportunity for the landowners. If a crocodile is on their land then they may choose to have it relocated to a farm or a crocodile sanctuary, let it remain on the property or be killed. They may do this themselves by shooting, harpooning or using traditional methods or they may accept payment from a quota of high-end clients who wish to hunt the crocodile.

It is incredible that this wonderful economic opportunity is denied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Last year there were calls from Indigenous landowners in the Northern Territory to be at the forefront of new developments in crocodile management, including allowing a quota of high-end clients to hunt for saltwater crocodiles. I note that in the USA and Canada dangerous animals listed as 'game' include native alligators, various species of bears, bison and mountain lions. Countries in Africa offer safaris to legally hunt native Nile crocodiles. These safaris are offered to licensed hunters for a premium price ranging from a few thousand Australian dollars to more than \$30,000. The hunting of these animals is critically monitored and regulated by legislation and overseen by regulatory bodies. Under this bill, that would fall to the Queensland Crocodile Authority. The heavily regulated hunting industry in other countries helps keep the population of particular animals under control and also provides economic benefits to local economies, including additional funds to undertake on-ground wildlife conservation of endangered flora and fauna. It is pure arrogance for bureaucrats in Brisbane to deny Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the opportunity to manage crocodiles on their land based on their beliefs and the opportunity to generate a return for them and their community.

During consultation, views were expressed that the policy objective of keeping humans safe from crocodiles could be achieved by relocating any problem crocodiles to other locations. However, a joint Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and CSIRO study found that Queensland crocodiles like to stay close to home, with most remaining within 50 kilometres of where they hatched. In fact, in Queensland most crocodile parents and offspring are found within 10 kilometres of each other.

While crocodiles are capable of moving anywhere along Queensland's coastline, the study also showed that most of the estimated 30,000-strong population were in the Far North. Consultation with experts also suggested that crocodiles may become more dangerous once they have been relocated; therefore, crocodiles should only be relocated to crocodile farms, sanctuaries or properly managed reserves. However, consultation also revealed that, because there are so many crocodiles that require removal to keep people safe, it is very unlikely that existing crocodile farms could house them all.

Based on consultation and recent studies, it is clear that the combination of killing and relocating to farms or sanctuaries is the best way to achieve the policy objective. The bill is about prioritising human life in waterways that are heavily used by North Queenslanders. To put it another way, this bill is about prioritising human life, not crocodiles. Until crocodiles are actively removed from all populated waterways, we will be no closer to taking back our waterways. I commend the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.23 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 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

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

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 18 February (see p. 102), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.23 pm): This bill, as we have heard, implements a couple of our new government's election promises by amending the Duties Act to support first home buyers in two ways. First, it provides for full stamp duty relief when purchasing a new home or vacant land on which to build a home rather than the current discounts which may or may not provide full relief. Second, to receive the duty relief you must occupy the property, and cannot rent or dispose of the property, for one year; however, this bill will allow you to rent rooms. This change is welcome as part of both increasing loan capacity and putting extra accommodation into the rental pool, which is desperately needed across Queensland.

The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act to introduce an exemption to payroll tax and the mental health levy for wages paid by medical practices to their general practitioners. This arose from a payroll tax court decision in New South Wales as well as from further guidance from the Queensland Revenue Office specifying that the structures used by GP medical clinics result in payments to GPs being treated as salaries and having payroll tax applied.

The previous government implemented an amnesty until 2025, which was welcomed by my Noosa medicos, and this bill effectively makes it permanent. This change is welcome as it has been reported that the payroll tax would be passed on to patients, which would lead to even more Queenslanders attending emergency and casualty departments due to their inability to afford a visit to the doctor. Both the Australian Medical Association—the AMA—and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners—RACGP—indicated strong support for the change. However, the AMA did argue that the exemption should be extended beyond GPs to specialists as well. The department's response was that this addition is beyond the scope of the bill but, ultimately, it should be looked at going forward as we have so many who need specialist care, including youth requiring mental health care.

The changes to duty relief for first home buyers were supported by all submitters, such as the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia and the Housing Industry Association. However, I raise the broader issues of duty relief and the first home buyers grant. Firstly, we do need affordable housing as, even with this relief, it is still out of the reach of so many. In addition, it is restrictive by not recognising the experiences of women, especially those impacted by domestic and family violence. As the Women's Legal Service of Queensland submitted, DFV is the leading cause of homelessness for women, with 45 per cent of all women and girls seeking housing assistance identifying DFV as a cause. Many of these women have been on a mortgage document; however, the house they buy after fleeing DFV is often their first real home. The legislation should recognise this reality and expand the eligibility criteria. The UDIA stated—

The first home buyer concession is not going to solve the Queensland housing crisis. However, it does have a role to play along with those other land supply, infrastructure and regulatory reforms that are required.




The proposed Productivity Commission review of the building industry should be a good start, with a need to support designs and processes that reduce labour and other costs. However, as I have raised many times, we also need to look at the other barriers to making affordable housing options available, including rent to buy. In the annual Noosa MP survey, that was the most sought after option for those struggling to get into their own home.

We also need to fast-track the targets as they cannot be achieved quickly enough. I think there are literally 43,000 on the waitlist for social and community housing. We also need to create a separate regulatory regime for tiny homes and stop forcing wastewater treatment systems for granny flats and secondary dwellings to be oversized. In addition, we need to collect data on the demand from Queenslanders not eligible for social or community housing and raise the worker income threshold for subsidisation in regions that are unaffordable. They are just some areas to look at.

The challenges remain, and I have every hope that our new government will look beyond what has clearly not worked in the past—this housing crisis grew over three or four decades—to see what has worked globally. As a society, we must do our bit and move beyond viewing homes as something to capitalise on, fund our retirements or use for tourist accommodation. Homes are needed for our families, our workers, our children and our parents but they have become overcommodified.

In areas like Noosa, where we now have approximately 6.5 per cent of our residential homes on short lets—and I am talking about affordable family homes, not big expensive homes—the failings of governments over the last 10 years to act swiftly when this was happening and to address Queensland's retrospectivity laws have contributed to this crisis. All of these issues need to get sorted.

To finish, I thank the committee and secretariat for their work on the inquiry and also thank the submitters who provided feedback. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.29 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House to speak about the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. It amazed me today when I heard those opposite ask what cost-of-living relief the government has provided. Here we are debating this bill just over 100 days after coming into government. We are keeping the promises that we made and that we know will give cost-of-living relief.

It is funny how the opposition always tries to build a narrative around cuts. When it comes to taxes, we cut taxes. They add taxes. We cut taxes. In their 10 years in office I lost count—I do not know whether the Treasurer can help me—

**Mr Janetzki:** It's 18.

**Mr MANDER:** Is it 18; I was going to say 19. Eighteen times they either increased a tax or added a new tax. Is it any wonder that businesses and ordinary Queenslanders suffered under that regime? Unfortunately, today the Treasurer announced the bad news—the bad news he predicted—that now we have a credit rating outlook downgrade—

**Mr Stevens:** Costing Queenslanders more.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. He said it will cost Queenslanders more. That is exactly what will happen. That is what happens with credit downgrades. That is something that we have to try to avoid. I am glad it is this side of politics that is in government now. We regret that situation, but we will do everything possible to make sure that we can stop any downgrade from happening. It is going to be an uphill battle.

Let us get to the specifics of this bill. In my former role as the shadow minister for housing—my colleague the member for Bonney today described me as a visionary; I would not go that far—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** If you insist. One of the things that we were continuing to talk about was the housing crisis we have. As a Queenslander I am quite embarrassed to know that we have the lowest home ownership rate in the country. In the 1970s we had about a 70 per cent home ownership rate and that has now gone down to 63.5 per cent, which is the lowest in the country. We want to make sure that that dream of home ownership is still alive for all Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders, venturing into the housing market and trying to get a permanent place to live. One of the policies we said we would introduce was to give stamp duty relief to people building their first home.

**Mr Stevens:** Particularly for young people.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you. They would not pay one single cent in stamp duty. That is a heck of a start. The modelling suggests that around 3,000 first home buyers per year will benefit from this. One of the practical ways to cut the cost of living is by providing this type of relief. Not only does it do that but also it motivates people to build. One of the problems we have with the housing crisis is that we simply do not have enough houses. We have to be able to increase supply. This will help that as well.

One of the things that I love about this policy—and it is something that does not cost anything—is allowing first home buyers who get the first home buyer concession—

**Mr Stevens:** To rent out a room.

**Mr MANDER:**—to rent out a room. Am I giving this speech or are you giving this speech, member for Mermaid Beach? I know you are giving me good prompts. I appreciate that. You are taking all my good lines.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Do not be so nasty, Grace. You know I am very sensitive. Let me get back to the substance of this debate and talk about allowing people to rent out a room. That has a double benefit. It provides a room for someone to live in in this rental accommodation crisis. The second thing it does is that, when people go to the bank to get a loan for their first home and say, 'We are going to rent out a room to give us extra income,' it puts them in a better position to get the loan. It is very practical. It is low-hanging fruit. It does not cost the state any money.

**Mr McDonald:** It's good government.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. It is simply good government. I commend the Treasurer for that.

The other element of this bill which provides cost-of-living relief is getting rid of Labor's patient tax. They said it was a blow-up. They said it is not real. They said we are making it up. Any time we highlighted a problem—whether it was youth crime, housing or cost of living—the government of the day, the now opposition, would say, 'You are making it up. It is not real.' The AMA did not think we were making it up.

**Mr Stevens:** They said it was an amnesty.

**Mr MANDER:** That is right. The AMA have campaigned rigorously about this. We were on the right side throughout this argument. I heard that one of my medical clinics had a picture of me in the lobby encouraging patients to contact me as their local member to talk about the patient tax. I was a bit concerned because I was worried that they thought I was advocating for it. I got onto the AMA to say, 'You know that we are on your side? You know what is happening here?' They realised they had to communicate better with their medical practitioners because they were targeting the wrong people.

We had to target the then government and, in particular, the then treasurer, who will go down in history as the worst treasurer of Queensland. The tax that these medical clinics were going to have to pay was going to have to be passed on. It was going to lead to the total abolition of bulk-billing. The Treasurer mentioned an example in my electorate, GO2 Health, run by Rod Martin. It is just across the road from my office. It is a visionary project. They specialise in dealing with ex-service people. They have a whole range of allied health services plus direct medical services. He was saying to me, 'Tim, our business is going to grind to a halt if this tax'—there is no other word for it—'is introduced by the state Labor government.' Fortunately, we have come to their rescue. That will not be happening. Preventing any increase in the cost to go to the doctors ensures cost-of-living relief for people. I cannot remember the last time this House has cut taxes.

**Mr Stevens:** Last time we were in.

**Mr MANDER:** Yes, the last time we were in. Some people go back to the abolition of death duties under Sir Joh's government. He was renowned for that. Look what that did for the state. Everybody wanted to move to Queensland. That could possibly happen again. People living interstate could say, 'I want to build my first home in Queensland. I know that I can save 30 or 35 grand straight-up coming to Queensland and getting the stamp duty exemption.' They are the types of things that we need to help the housing crisis. They are the types of things that we need to stimulate construction and to make sure that we have supply. They are the types of things that we need to relieve cost-of-living pressures. I commend the Treasurer for this.

This is another example of following through on the promises that we made. We are doing what we said we would do, what we promised we would do. We are not doing what we said we were not going to do, despite all the scare campaigns. This is a government that keeps its promises. It has been steady and methodical.

**Mr McDonald:** Calm.

**Mr MANDER:** I like that. It is calm. We are a calm government. I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. This calmness will bring about unbelievable results for this state. I am confident that this government will go down as one of the great conservative governments of Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mander, adjourned.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.40 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 53:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—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, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.45 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

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

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Order for Production of Documents



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.46 pm): I move—

That:

1. to provide transparency and restore integrity in corruption reporting in Queensland, the Clerk, as the custodian of all documents in the possession of committees in accordance with section 61 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, is ordered by this House to table in the House as soon as practicable (but by no later than 6.30 pm today) the last versions of the reports, in either draft or final form, the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee received from the Crime and Corruption Commission prior to 13 September 2023, relating to the following two investigations:
  - (a) the report arising from allegations of corrupt conduct by the former Public Trustee of Queensland, Peter Carne;
  - (b) the report arising from allegations of corrupt conduct by the former Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, and her involvement in the appointment of a former Under Treasurer;

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will have no idea what this motion is about if I cannot hear it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—**

2. the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its secretariat are instructed to assist the Clerk in discharging this order;
3. the Clerk is authorised to interrupt proceedings to table the documents in the House; and
4. this House authorises the publication of the documents tabled by the Clerk in accordance with this order, including by electronic means, on the Tabled Papers Database.


Today is a day for transparency. For years Queenslanders have been demanding the release of these two reports. Let me start by saying that those opposite did not care about anything around integrity and transparency when they were in government, but when it came to these two reports they were prepared to move heaven and earth to keep them hidden. Labor's political protection racket for their mates saw them abuse the power of this parliament and take any steps necessary to hide the contents of these two reports. Today, with this important motion, Labor's cover-up comes to an end. This motion will finally allow the sun to shine in, and the public can form their judgements of the former Labor government, as they should have always been allowed to do.

We may not know where those opposite or the Leader of the Opposition stand when it comes to youth crime, but we certainly know where they stand when it comes to cover-ups. Do you know what the Leader of the Opposition does each and every day? He wakes up and thinks, 'What more can I cover up? What can I spin for Queenslanders and what must we hide from Queenslanders?' He leads a party that is obsessed with deception and secrecy. We on this side of the House are about integrity, and that is why we are here today moving this motion.

Let's remember that the Palaszczuk-Miles government shamefully granted Jackie Trad legal assistance to suppress the publication of the CCC report. It was the former attorney-general, the member for Waterford, the wannabe leader of the opposition, who signed off as attorney-general on the taxpayer funded legal assistance for her bestie, Jackie Trad. When did they decide to do that deal? I bet it was when they were skiing down the slopes at Whistler. That is when they did that.

By the way, the luxury ski trip those two made was another undisclosed cover-up. Under pressure from the then opposition, for many weeks Labor refused to answer questions about that Supreme Court action. They were dragged kicking and screaming to allow Queenslanders to know that it was us, the taxpayers, who were paying for Jackie Trad's cover-up. I say to those opposite: shame on you! Jackie Trad's cover-up has cost Queensland taxpayer more than \$300,000. It is abundantly clear that those opposite cannot even spell 'transparency', let alone have an interest in integrity. Queenslanders deserve to know what is in these reports. They deserve to know the extent of corruption under those opposite. They deserve to know the truth, and today they will finally see the truth.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.51 pm): Mr Speaker, I was just waiting for the Labor Party to jump. I gave them the opportunity. When the honourable Attorney-General mentioned the PCCC and Jackie Trad, did honourable members see how fast they ran? My God, they scurried out. No-one ran faster than former attorney-general Fentiman.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The deputy leader is referring to the absence of members in the chamber. There is a well-known convention in relation to that.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I did not talk about their absence; I talked about running in the chamber. I did not talk about any absence; I just said scurrying. They were just running in the chamber.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Be conscious.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. This motion moved by the honourable Attorney-General means a lot to me because I have spent a lot of time on this issue in the last few years. On 22 February exactly three years ago I stood over there and disclosed that a whistleblower advised the opposition that Jackie Trad had gone to the Supreme Court to hide the PCCC report. Three years ago I said—

On 17 November 2021 Mr Michael McKenna, from the *Australian*, wrote an article titled 'Secrecy shroud over watchdog report into Jackie Trad'. The issue reported in that article stemmed from an original LNP complaint to the CCC with respect to the appointment of Mr Frankie Carroll as under treasurer. A whistleblower had contacted the LNP and advised that an independent selection panel was established and recommended Mr Leon Allen for appointment as under treasurer but, as was the case with the principal's selection in South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, as treasurer, personally intervened and Mr Allen did not get the job.

Mr Frankie Carroll was appointed under treasurer. That process was overseen by the Premier's handpicked director-general, Mr Dave Stewart. The *Australian* has reported that the CCC investigation has been completed.

I further said—


I have had it put to me by a number of sources that this investigation has, in fact, been completed by the Crime and Corruption Commission and is ready for tabling in parliament. The only thing stopping the CCC report being tabled in parliament is Jackie Trad. Jackie Trad is so determined to hide the report from the public eye that she has applied to the Supreme Court of Queensland to have the report suppressed from being made public. That court action follows another Labor mate, disgraced former public trustee Peter Carne, applying to the Supreme Court to have the Crime and Corruption Commission report into his conduct—

I made that speech three years ago. For three years the LNP called on the Labor government at the time to let the sun shine in and have the Peter Carne report and the Jackie Trad report made public. At the last election our new Premier, the then opposition leader, promised that if elected Queenslanders would finally see what is in the Jackie Trad report and the Peter Carne report. Tonight we make that election commitment a reality. Tonight we let the sun shine in on two reports that should have been published years ago.

We all know why they were not published. We know why they wanted to keep it secret. Only a few weeks ago there were reports that Jackie Trad is still running the Labor government from the outside. I take the gesticular interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. Jackie Trad is the puppetmaster of the Labor Party. She was the puppetmaster of Shannon Fentiman. They went skiing together. Then she was forced to come in here and apologise. Shannon Fentiman was the attorney-general who gave a legal indemnity. A legal indemnity for a minister of the Crown is fine. If you are under CCC investigation and you need legal assistance, absolutely, we had no problem with that. We confirmed that at the time, but former attorney-general Fentiman went one step further. When Jackie Trad applied to the Supreme Court to have this issue suppressed, hidden and covered up, former attorney-general Fentiman extended that legal assistance to pay for the cover-up. It was a disgrace. Shannon Fentiman and the Labor Party paid for the cover-up of Jackie Trad and we will never let them forget it.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: the taxpayer paid to hide this report, yet it is a CCC investigation. The CCC chair is on record saying the report should be published. They were the government when this report was done. They could have tabled it at any stage. They could have moved a motion in here at any stage, but because of the influence of Jackie Trad and her friendship with former attorney-general Shannon Fentiman they hid it. They covered it up, and the now opposition leader as premier covered it up as well to protect their mate Jackie Trad. This is an exciting motion for me personally because when I raised this issue three years ago I was hounded by the Labor Party: how dare I raise this in this place! I am glad I did. I am glad that today under our new Premier Crisafulli sunshine is finally being let in on the Jackie Trad saga.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.56 pm): As you know, Mr Speaker, I enjoy a bit of debate in this House. I enjoy listening to members opposite and I enjoy responding to them. My great disappointment is that none of them have jumped on this motion today. Not one of them has put their hand up. I take issue with the Deputy Premier saying that no-one has been looking forward to this day more than he has. Well, Deputy Premier, I can tell you that someone has. You have only been doing it for three years; I have been waiting for it for four years. Finally the day of reckoning has arrived for this long, sorry, sad saga of cover-up, obfuscation and waste of taxpayers' money. We said that we would be open and honest and transparent and we said we would release these reports, and today is the day we deliver on our promise yet again.

Members, being in this place carries with it a certain obligation, and that obligation is to face the music. That means facing the music whether you like it or not. You have to stand up and be counted. There are tough days; I have had a few. I have always faced the music. I have always come back into this place and stood up to it, whether in government or opposition. Today we saw the true measure of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge and all of the would-be leaders. When it comes to having the true measure of being a leader in this place you are obliged to stand up and be counted and face the music, and they are not doing that. The other thing about being a leader is being open and transparent. We will see how they vote, because that is the other test today. Do they support openness and transparency or do they continue to support cover-ups? Do they continue to support protection rackets for their mates? Queenslanders want to know whether the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford are up to it. That is the final test Queenslanders need to know about those opposite.


This has been a long, sad and sorry saga. It is a saga of political mates; it is a saga of political cover-up. It started with the former political mate and the former public trustee—a man paid more than \$300,000 a year—being investigated by the CCC because of his actions. Those actions were reported in the *Australian* and they included a number of things that are absolutely reprehensible: allegations in relation to drinking on the job, allegations in relation to misappropriation of funds, allegations with respect to travelling overseas at taxpayers' expense and allegations of actually not disclosing to the then attorney-general, the then member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, what he was doing. A full report was done by the CCC, that report was handed to the PCCC and that report was never allowed to be disclosed, as had been done for the last 26 years by both side of politics.

**Mr Stevens:** What would Tony Fitzgerald say?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Exactly right; I take the interjection. What would Tony Fitzgerald say? That report has never seen the light of day. Then we had the former treasurer, the former member for South Brisbane, and her actions in relation to a similar report. A proper report was undertaken by the independent Crime and Corruption Commission—independently of this place. Many people did not even know it was underway at the time it was being done. That report was prepared and presented but was not able to be released because of the actions of those two people.

Particularly grievous is the fact that taxpayer money was used. Over a million dollars of taxpayer funds was expended on the Carne matter, and over \$300,000 of taxpayer funds was allocated by the member for Waterford, the former member for Inala, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the former member for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath, to fight the Jackie Trad case. This was allocated so that the former treasurer could actually take action. It was not as a defence; it was so she could stop a report that she thought would be embarrassing. It shows you the height of arrogance that permeated the Labor government. They thought they could use taxpayers' funds for the legal purposes of their own mates—not because they had taken a reasonable action in fulfilment of their duty as a minister of the Crown or as a public servant but to protect themselves from embarrassment. Today is the day of reckoning. Today is the day that things come home to roost. Today is the day of truth. Today is the test for the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (5.01 pm): The LNP have wasted much of this parliament's time on this matter. In fact, that has been their record in government to date—wasting this parliament's time. This week has all been about wasting this parliament's time. With this motion that the Attorney-General has moved and with the other motions that have been brought into this House by the government without notice, they have used gutter politics to disguise the reality that they have no real work to do. They have failed to plan to legislate in this parliament.

A few moments ago we saw the Leader of the Opposition do as much work on this side of the House in three weeks as those opposite did in three years when he introduced a private member's bill. They have talked a lot throughout debate of these motions about protecting members, but I think the only member these motions are protecting is the Leader of the House, because he has failed to plan appropriately for their legislative agenda. The Leader of the House can giggle about it all he likes, but the reality is that the government have had to scramble to enable bills to be moved urgently so that they have enough work to do in March and April.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I can understand fully why the member does not want to address the substance of this debate, but please let us be relevant.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Springwood, you have the motion in front of you so speak to the motion, please.

**Mr de BRENNI:** If the LNP were so serious about integrity, they would stop wasting this parliament's time. If they think for a moment that this is what Queenslanders pay them to come and do—to muckrake and get engaged in gutter politics—then they are kidding themselves. All of the contributions from those opposite in the debate on these motions have been completely repetitive.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We had to be repetitive because none of them spoke. I ask that you bring the member back to being relevant and back to the motion before him.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There are a couple of things. Member for Logan, you are not in your allocated seat. Waving your arms about like a football player looking for a penalty will only get you in trouble. Member for Springwood, you have the motion in front of you. I will ask you to speak to the motion.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. As I said, despite hearing the same thing from each of the speakers opposite, the opposition is not going to oppose this motion. In fact, in order to prevent further waste of this parliament's time, I am very tempted to move a closure motion. I know and everybody in this House knows that the government will vote against that closure motion because this motion for them is not about integrity; it is entirely about grandstanding, just like every single other motion they have brought into this House this week. It is entirely about grandstanding. The opposition will not be opposing this motion. The government can continue their grandstanding, their muckraking and their feigned newfound passion for integrity, but ultimately what this government are continually focused on is themselves, not what Queenslanders are focused on.

If in fact the Leader of the House has a planned legislative agenda and they do want to get on with the job of voting for this, it is now up to him. It is the prerogative of him or any other member opposite to move a closure motion. Queenslanders will see whether they are really about moving on and getting on with the job of governing Queensland or whether they want to spend more time on this particular curiosity that they seem so obsessed about.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (5.07 pm): The member for Springwood continues to embarrass himself every time he rises to his feet. Of course he would suggest that they want this debate closed down because nobody there wants to speak about this. He has spoken only through obligation as the Manager of Opposition Business. Some poor mug has to get up and he thought, 'It may as well be me.' They do not want to speak about integrity and transparency, and that was the hallmark of their government over the last 10 years. The Deputy Premier talks about the fact that he has been waiting for three years. The health minister talks about the fact that he has been waiting for four years. I referred this issue about Jackie Trad to the CCC in 2019 when we—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Six years.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the Premier. That is because we had an incredibly credible whistleblower who tipped us off about this selection process that was incredibly suspect. The former deputy premier of this state, Jackie Trad, had a track record with this type of behaviour. We all remember the house that was bought near the Cross River Rail station, an issue which was brought out in estimates.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Can we just halt for a moment. Member for Aspley, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Aspley withdrew from the chamber at 5.08 pm.*

**Mr MANDER:** We all remember the estimates hearings when it was revealed that she referred herself to the CCC. I think we might have got in first on that particular one and then she quickly did a self-referral. Then she said, 'Then I rang up the CCC chair on the Saturday. I rang him up at home, after being referred to the CCC, to let him know he will have my full cooperation.' Please!

**Mrs Frecklington:** I think it was on the Sunday.

**Mr MANDER:** That's right. I think he said he was in his trackie daks doing that. This is the hubris and the arrogance of the former member that she felt she could personally ring the CCC chair about her own referral. That was the first one. The second involved the principal of West End State School where again somebody tipped us off, somebody who—

**Mr O'Connor:** A whistleblower.

**Mr MANDER:** A whistleblower, thank you. I know a lot about whistleblowers. Somebody tipped us off that a successful applicant had been appointed. Guess what? They decided then that it would be appropriate for the successful applicant to meet, some might say be re-interviewed, by the local member. Guess what? That person did not go through. Somebody else made it. Who was that local member? The local member was the former deputy premier. This is the arrogance that the former government had, thinking they could get away with anything. Of course, we have the matter that we are talking about at the moment which was the appointment of the under treasurer. Again somebody let us

know. Good people in the government, good public servants who were sick of what they were seeing, let us know that there had been sneaky business once again. For the last few years, as my colleagues have previously mentioned, those opposite have done everything possible to suppress the truth.

**Mr Crandon:** Including blocking debate.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Coomera. They have done everything possible to stop the facts being revealed, but today that stops. Today that stops so that the parliament itself, the supreme body that acts for the people of Queensland, can know the findings of that CCC hearing.

**Mr Minnikin:** Let the sunlight in.

**Mr MANDER:** Let the sunlight in—I will take that interjection. As I think the health minister said, and I agree with it, the roosters are finally coming home to roost. They are coming home to roost, not just with this issue—

**A government member:** Chickens.

**Mr MANDER:** Is it chickens, is it? I always get them mixed up.


**Mr O'Connor:** It is very similar.

**Mr MANDER:** Most roosters start as chickens. Do they not roost? Whatever.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** He was the ag minister then. You should ask him. Can primary industries give an answer on that?

**Mr MANDER:** Today we are going to find out the truth. This is a great motion, and it is about time the former government was brought to account.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.12 pm): I have been out of the Attorney-General space for a number of years now, but—

**Mr Bleijie:** You're not going to take the credit, are you?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am, Deputy Premier, because it was five years ago, when I was shadow attorney-general, as I recall, that this issue first came to light. One thing that we on this side of the House always remember from opposition was the constant moral sanctimony from those opposite. They were always sanctimonious, taking the high moral ground and lecturing our side of the House about transparency and integrity. Now we are seeing their opportunity to end the obfuscation, end the delays. End it here tonight and vote for this motion.

I have never seen an opposition leader, a shadow treasurer and a deputy leader scurry out of the House as quickly as we saw tonight. I have never seen it. Out of there! Absolutely out the door. It is all for Jackie—on the phone, straight to Jackie, absolutely doing the bidding of a former treasurer of Queensland, Jackie Trad. They are absolutely doing her bidding. I look forward to seeing those opposite try to take the high moral ground. Let's see how they vote tonight. We have already seen a failure of leadership from the three most senior figures in the opposition, and we wait to see how they will vote.

What we are doing here tonight is simply keeping an election promise. Promises made, promises kept, and this is a promise that we are keeping here tonight. These are the most serious allegations that we want to find out more about from the reports. In regards to the former public trustee, there are allegations in relation to being intoxicated at work and bullying. The then attorney-general, Yvette D'Ath, issued a show cause notice, and he actually stood down in 2020. We are looking forward to hearing more about the allegations made.

The taxpayer has paid \$300,000 not just in an indemnity to Jackie Trad but on the offensive—not just in the defence but on the offensive. The taxpayer has paid a million dollars with respect to the allegations against the former public trustee. Tonight is about returning transparency to how Queensland's taxpayer dollars are spent. More than anything, it is a test of leadership for the Leader of the Opposition. Will he have the courage to face up or will he scurry away like he did before?

*(Time expired)*

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.




## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 139, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.15 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, legislation that further delivers on key commitments made by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. Introduced on 12 December 2024 by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, this legislation implements revenue related commitments made during the 2024 state election, those being: firstly, abolishing stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers; secondly, removing the restriction on homebuyers renting out a room within the first year of occupation without losing their concessions; and, thirdly, axing Labor's patients tax.

I will firstly address the measures contained within this legislation pertaining to home ownership. This legislation takes decisive action to address the decline in home ownership in Queensland and represents a cornerstone element of our government's commitment to restoring the great Australian dream of home ownership for all Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders who have been locked out of the market after a decade of neglect by Labor.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you need to be careful or you will be on the list.

**Dr ROWAN:** It is very clear that those members opposite, including the member for McConnel, do not understand their decade of failure. Under the previous Labor state government, Queensland had the lowest proportion of first home buyers of any mainland state. Not only that, Queensland had more people between the ages of 25 and 39 renting than in home ownership. This unenviable title, earned under successive Labor governments, is extraordinary. Queensland was once a state that had proudly been a place of opportunity and growth, and yet it was left to languish at the bottom of the home ownership ladder under Labor.

The facts are undeniable. Today, just 63.5 per cent of Queenslanders own their own home. For younger Queenslanders, the situation is even worse: only 35 per cent of those aged between 25 and 39 are home owners, compared to 70 per cent back in 1971. This is not just a statistical drop; it represents the thousands of young Queenslanders who feel shut out and who feel that they will never have the security of owning their own home. We know that almost two-thirds of young Queenslanders want to buy a home but only 47 per cent believe they will ever be able to afford one.

Labor's failures have had real consequences. The length of the average tenancy has increased from 13 months in 2012 to 21 months today. More young Queenslanders are renting rather than purchasing their own home, and the proportion of first home buyers in Queensland is the lowest of any mainland state. These statistics tell a clear story. Labor left Queenslanders behind when it came to home ownership.

All that being said, there is hope and, under the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government, there will be positive change. The Crisafulli LNP state government is proudly a government of home ownership. This legislation is a critical step in delivering on our commitment to give young Queenslanders a real shot at owning their first home.

As the Premier and the Treasurer have both clearly outlined to Queensland, the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is determined to reverse the decline in home ownership and ensure Queensland leads the nation in home ownership by 2034. That is why our Premier has appointed Queensland's first ever Minister for Home Ownership. This is in stark contrast to the former Labor government, which barely mentioned home ownership.

Specifically examining the provisions of this legislation, most significantly this legislation will amend the Duties Act to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home from 1 May 2025. This will include vacant land where the first home buyer intends to build their own home. For a first home valued at \$850,000, this will save Queenslanders more than \$24,000. That is a real and meaningful saving for Queenslanders looking to enter the property market. By removing this significant financial barrier, the Liberal National Party state government is making home ownership more accessible whilst stimulating demand for new homes—creating jobs and driving economic growth and development.

This legislation also amends the Duties Act to allow first home buyers to rent out part of their property within the first year of occupation without losing their stamp duty concessions. Previously, new home owners were forced to forgo concessions if they rented out even a single room. This outdated rule was stopping young people from making home ownership more affordable through rental income. We know that having a flatmate can help with mortgage repayments and improve borrowing power. There are around 20,000 first home buyers each year in Queensland, as well as thousands of owner-occupiers, who could benefit from being able to rent out a room. This measure not only helps homebuyers but also alleviates rental market pressures by increasing available rental stock.

These are commonsense reforms and they are backed by industry experts including the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, the Housing Industry Association and the Strata Community Association. Housing experts agree: this legislation is the right move for Queensland and is giving Queensland a fresh start. By abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers and allowing them to rent out a room without penalty, we are giving young Queenslanders the boost that they need to enter the property market.

While Labor will attempt to undermine this legislation with baseless attacks, the truth of the matter is that Labor's class-war rhetoric only makes them sound more and more like the Greens political party. This bill is about restoring home ownership in Queensland. After a decade of Labor failure, the LNP state government is taking action to make home ownership more accessible and affordable for young Queenslanders. I repeat: after a decade of Labor failure, the Crisafulli LNP state government is taking action and is making home ownership more accessible and affordable.

In my remaining time, I wish to address the LNP's delivery on our commitment to axe Labor's patients tax. In doing so, can I from the outset declare, as per my register of interests, that I am a registered medical specialist with declared memberships of professional medical associations. Labor's patients tax unfairly targeted local GPs, threatened the future of bulk-billing and placed yet another burden on families already struggling with cost-of-living pressures. As the Treasurer has clearly articulated, right from the very beginning the LNP stood firmly against Labor's tax. In fact, when the LNP first raised this in the Queensland parliament Labor's response, as always, was one of denial, refusal and inaction.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear the member for McConnel interjecting again, but there has been denial, refusal and inaction by the former Labor government. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners called the tax 'illogical'. The Australian Medical Association of Queensland warned that it would be 'the end of bulk-billing'. The Labor Party did not want to listen to professional associations or professional colleges and bodies. Doctors told us that after-hours clinics would be forced to cut back their services, pushing more and more people into our already overcrowded and under-resourced emergency departments, but Labor would not listen. Again, it was a staggering failure by the Labor government to not listen to those frontline health professionals and workers delivering primary care services.

Despite all this, Labor dismissed the concerns of GPs around Queensland, with their now shadow health minister arrogantly calling such concerns a 'beat-up'. Even when Labor eventually tried to backtrack, their so-called fix was just another temporary bandaid solution. Their so-called amnesty on payroll tax was set to expire in June this year, leaving general practitioners and their patients in limbo, still uncertain about their future. The former Labor government was abandoning patients, abandoning general practitioners and abandoning primary care here in Queensland. Queenslanders deserve better, and that is why they voted for the Liberal National Party in October last year.

The Liberal National Party made a promise to Queenslanders and today we are delivering. This legislation will abolish Labor's patients tax once and for all. By exempting GP wages from payroll tax and the mental health levy, we are ensuring Queenslanders can access affordable health care without the threat of rising fees or reduced GP services. Within our first 100 days we instructed Treasury to begin work on this reform, and that promise has been kept. The amendments in this legislation provide certainty for our medical professionals, and the medical community stands firmly behind the LNP's reform agenda with respect to this issue. In fact, as Dr Cath Hester, Queensland Chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and founder and owner of the terrific Colleges Crossing Family Practice in the electorate of Moggill, stated—

As Australia's peak body for general practitioners and GP training, the RACGP has long advocated for this tax to be abolished, and I'm thrilled the Crisafulli government has instructed Treasury to do so.

She continues—

This will help to ensure essential GP care stays affordable for Queenslanders, and practices can remain viable and keep their doors open for patients.

...


Queensland is leading Australia in abolishing this tax on patients, and I applaud the Crisafulli Government for its proposed amendments to this Bill ...

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Again I hear members opposite interjecting. They will not listen to frontline health professionals—our frontline general practitioners, those who are standing up for patients in our community and those who are standing up for primary care—providing essential services. That is why they sit in opposition—because they were not listening to Queenslanders. In fact, they had abandoned Queenslanders over the last 10 years, with multiple failures across the board but, most importantly, in health care. We have seen the shambles they have left the health system in Queensland. If they had had their way, they would have destroyed primary care and general practitioner services in Queensland.

Today, the LNP state government is proudly delivering on our promise to ensure more Queenslanders have a place to call their own and that every Queenslander can access the health care they deserve. We are abolishing Labor's patients tax. I commend the bill to the House.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.26 pm): I must declare that I am not a registered medical professional—unlike the previous speaker—but I can diagnose someone who is not telling the truth to this parliament just as easily as anyone else. The good doctor is misleading the House in saying that we did not listen to GPs because we made it absolutely clear when we were the first in the country to put in place the amnesty—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** This is an interesting interjection; I will get to it. I will come to a press release from the RACGP that says we were the first to actually put that in place. When we put that in place, the RACGP 'applauded the Queensland government for acting to help keep essential general practice care affordable'. He did not quote that press release! It said the RACGP applauded the government's decision on this ruling—the ruling that those opposite at that point wanted to eradicate. The press release went on to say—

RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Bruce Willett thanked the Queensland Government for listening to GPs.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind everybody on a warning that they are still on a warning.

**Mr POWER:** I repeat—

RACGP Queensland Chair Dr Bruce Willett thanked the Queensland government for listening to GPs.

We understand that during a campaign campaigners might want to mislead the people of Queensland—cynically. We also understand that they wanted to put forward a talking head who was a doctor but who was willing to mislead the people of Queensland and go against these press releases from their own professional bodies. They were willing to do that to get votes—cynically. What is disappointing is that they have come back into this place and continued to mislead the people of Queensland when it is absolutely on the record that it was the opposite. We put the amnesty in place. We looked for mechanisms to get rid of this. We then said that we would find any other mechanism, including supporting this motion or a motion like it. We are clearly on the record. Those opposite can recognise that they misled people and that the professional bodies of the GPs said the exact opposite at the time—the good doctor knows this but he is willing to, once again, mislead Queenslanders—

**Dr ROWAN:** I take personal offence and I ask the member for Logan to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWER:** I withdraw. It is very important that we put the truth of this press release on the record. There is only one GP tax that has ever been put forward in Australia and that was Peter Dutton's GP tax. What did he do? He asked for a \$7 co-payment to be paid to the government—a GP tax on bulk-billing, a GP tax directly on each person who went to the doctor. What did those opposite do when Peter Dutton put forward the GP tax, the real GP tax, not this fake one that is misleading the people of Queensland? What did they do? There was absolute silence. For seven years after that, Peter Dutton

put on a GP tax by stealth by freezing GP payments, effectively forcing bulk-billing out of the system. One person has put forward a GP tax on the people of Queensland: Peter Dutton. Those opposite absolutely know this. If anyone has any doubts, they should come and get the press releases from the AMA and the Royal College of General Practitioners from that time to see the facts.

Debate, on motion of Mr Power, adjourned.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the member for Murrumba, I remind the House of those on the warning list. They are the members for Lytton, Bulimba, Pine Rivers, Miller, Waterford, Mudgeeraba, Whitsunday, Currumbin, Algester, Aspley and Cairns. That still stands and will continue until after the dinner break.

## MOTION

### Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line



**Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.31 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes that the LNP promised Direct Sunshine Coast Rail with LNP Deputy Leader Bleijie stating in September 2024: 'it has to be Maroochydore and it has to be Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games'.
2. notes the LNP's promise of Direct Sunshine Coast Rail is already coming off the rails, with the LNP softening Queenslanders up to cut this important rail project, with LNP Deputy Leader Bleijie indicating the 'government would look at alternatives'.
3. notes that the LNP member for Caloundra is reported saying 'the LNP remained committed to the fully funded \$5.5 billion Stage 1 to Caloundra', with no mention of the rail line to Maroochydore.
4. notes that in September 2024 an LNP media release featuring an image of the member for Caloundra stated: 'only the LNP will end the Caloundra car park with a congestion-busting traffic plan and delivering Sunshine Coast Heavy Passenger Rail all the way to Maroochydore'.
5. condemns the LNP member for Caloundra for their inability to advocate effectively for their community to ensure that the rail line continues, as promised by the LNP, to Maroochydore to end the 'Caloundra car park' that the LNP member for Caloundra promised to do and is failing to deliver.
6. condemns the LNP Crisafulli government for their 'rail betrayal'.

Queenslanders are quickly realising that the word of the Crisafulli LNP government stands for nothing and I reckon the people of the Sunshine Coast are clueing on to that quicker than most. In a shameless attempt to win votes, those opposite promised more than 40 times that heavy rail would be built to Maroochydore by 2032. I can only imagine the Premier is regretting that social media post where he boldly declared that under the LNP a rail line would be built to Maroochydore 'no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts'. The Premier even said—

Only the LNP will build Sunshine Coast Heavy ... Rail all the way to Maroochydore.

and—

Make no mistake, we're committed to making it go all the way through to the Maroochydore CBD by the 2032 Games.

The Deputy Premier backed this promise in, stating—

Everybody knows this is achievable.

The promise of this rail line helped the LNP secure seats on the Sunshine Coast but 'Backflip Bleijie' has derailed these plans.

**Mr Bleijie:** Mr Speaker, correct titles.

**Mr MILES:** The member for Kawana has derailed these plans. This move has taken the Sunshine Coast direct line from a done deal to a rail betrayal and today we learnt that this happened as—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the earlier comments used and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw. Today we discovered that this backflip occurred after the member for Kawana was briefed by TMR that the rail line would affect a property he owned. He has a clear conflict of interest when it comes to this project. He is walking away—

**Mr Mickelberg:** How about what Jackie Trad did, buying a property?

**Mr MILES:** It does resemble those actions.

**Mr Mickelberg:** The CCC just reported on it.

**Mr MILES:** It does resemble those actions.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The opposition leader just said the actions resemble the corrupt activities of Jackie Trad. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw. I will deal with it when I get up to speak in five minutes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence.

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw. The member for Kawana has retained a decision-making role that will have a material effect on a property he owns. It is the clearest conflict of interest I can imagine and he should recuse himself from all such decision-making. He says he has a conflict of interest management plan. The people of the Sunshine Coast deserve to know what that conflict of interest management plan is.

**Mr Dick:** Table it.

**Mr MILES:** Table it. What is in that conflict of interest management plan? How can he possibly manage a conflict so large with a project that he has been briefed would require his home to be resumed and immediately after—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs.

**Mr Bleijie:** How do you know that?

**Mr MILES:** From your statement of interest.

**Mr Bleijie:** Because I tabled it, didn't I? You know it because I disclosed it.

**Mr MILES:** How can you retain a decision-making role—

**Mr Bleijie:** You know it because I disclosed it, not like your mate Jackie Trad.

**Mr MILES:** Disclosing is insufficient, member for Kawana.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana.

**Mr Bleijie:** I disclosed it, not like your mate Jackie Trad.

**Mr MILES:** You did not disclose it before the election when you were still—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, cease your interjections.

**Mr MILES:** The member for Kawana did not disclose his conflict before the election when he was carrying out that con on the people of the Sunshine Coast. He should recuse himself from all decision-making.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I ask him to withdraw. It has been publicly disclosed in this House, in this chamber, on a number of occasions. This is desperate and disgraceful and I ask him to withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** People who are on the speaking list are going to be leaving the chamber if they are not very careful. That was not personal offence. If you take exception to that, you know there are ways you can deal with that. You can write to me. I do not think the—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I took personal offence.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To what part?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** To the fact that he said I never disclosed this matter. I have taken personal offence because it is not true and I am asking him to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on. I will just take some advice on this. Amongst all the noise I did not hear it. You did name the member and he has taken personal offence. I ask you—

**Mr MILES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker, and I clarify that the impact of the project on his property was never disclosed at any point in time. The people of the Sunshine Coast voted without knowing that and now the member for Kawana is trying to abandon that really important project for the Sunshine Coast. Fortunately, LNP members of the federal parliament are standing up to him. Ted O'Brien and Andrew Wallace have both said this project should continue. The Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Rosanna Natoli, said that her community needs and deserves this infrastructure and that is what we must not forget in any of this.

Strangely quiet is that person who ran in the election as a strong voice for Caloundra. The member for Caloundra has not disagreed with her Deputy Premier, has not raised concerns about his conflict, has not called on her government to deliver what was the No. 1 promise made to the people of the Sunshine Coast 'no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts', a train line to Maroochydore.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.38 pm): I move—

That all words after 'this House' be deleted and replaced with the following:

1. reaffirms the LNP government's commitment to Sunshine Coast Direct Rail is clear and as strong as it ever has been.
2. notes the LNP government's commitment to delivering our \$400 million Caloundra congestion-busting plan.
3. notes the failure of the Palaszczuk and Miles governments to build direct rail to Maroochydore in the 10 years they were in government.
4. notes the Palaszczuk and Miles governments' failure to support the residents of the Sunshine Coast for the 10 years they were in government.
5. notes the Palaszczuk and Miles governments' pre-election commitment to only build rail to Caloundra, turning Caloundra into a bigger car park.
6. notes the federal Labor government's removal of future stages of Sunshine Coast Direct Rail from the Infrastructure Priority List.
7. notes the opposition leader has chosen to back his Canberra Labor mates rather than fighting for Queensland infrastructure.
8. notes the former Beattie Labor government's commitment in 2005 to build rail to Maroochydore by 2020.'

You would have to have been living under a rock if you did not think I was one of the biggest supporters of Sunshine Coast rail. It has been on the plans for 30 years for the Sunshine Coast. It was meant to be delivered by the Labor government in 2020. I find it quite odd that the opposition leader would stand in here and make his disgraceful accusations—the Labor Party always goes to the gutter; that is what it does—yet the opposition leader spent seven years protecting Jackie Trad, who bought a property knowing where the rail was going to go. He protected that and he thought that was okay. Well, I am no Jackie Trad, and I am proud of that. That is why, if those opposite want to talk about conflict, I have mentioned it a hundred times in this parliament. That is why I got Integrity Commissioner advice. That is why I have a conflict management plan. That is why I have not only mentioned it in this parliament when we have debated Sunshine Coast rail; I have also put it in my pecuniary interests register. The only reason the opposition leader knows about it is that I have publicly disclosed it.

**A government member:** Stop hiding!


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection: stop being so transparent! Yet Jackie Trad, as the then minister for Cross River Rail, bought an investment property and realigned the rail. I am 43 years of age. The Sunshine Coast rail has been on the agenda for 30 years. The alignment has not changed. I was in school. My goodness gracious! I am the biggest advocate, and here is what the Integrity Commissioner said—that is, I, as the member for Kawana, should continue to be an advocate.

Here is the other thing: it was the Labor government that wrote to me saying that my property was materially impacted. It was the Labor government under TMR, not the LNP government. As soon as I found out, I disclosed it. I did everything that a member of parliament ought to do in this situation. I put it all on the record and put it all in the public domain and nothing—not even the grubby Labor attacks—will stop me fighting for this rail to Maroochydore by 2032, because I have been banging on about this since I was at school.

It has been promised time and time again. The Labor Party had 10 years to deliver it. It was in power for 30 out of 35 years and all it did on the eve of the election was say, 'We're going to take it to Caloundra.' I have lived in Caloundra most of my life. The member for Caloundra has too. We know the bottleneck. We know the congestion. The Labor Party's policy will create an even bigger car park in Caloundra. That is why we not only need the best public transport solution to Maroochydore by the 2032 games; we also have to invest in roads, and that is why we are investing \$400 million into a Caloundra Road congestion-busting policy.

Unlike the Labor Party, we will stick up for the Sunshine Coast and we will fight for the interests of the Sunshine Coast community. I am not going to be distracted by the grubby, dirty tactics of the Labor Party considering that I have done everything pursuant to the advice I have received from the Clerk and the Integrity Commissioner. I will put my integrity over Jackie Trad and this fellow any day of the week.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.42 pm): For almost 16 years now the member for Kawana has been coming into this House dumping buckets of sleaze on members of this House, yet as soon as someone says something about the member for Kawana he goes to water. He demands retractions. This is a man who trawls in sleaze in this parliament and then when someone says something about him he goes to water—as weak as anything!

It is no surprise that the Deputy Premier of this state was so agitated in his comments and his address to the parliament tonight, because on direct Sunshine Coast rail the Deputy Premier is hopelessly compromised. He is hopelessly compromised by a personal conflict of interest and it is only because of the steps the Australian Labor Party took that he was forced to declare his conflict of interest. This Deputy Premier, this Minister for Infrastructure, should have absolutely nothing to do with direct Sunshine Coast rail. He should have absolutely nothing to do with any decision dealing with the direct Sunshine Coast rail and he should have recused himself from this debate. Instead, he is desperately trying to hide his conflict of interest. The people of the Sunshine Coast know what he is doing.

If it is that this man has no conflict, he should bring the documents into the House—table them for the world to see—but he has been hiding, and now he hides behind an LNP front group involving people like the former LNP member on the Sunshine Coast, Peter Slipper, to try to say that the rail line should not be built. This is an absolute disgrace by the member for Kawana. He is a disgrace. He has no shame at all when he attacks other members of parliament regardless of their personal circumstances or situation, but when it comes to himself there is always another standard. There is always a different standard.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I hear him interjecting tonight, because there is one thing that the member for Kawana does not like, and that is truth. Imagine the Premier sitting in the chamber tonight having to listen to his deputy trying to desperately defend himself. I would have thought the Premier would have better things to do with himself, but because he has no agenda—because there is nothing for his government to do, because there is no-one for him to meet—he sits in the chamber mute and absurd, because that is the sort of leader we have in this state.

What do we know about this direct rail line? Time and time again the LNP promised to build it—no ifs, no buts, no short cuts. That is what the member for Kawana said; that is what the Premier said over and over—promises made to the people of the Sunshine Coast that were complete, that were absolute and that were unconditional. They never said anything about the federal government. They never said anything about additional funding. They said, 'We will build this rail line to Maroochydore by 2032,' and there were all of those Sunshine Coast members buying into it. Who was the No. 1 beneficiary of that? It was the member for Caloundra—the same member for Caloundra who under false pretences went to the community saying that the rail line would be built, and at the first opportunity the Deputy Premier backed away. As reported in the *Courier-Mail*, 'Deputy Premier ... Jarrod Bleijie had sensationally walked back the government's commitment to finish the Sunshine Coast Rail through to Maroochydore by 2032.' It comes after a submission made by that dodgy LNP front group to try and explain why it is walking away from this promise. Millions of dollars were spent on a business case that said that you need to build this in stages.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.


**Mr DICK:** We have heard enough from you, member for Buderim. You are part of the con job that is happening on the Sunshine Coast as well. You are the one—the transport minister—who absolutely conned the Sunshine Coast and now you are pretending otherwise. It is all right to come and bully others, member for Buderim, but you will not bully me, I can tell you that. You will not bully me because of the false promises you made to the Sunshine Coast.

I will tell members what we are going to do as a Labor opposition: we are going to keep this shonky, sham-ridden LNP government to account. We are going to keep it to account for every single promise it made on the Sunshine Coast. We are going to hold it to account because every day it seeks to slip and slide out of the promises that it made. It is a complete sham and we are not going to let it get away with it.

Interruption.

## ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

### Return to Order

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, pursuant to the order of the House, I produce and table a document titled *An investigation into allegations relating to the former Public Trustee of Queensland: investigation report: October 2020* and a document titled *A report concerning an investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of the Under Treasurer*.


*Tabled paper:* Document, dated October 2020, titled 'Crime and Corruption Commission: An investigation into allegations relating to the former Public Trustee of Queensland' [\[106\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated May 2021, titled 'Crime and Corruption Commission: A report concerning an investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of the Under Treasurer' [\[107\]](#).

## MOTION

### Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

Resumed.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to not only support the amended motion but also thank the member for Woodridge for pointing out multiple times today that, yes, I am the member for Caloundra and explain to him through this House that that is because I am the one who listened to the people of Caloundra when the opposition did not. It is my advocacy that I would suggest is the reason the former government even knows that Caloundra is an electorate in this House. We all know that for 30 years there has not been investment into Caloundra. I am honoured and privileged to show the other side of this House that there is an electorate called Caloundra and that it has missed out.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gladstone, I was on my feet. You are warned.

**Ms MORTON:** I find it astonishing that there are two Labor members that had the time today to go all the way to Caloundra, possibly for the first time in a very long time, just to spread more of their scare campaigns around my electorate and around Queensland. The last time they ran a scare campaign the people of Queensland did not listen. That should serve as a reminder to the former government.

Here are some truths—this side of the House is good at telling the truth: the former member for Caloundra did not support the Sunshine Coast Council in delivering the Caloundra transport corridor upgrade, a crucial road that provides an alternate access route into Caloundra. The former government did not support that road, a significant road project that has a direct impact on the issue of congestion in Caloundra. Here is another truth: throughout the entire state campaign they did not mention Caloundra Road. What is the No. 1 issue for my electorate? It is Caloundra Road. Why did they not mention it? Maybe it is because they did not know that that was the No. 1 issue for our electorate because they did not listen and they did not ask. The reason why I have the privilege and honour of standing here to represent the people of Caloundra today is because I doorknocked on 10,000 doors so I know that the No. 1 issue is Caloundra Road. My team made 17,000 phone calls. Those opposite did not know because they did not listen.


Here is another truth: the federal Labor government has dropped the Sunshine Coast direct rail project from Infrastructure Australia's priority list. What I would like to know is why the member for Aspley and the member for Morayfield are not calling out their federal counterparts. Why are they driving



to Caloundra in the middle of a sitting week instead of calling out their federal counterparts? Labor governments have been playing politics with Caloundra and with the Sunshine Coast direct rail for 30 years. The people of Caloundra, the people of the Sunshine Coast and the people of Queensland do not believe it anymore. We have tasked GIICA with undertaking a review. We are sensible, we are calm and we are not running scare campaigns for the people of Queensland. We are not fighting each other, we are not running from the chamber and we are not running scare campaigns that the people of Caloundra are not listening to anymore. They know it is about rail, roads, public transport and getting around, because our population has continued to explode with absolutely no investment in over 30 years from the former government. It is unacceptable. The people of Caloundra do not accept it either. I will continue to fight for Caloundra. I will continue to be a voice for Caloundra and—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, when your time has expired you resume your seat. You are only new here, but that is the rule.

 **Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (5.54 pm): It was interesting hearing the member for Caloundra say for 32 years nothing was done in her neck of the woods. Can I remind her that Labor was only in government for four years. For 28 years there was Joan Sheldon and Mark McArdle. The last time I looked they were in the LNP and delivered absolutely nothing, so why a blight on those members? We were only there for four years and we delivered more for the Sunshine Coast than both those members put together.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are joining the list. You are warned.

**Ms GRACE:** Those opposite do not like to hear the truth. They mix it all up but they do not like it. Can I also remind the member for Caloundra that GIICA did not go to the election. GIICA was not standing up in front of people saying, 'We are going to build the Sunshine Coast rail line; not to Caloundra but we are going to build it to Maroochydore by 2032.' GIICA was not standing beside the member for Kawana when he did not declare his conflict of interest. I say to the member for Kawana, if the Integrity Commissioner gave him advice then table that advice in the House. If he is meeting that advice, table it in the House right now. I dare him to get that advice and put it in the House. We know that when they stood up GIICA did not stand up. 'How was GIICA appointed, Deputy Premier?' he was asked. 'I researched them. I rang them. I appointed them.' They are not exactly independent. You talk about—how long ago was Jackie Trad in this House?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, please use correct titles. There is to be no 'you' in the House.

**Ms GRACE:** Sorry. How long has it been since Jackie Trad has been in this House? About 15, 16 years? Those opposite are totally obsessed about her pulling strings, yet they appoint a body that is supposed to come out with all the recommendations about where we are going. They were hand-picked, researched and appointed and they are trying to tell us that they are independent. They are puppets. The strings of those opposite are all over it.


Today is another day where those opposite are embarking upon gutter politics exactly as they did in the Campbell Newman years. How could we expect anything different. Most of them over there were around the cabinet table at that time. A leopard does not change its spots. How could we expect any better behaviour from those who were there at the time of Campbell Newman? We saw his fate and I am predicting the same fate for those opposite. They are not just content with the fastest back-peddalling I have ever seen. I do not care what they say over there—the whingy, whiny, weasel words that are coming from the members of the Sunshine Coast—you can fool some people some of the time, but you cannot fool any of us any of the time. If those opposite are going to build this, detail the business case. Put the money in the budget. Add 30 years of maintenance to the cost. I dare those opposite to add the maintenance costs. Add the buffers that are going to be needed to build it.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Ms GRACE:** Those opposite come into this House misleading the people of Queensland: no ifs, no buts, no short cuts. What is the member for Kawana doing? Nothing! What is the member for Maroochydore doing? Nothing! What is the member for Ninderry doing? Nothing! What is the member for Glass House doing? Nothing! Even the transport minister, the member for Buderim, is back-peddalling quicker than I think I have ever seen him walk around this place. They are all sitting around the cabinet

table. The poor member for Caloundra has been hung out to dry. She is there saying, 'No, we are standing by our commitment.' Let us back her up. Come in here tonight right now in this motion and say unequivocally you are building that rail line to Maroochydore by 2032, fully funded, no ifs, no buts, no short cuts, and we are going to add 30 years of maintenance to the cost as well: the money is on the table. We put ours on the table. The feds have put theirs on the table. Do the right thing, meet your election commitment and stop the weasel words.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.59 pm): Under Labor, the Sunshine Coast misses out. It does not matter what term we look at, whether it is the Beattie government, the Bligh government, the Palaszczuk government or the Miles government: under Labor, the Sunshine Coast misses out. Those opposite have come in here to try to run another pathetic and insipid scare campaign with no basis in fact and no substance, just as we saw with their pathetic, grubby tactics at the election.

The reason Kendall Morton is the member for Caloundra is that Jason Hunt abandoned his community. Jason Hunt took his riding orders from the Labor Party leadership and abandoned his community. I contrast that with Kendall Morton, the now member for Caloundra, who is a person committed to her community. She is a person who, I might say, did not seek political office for gain; she was dragged here because she is a community champion who cares about Caloundra. She is a fearless advocate for Caloundra and she is already delivering more for Caloundra than Jason Hunt ever did.

Let us look at some facts. In 2005, Labor promised to build heavy rail to Maroochydore by 2020. On 29 August 2005, the Hon. Paul Lucas said—

We will establish the line from Beerwah to Caloundra by 2015, and up the coast to Maroochydore by 2020, bringing rail to the Sunshine Coast.

To me, that sounds complete, absolute and unconditional. That was Labor's promise, but what did we see? We saw a subsequent plan outlined in *Connecting SEQ 2031*, which is another Labor document. It states that they would 'construct the Sunshine Coast rail line from Beerwah to Maroochydore'. That is a Labor document. There are pictures of Annastacia Palaszczuk and Anna Bligh on the inside cover. I table both of those documents.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Report titled 'Connecting SEQ 2031: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland' [108].

*Tabled paper:* Media statement, dated 29 August 2005, by the former minister for transport and main roads, Hon. Paul Lucas, titled 'Making tracks on the Sunshine Coast' [109].

That is the Labor Party's record when it comes to supporting the Sunshine Coast. The Labor Party abandoned the Sunshine Coast at every opportunity. The Mooloolah River Interchange was cut under Labor. The federal Morrison government funded the Mooloolah River Interchange. It was the Labor federal government and their patsies in the former Labor state government that cut that funding. Labor did not even get close to the start line for the Sunshine Coast rail line. The north coast line duplication, even to the start of Beerwah, was not finished. They have never been committed to the Sunshine Coast and they never will be.

This is one item in a long list of Labor failures when it comes to rail. Time and time again, Labor have demonstrated that they do not care about rail. They cannot deliver rail when they do make a promise and they hide it from Queenslanders. An article dated 17 November 2023 headed 'Rail cost blowout "hidden": Bailey admits overruns' states—

State Transport Minister Mark Bailey has again been exposed hiding billions of dollars in project blowouts just months after he almost lost his job for trying to hide a major overrun.

...

Mr Bailey, labelled "incompetent" by the LNP—

a fair characterisation—

argued that project overruns were "not unusual" ...

**A government member:** Not for him.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** No, not under Labor. The article continues—

The latest multibillion-dollar blowout comes just months after Mr Bailey was caught attempting to hide a \$2.4bn increase in the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program at Maryborough.

Another article by Hayden Johnson is titled 'He's done it again: Bailey's blowout billions are revealed'. An article from 20 November 2023 is titled 'Slow on fast cost: Coast rail cost doubles'. An article dated 29 November 2023 is titled '\$3.1bn bill revealed in latest Bailey blowout'. Time and time again, Labor have shown they cannot be trusted when it comes to delivering rail infrastructure. Whether it is for the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast or Brisbane, Labor fail time and time again—and worse, they hide it.


I want to address one last point in the short time available. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition comes in here and tries to smear people. One of the people he has tried to smear is Amanda Yeates, a former deputy director-general in the Department of Transport and Main Roads under Labor. She was a capable public servant who dared to have an opinion in relation to this project. That tells the public servants of Queensland everything they need to know about Labor and their hollow rhetoric.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the member for Buderim and ask him to withdraw. They are entirely untrue.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, do you withdraw?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** To be clear, I was reflecting on the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's comments in relation to an individual, but I withdraw.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.05 pm): Today I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the backtracking—a sad but perfect pun—of the LNP on its promise to build the direct Sunshine Coast rail, the very same rail project the LNP has been calling on Labor governments to deliver for as long as I can remember. Their enthusiasm for the project has already gone off the rails—another pun. I hope we can hear from the member for Maroochydore about how her constituents feel about this. Their votes were cast for a broken promise and a legacy of lies instead of generational change.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is unparliamentary language.

**Mr KING:** I withdraw. The newly minted member for Caloundra defeated the champion we had for Sunshine Coast direct rail in Labor's Jason Hunt. We loved having a Hunt in this place. We have one now, but I am sorry to say that he is the wrong one. Let us hear from the member about why she is so happy to put the brakes on this fully costed and fully funded election promise to build her voters a new rail line—fully costed and fully funded, or so they said.

Let us recap some of the things our esteemed Premier said before the election. During the televised leadership debates the Premier repeatedly said, 'Our plans are fully costed and fully funded.' In the *Courier-Mail* dated 30 September 2024 the Premier was quoted as saying 'our comprehensive plans will ensure world-class services infrastructure delivered on time and on budget'. He also said, 'You will see our tax plan, and you will see that every single projects we commit to will be on time, on budget, fully costed.' He also said that, by introducing a productivity commission, he would build more with the money that is there.

In June 2024, ABC News reported a promise from the then leader of the opposition that his party would support everything in Labor's budget. What is interesting is that on 8 March last year the *Courier-Mail* reported that the LNP insisted it could fully build the rail line to Maroochydore by 2032. State Labor were talking about building rail to Caloundra by 2032 and staging the rest. The LNP thought they could do better. Back then, the \$12 billion estimated project price tag to build to Maroochydore was not deterring them. They were gung-ho. They said that they would build it. In fact, on 25 February 2024 the now Deputy Premier declared—

You can't have a half-baked program on the Sunshine Coast, it has to be to Maroochydore, and it has to be to Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games.

One cannot help but feel a little sorry for the member for Caloundra, who stood so proudly next to the member for Kawana, boasting about their plan to deliver heavy rail all the way to Maroochydore and that they would stop turning her community 'into a car park'. Perhaps she has been railroaded—another pun—into this backflip.

**Ms Morton** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, your interjections are not being taken.


**Mr KING:** On Facebook, the member for Caloundra expressed her excitement to be back in the chamber for the first sitting of 2025. I am not so sure on Friday she will be excited to head home to a community that has been let down and failed on the delivery of this project, because that is what is happening here. The Deputy Premier, the Premier and all members opposite have turned their backs on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, it seems like the only LNP members standing up for their communities are in the federal arena, but then again maybe that is because the federal election is just around the corner. Either way, I am guessing federal members of parliament probably will not want the state members for the Sunshine Coast handing out for them on pre-poll because they have abandoned the families, workers and businesses they were elected to represent.

Those communities have a betrayal on their hands—a rail betrayal. In typical LNP fashion, now that they have won power they are breaking their promises. Right now, the member has a chance to redeem her inability to advocate for her community: join Labor in condemning the Deputy Premier and the LNP Crisafulli government for their rail betrayal.

As a member representing an outer suburban electorate, and as the shadow assistant minister for transport, I know how important it is to keep our communities connected. That is why we introduced 50-cent fares when we were in government. That is why we provided a fully funded plan for heavy rail to Caloundra. That is why the former Miles Labor government proudly funded the public transport network on our busiest roads to ease congestion and get people home more quickly and safely. Sadly, the residents of outer suburbs will miss out on the benefits that a re-elected Miles government could have delivered.

If I had time, I would love to talk about a few other election commitments for my electorate of Kurwongbah, such as potentially being able to catch a train from Maroochydore to Kurwongbah. To reach our university and the \$60 million TAFE Centre of Excellence at Petrie, you potentially could have caught a train from Caloundra. Anyway, my time has run out.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (6.10 pm): I am struggling to comprehend that we are here tonight debating a motion put forward by the Labor Party on the north coast rail projects. I am staggered by this. After their performance in question time this morning and the Dorothy Dixers they served up to our transport and main roads minister, I guess nothing surprises me anymore.

Are you kidding me! They want to give us a lecture on delivering rail on the Sunshine Coast. I take the point that the member for Buderim made this morning when he was questioned about being on time and on budget. He has asked his department to look at how many times the previous government delivered a project on time and on budget. What was the answer? They are still looking. They have not found one, not a single one.

Let me give the House a bit of a history lesson on rail. The member for Buderim mentioned a media release from Paul Lucas back in 2005 which stated that heavy rail would be delivered to Maroochydore by 2020. I will unpack that a little bit more. I was first elected in 2009—16 years ago. At that time, the north coast rail duplication had progressed from Caboolture—

**Ms Grace:** What are you doing? What are you going to do?

**Mr POWELL:** I will get to that, member for McConnel. Do not worry about that. The duplication had progressed from Caboolture to Beerburrum. The then Bligh Labor government—and I understand former premier Palaszczuk might have been the transport minister around this time, possibly it was after—had given the commitment to the former member for Glass House, who left the seat of Glass House to contest the seat of Pine Rivers, that the rail duplication would continue, that it would get through to Beerwah by 2015 and on to Nambour by 2018.

Come the election in 2009 and the seat of Glass House falling to the LNP, what happened? The brakes were put on the north coast rail project. Zip, nada, nothing. Nothing happened for the next three years. In fact, the entire project was shelved and it was only taken off the shelf when the LNP government was elected in 2012. Despite our commitment to bring that project on board again, it again went missing with the election of the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government in 2015. Guess what, folks—we are bringing it back! Works are happening as I speak in Beerburrum—crews have been put back on to commence the north coast rail duplication between Beerburrum and Beerwah.


Why is that important? Nothing can be built to Caloundra, Maroochydore or anywhere on the Sunshine Coast until the rail to Beerwah has been duplicated. Labor promised on multiple occasions that they would deliver this project in 2015. We are in 2025! It has not happened for a decade, as the Deputy Premier's amended motion states. What were they doing? Zero. The opposition should not lecture me on what they delivered for the Sunshine Coast because they delivered nothing. Nothing!

It is taking an LNP government to get the north coast rail duplication started again. I say to my constituents in the electorate of Glass House that it does include a cycleway between the Glass House Mountains and Beerwah. That is something that they have been crying out for for 16 years. That will come as part of this project. Nothing further can happen until that work happens, and that is only happening because of the member for Buderim and because of an LNP Crisafulli government.

I will come back to where I began. I find it the height of hypocrisy for those opposite to come into this chamber and lecture us on commitments around heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast. The people of the Sunshine Coast know that, under a Labor government, they get nothing, they miss out. Even when we had the so-called hero that the member for Kurwongbah went on about—the former member for Caloundra—what did we get? We got a youth watch house, a juvenile detention centre.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** A watch house. In the middle of a youth crime crisis, they put a watch house in the middle of Caloundra. That is what he delivered. It was only because of the support from the member for Kawana and the now member for Caloundra that that was done. Do not tell me that Labor delivered. As for the former member for Nicklin—thank God we have the current member for Nicklin back—he was not up to the job, just as those opposite are not up to the job. The only people who will deliver for the Sunshine Coast when it comes to rail are the LNP, and I stand by our commitments.

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.15 pm): It is interesting that we have heard from those opposite that only the LNP will stand up for the Sunshine Coast. If you ask the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and the federal LNP members on the Sunshine Coast they tell a completely different story. In fact, they are the ones saying that the member for Kawana and the member for Caloundra have absolutely let down the people of the Sunshine Coast. It is not just us saying it, it is not just us moving this motion; the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and their own federal LNP members are saying it.

We know that the member for Kawana is very well known for his Elvis impersonations, but that is not the only impersonation he can do. The member for Kawana has spent the past 100 days impersonating an honest person. The member for Kawana committed to the people of his own community and to the people of the Sunshine Coast that an elected LNP government would deliver direct Sunshine Coast rail. I quote—

It has to be Maroochydore and it has to be Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games.

They were his words. The member's sudden backflip is not just political incompetence; it seems now it is calculated deception. He knew what he was saying during the election. He knew how important this project was to the Sunshine Coast community. Now, after getting the votes, he is trying to bury his promise under excuses. What has also become apparent is the member for Caloundra's inability to stand up for the community she swore to represent. Whether that is because she is being intimidated by the Deputy Premier or she never cared for it in the first place, we just do not know.

It has not even been six months and the backflip we are witnessing from this government will leave the people of the Sunshine Coast behind. As we have heard from a number of speakers, the member for Caloundra, in her own words, said—

Traffic congestion is also a huge issue for residents, and I have grave concerns about the rail ending in Caloundra. This would be a disaster as the traffic in Caloundra is already unmanageable.

With the LNP now backflipping on the plans to extend the rail to Maroochydore, the member for Caloundra should feel pretty let down by her own team who have completely hung her out to dry. The LNP were the ones who labelled the traffic conditions as 'the Caloundra car park', but now they are in government, now they are in charge, they are quite happy for the Caloundra car park to continue.

It is pretty embarrassing not only for the member for Caloundra but also for the Deputy Premier to have their own federal LNP members call them out on this. The federal member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, stated—

Claims that the project now costs \$20 billion with trains running at only 50 kilometres per hour along 20-metre high tracks across the coast are in stark contrast to every briefing I've had on this project over the last eight years.


Who do we believe—Ted O'Brien or our Deputy Premier? From this side of the House, it looks like those opposite have been intentionally dishonest with the voters of the Sunshine Coast.

The Deputy Premier's excuses are not really checking out. What is the real reason for this sudden backflip? Instead of building the rail all the way to Maroochydore, it seems they would rather now sell off the rail corridor to developers. People with close ties to the LNP, like former coalition minister Mal Brough, are pushing to scrap the rail line and cash in on land sales.

**Mr Bailey:** The Russ Hinze option.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Russ Hinze option. I take that interjection from the member for Miller. This checks out, given the reports in the *Brisbane Times* today of the Deputy Premier himself owning land at Aroona that backs right along the railway corridor—land that would be impacted if the Maroochydore rail went ahead. It is right here in his Register of Members' Interests. It seems his five-acre property at Aroona is more important to him than his own promise of delivering for voters on the Sunshine Coast.

The Deputy Premier should no longer be the infrastructure minister. He must be immediately removed from that portfolio because of his hopeless conflict of interest. What does his conflict of interest management plan say about moving an amendment and speaking on a motion to do with Sunshine Coast rail when he has a personal pecuniary interest in the project? He should immediately be stood down from that portfolio.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.20 pm): Not that she needs it, but I proudly rise to defend my friend and one of the best members for Caloundra that Caloundra has ever seen. Certainly between her and the previous member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, there is a world of daylight. Paragraph 5 of motion is not only wildly inaccurate; it is offensive. The motion calls on the parliament to condemn the member for Caloundra. Are you kidding? This hardworking new member for Caloundra has done more for her electorate in 100 days than the previous member did in four years.

We know what the previous member for Caloundra delivered. All he delivered was the threat of a youth jail in Caloundra. I was working in Caloundra police station at the time. I saw our Caloundra watch house have taxpayer funds wasted on the project—a watch house put out of commission for our poor coppers—while the former member tried to sell this absolute disaster to his community. When he realised his complete failure he back-pedalled at a rate of knots and abandoned his only pet project for this area.

We have seen another very important Labor member back away from things recently. The Labor Prime Minister has backed away from his commitments to Queensland. We know that the current opposition leader will back his Canberra mates over the interests of Queenslanders. I fear that future projects in Queensland relying on federal funding promises will only be delivered by a Peter Dutton coalition being elected at the upcoming federal election. I encourage Queenslanders to back a prime minister who is a real Queenslander and will stick up for Queensland projects.


In contrast to the Leader of the Opposition and the old member for Caloundra, the hopeless Jason Hunt—no relation—the new member for Caloundra has fought incredibly hard for her community, has listened to her community, has the confidence of that community and won the seat off that Labor member who was only promising to deliver the Caloundra car park, as we heard other members call it this evening. The problem with this project is that the opposition will not fight for Queensland. They will not fight their federal government for our fair share, and that has been an historic issue. They have been keeping secret what is going on before the federal election.

While I am on the rail project, I was part of the 2017 campaign at which we advocated for the duplication of the rail line to Nambour. This is a project stalled and pushed away continuously by the Labor government over some 20-odd years. This is a project that should have been finalised years ago. This is a project I took to the election in 2017 with a commitment to finally build. Unfortunately, we ended up with a Labor government that cannot deliver projects on time and on budget and so our community of Nicklin and Nambour missed out again.

I know that there is an infinite need and finite resources for projects and we have all come to know recently the disastrous state that the former government has left the financial books in in this state. I understand that since the Olympics were awarded to Queensland priority projects for that will mean that Nambour will have to wait a little longer now for the finalisation of the duplication which, as I said, should have been delivered years ago by Labor governments.

They have failed Queensland with a generation of failure. They have the hide to come into this House with this ridiculous motion condemning the hardest working member I observed in last year's election campaign. She knocked on 10,000 doors. This is a woman who put aside her business and personal interests to fight for her community and campaign for change, successfully winning the seat

of Caloundra from a failed Labor member. The Labor members in this House should be embarrassed to have even mentioned her in this motion, not to mention the use of aggressive and disgusting language calling for the House to condemn her. I will back our member for Caloundra against any member on this side of the House. We are proud to have such a strong advocate for her community, an effective listener and a fantastic member of parliament. I condemn the Labor Party for the disastrous generation of failure of the people of Queensland.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.25 pm): Make no mistake: this government is lining up to break its election promise to build heavy rail to Maroochydore. If I heard correctly from the returned member for Nicklin just now, it sounds like they are lining up to push off the Beerburrum to Nambour project as well. That is new information.

The people of the Sunshine Coast are being short-changed by the LNP government, it seems. This is a rail line that this government pledged more than 40 times would be built to Maroochydore by 2032—a promise that secured this government all the seats on the Sunshine Coast. Just over 100 days in, the Deputy Premier is backing out of heavy rail. They have said that they are looking at alternatives. They are going to use the Olympics review as an excuse to cut heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast. They are lining up to give us a substandard transport outcome. They are lining up to help their developer mates sabotage the biggest ever public transport investment in their region.

We told them that rail to Maroochydore by 2032 was technically challenging, but they committed to it anyway. Not only is Caloundra to Maroochydore rail now at risk but they want to kill the whole thing. Rail has dropped off their radar and out of their language. This is the biggest infrastructure commitment the LNP has ever made and now they are going to kill it.

This new transport minister has completely gone to water on this in the wake of the member for Kawana's rampage to kill this project. He has been put in his box by the Deputy Premier, who is the real decision-maker on this. The Minister for Transport should not be let off the hook. His track record on Sunshine Coast direct rail is pretty poor, too. Before even becoming minister he had to apologise to the parliament and take down a Facebook post to prevent himself being referred to the Ethics Committee for a misleading claim on Sunshine Coast direct rail in this House last year. The now transport minister told the House that there was no money in the 2024 budget for Sunshine Coast direct rail when in fact there was more than \$1 billion in the forward estimates alone. I did not think it was possible to miss a billion dollars in a budget paper, but, as we have seen, anything is possible with this boofhead of a minister. The Premier clearly made a mistake in picking the member for Buderim to be the transport minister—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member used unparliamentary language.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would ask that you withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr MELLISH:** I withdraw. The Premier clearly made a mistake in picking the member for Buderim to be transport minister. At least the member for Chatsworth looked like he knew what he was talking about. He did not know what he was talking about, but he looked like he knew what he was talking about.

Let us not forget this transport minister's completely laughable claims on Cross River Rail, which had to be corrected by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, and the fact that the member for Kawana has taken Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4 off his hands entirely. We have seen the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which is doing a \$30 million business case, taken out of the picture, and the Deputy Premier and his hand-picked director-general are personally reviewing that project.

The state LNP has amazing pedigree in picking duds on the Sunshine Coast—duds who simply do not understand public transport. The member for Glass House took us on a meandering trip down memory lane to 2005, so I am happy to take us back to 2009, when the current member for Maroochydore released plans for a heavy rail line from Maroochydore to Caloundra. It sounds familiar so far. The member forgot to connect it to the main line. This was going to be a completely stranded rail line from Caloundra to Maroochydore, not connected to the north coast line. I do not know how the trains were supposed to get to the Sunshine Coast—by helicopter or speedboat maybe.

That was not the best bit about the member for Maroochydore's announcement back then. Reading from the *Courier-Mail* article from the time, the policy document included an asterisk saying the pledge was 'subject to the global financial crisis'. Well, there you go. Maybe they needed to put an asterisk on their election commitment this time around—an asterisk saying 'subject to the member for Kawana's property interests'.

As we read the *Brisbane Times* today, the Deputy Premier continues to be the main government spokesman on this project, despite having a material conflict of interest. He needs to recuse himself from being the main decision-maker on this project, which would directly affect his personal property interest. He needs to table his advice from the Integrity Commissioner and he needs to table his conflict management plan, which I highly doubt he is abiding by. He has demanded nothing less of others in this chamber in the past, but of course the Deputy Premier sees himself as above all that.

The LNP is already at war over this rail line. Federal members Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien have called for it and so, too, has the mayor. Queenslanders were told that this project would be built—no ifs, no buts, no short cuts—but Queenslanders are quickly finding out that the word of the Crisafulli government means nothing. It is time the Premier pulled his deputy into line, showed some leadership and got on with delivering the Sunshine Coast rail to Maroochydore by 2032, as they promised.

I genuinely feel for the new member for Caloundra on this. She has been led down the garden path by the Premier and Deputy Premier. The Minister for Transport, a member on the Sunshine Coast, will go down in history as the man who let his own government kill Sunshine Coast heavy rail to Maroochydore.

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

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—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, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

**AYES, 51:**

**LNP, 51**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

**ALP, 34**—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, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. reaffirms the LNP government's commitment to Sunshine Coast Direct Rail is clear and as strong as it ever has been.
2. notes the LNP government's commitment to delivering our \$400 million Caloundra congestion-busting plan.
3. notes the failure of the Palaszczuk and Miles governments to build direct rail to Maroochydore in the 10 years they were in government.
4. notes the Palaszczuk and Miles governments' failure to support the residents of the Sunshine Coast for the 10 years they were in government.
5. notes the Palaszczuk and Miles governments' pre-election commitment to only build rail to Caloundra, turning Caloundra into a bigger car park.
6. notes the federal Labor government's removal of future stages of Sunshine Coast Direct Rail from the Infrastructure Priority List.
7. notes the opposition leader has chosen to back his Canberra Labor mates rather than fighting for Queensland infrastructure.
8. notes the former Beattie Labor government's commitment in 2005 to build rail to Maroochydore by 2020.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.30 pm.




## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 148, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.30 pm), continuing: We heard before how ‘Dr Misleading’ over there completely distorted the story. He should be referred to the Ethics Committee. He should apologise in this House for being misleading. For the next person who takes on this misleading story, I am going to table two documents which show that the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the AMA knew that we were promising to do this and that we had already taken enormous steps to get rid of this tax.

*Tabled paper:* Article from NewsGP, dated 9 October 2024, titled ‘Queensland to abolish GP payroll tax’ [\[110\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article from NewsGP, dated 14 September 2023, titled ‘Payroll tax lifeline for Queensland general practice’ [\[111\]](#).

This is the story before the election. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners said—

The State Government will permanently ditch its tax grab following years of outcry from GPs, as pressure mounts on other states to follow suit.

Queensland has become the first jurisdiction to permanently exempt GPs from payroll tax.

This is under the former premier, Steven Miles. They continue—

The announcement has led to widespread celebration among the state’s GPs ...

Members should read those two documents I have tabled. What anyone else says is completely misleading. The member for Moggill knew this. He knows that he lies and distorts for political advantage.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on unparliamentary language. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Logan, the member has taken personal offence.

**Mr POWER:** I was overcome with emotion. I apologise and withdraw for both. The member for Moggill—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hang on. I have not called you.

**Mr Stevens:** Withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Unreservedly.

**Mr POWER:** I have unreservedly apologised. I never did anything else.

**Mr Stevens:** Withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Withdraw.

**Mr POWER:** Sorry. I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr POWER:** The other option is that he was so ignorant of health policy that he had no idea what he was talking about. Those are the two options we have before us. It is in black and white and I have tabled both documents.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order again. I take personal offence. The member for Logan continues to flagrantly disregard your direction. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): I did not take any understanding that the personal offence was made to you directly.

**Mr POWER:** I do withdraw. There could have been something that he could have taken personal offence to. I did make a reference to him directly.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have withdrawn.

**Mr POWER:** I want to go on to other distortions. My job is to represent the people of Logan. I have had more growth in the last two years—and with this I include the electorate of Coomera—with new young families moving into the electorate of Logan than any other area of the state.

**Mr Crandon:** Not true—based on percentages, yes, not based on actual numbers. Get your figures right.

**Mr POWER:** We will have to settle this dispute later, member for Coomera.

**Mr Crandon:** Just look at the numbers. When you come from a lower percentage, what are you going to find?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, there will not be any cross-chamber dialogue on this.

**Mr POWER:** It is a pretty harmless point of view anyway. First home ownership is really important. We know that there has been a reduction in home ownership, especially for younger people. We know that it is about later family formation, about lower supply, about larger average houses but especially about the cost of younger people getting into home ownership. This is only for homes over \$750,000. In its totality it is only about new builds over \$800,000. There are very few houses in Logan that young people are moving into. Extraordinary claims are being made, not least of which by the member for Moggill, about the effect this would have on the supply of housing. Indeed, he claimed that this would have an enormous effect on supply of housing. As a matter of logic, are people who already have the money to buy a \$750,000 house unlikely to ever move into a house or are they just going to move into perhaps a slightly bigger house? I do not begrudge them that. I think that is a good thing. If we are talking about getting more people in housing, I want to have a look at that.

The statistics in table 1 show that in 1996 we had 65 per cent of our population in home ownership. Then it dipped down in 2016, after the period the LNP were in government, to 62.2 per cent. There was a small but encouraging increase in 2021 to 63.5 per cent. I note that in a press release from the Minister for Housing, the member for Bonney claims that at the end of 2024 it had gone up to 64 per cent. During that period of Labor—that is, from the failings of the LNP government in 2016 to 2024—there had been an encouraging increase of over two per cent. This is a small thing and we want to get it back up to 65 per cent. As I have said, are those people who already have \$750,000 going to buy a house for even more or are they unlikely to be buying a house as a first home? Those opposite know the logical answer to that. I do not want them to make those outlandish claims.

What modelling did they use? The REIQ said they would be 'interested to understand if the government has modelling in relation to this'. We know that they did not bother to model it. The LNP made outlandish claims about the level of public housing and then did no modelling to see whether this policy would be effective. That is exactly what the LNP are about—big talk, big promises. It is a policy that at first blush is not going to contribute to the goal they set. All of their fancy rhetoric about how it was going to explode the number of people in housing and increase the number of people who own their own home of course is completely false. The logic is that anyone who can buy a \$750,000 house and has extra money to pay more than that is going to move into a house regardless.

It is true that in the last 10 years we were one of the few states that saw an increase in the number of people aged 25 to 29 in housing, from 34 per cent to 35.2 per cent. We saw an increase in the number of people aged 30 to 34 in housing, from 47.8 per cent to 48.6 per cent. Again, we saw an increase in the number of people aged 35 to 39 in housing, from 55 per cent to 57.7 per cent. I know that the previous housing minister is unsatisfied with that. She wants to continue to fight for young Queenslanders to get into housing. She also knows that, while it is not bad to provide some relief—and that is why we are supporting this—the overblown rhetoric about changing the percentage of Queenslanders who own their own home is at first blush completely false. Those opposite know this.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (7.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, which is even more proof that the Crisafulli government is delivering on its promises and addressing the issues that are important to Queenslanders. This is a great day to be able to stand here and abolish two taxes in this state.

I want to start with the issue of health services and the patients tax. That is centred around the ongoing doctor shortage right across my electorate. Many times I have stood in this place and talked about doctor shortages in the great community of Clermont, a community that was without a permanent hospital doctor for more than five years. In Bowen there is currently a drastic shortage of GPs which has gone so far as to limit service to that town's largest aged-care facility, Murroona Gardens. That is having a big impact on their ability to open up beds for elderly clients and also to meet their obligations in terms of ongoing medical assessments of those clients. If you add to that the recent closure of the Sonic HealthPlus facility at Moranbah, you begin to understand how serious the doctor shortage is.

A couple of years ago I took the federal government's rural health commissioner on a trip through the electorate. She was astounded at the doctor shortage and what that meant for small communities and the distances people were travelling to access medical services. In some cases they were making round trips of nine or 10 hours to see a GP. Without doubt, the GP shortage in rural and regional Queensland is something that we will have to continue to work on. I know that the health minister is committed to addressing that issue in consultation with the federal government, because both levels of government need to work together if we are going to address the GP shortage.


I will tell honourable members a local story. For just over 10 years now Dr Sarat Tata has operated the Home Hill Surgery. He started on his own. His practice now boasts five GPs. It operates seven days a week offering allied health care, dental, pathology and physiotherapy services. It is an amazing service that has experienced phenomenal growth. It has only been made possible as a result of Dr Tata taking calculated risks. You have to take your hat off to him. He started on his own and he put it all on the line. He now services patients as far north as Townsville and as far south as Bowen. Prior to the election Dr Tata said that the risk posed by Labor's patient tax led him to consider the need to delay or even cancel plans for future growth and that it could significantly reduce his ability to recruit doctors to the area.

The risk posed by Labor's patient tax is real. The risk that Queenslanders would have reduced access to GPs is real. At best, communities faced stagnation while the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition refused to act. Unlike those opposite we are addressing risk, and that is exactly what this bill does. Those opposite may say that this bill is only required because of a scare campaign, but they should ask their constituents whom they trust. Do they trust the Labor MP who denied this tax posed a problem, or do they trust their local family GP? Do they trust the current shadow health minister, who described the risk as a 'beat-up', or do they trust medical professionals?

The President of AMAQ, Dr Nick Yim, said that uncertainty would remain for GPs if this tax was not scrapped once and for all. Dr Cath Hester, Queensland Chair of the RACGP, focused more on patients when she said, 'This will help to improve access to affordable GP care.' There you have it, Mr Deputy Speaker: senior Queensland representatives of two key medical industries agreed that this bill will reduce uncertainty for GPs and improve access to affordable care for patients.

Touching briefly on other amendments relating to home ownership, the fact is that since 1971 home ownership rates in Queensland have dropped. Over the last year Queensland's rate of first home buyers has been eclipsed by every other mainland state. By abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers who purchase a new home after 1 May, the Crisafulli government is providing a boost for both first home buyers and the building industry. Our actions are not just about the short term, with the inclusion of vacant land on which a first home buyer intends to build their home. Only last weekend a young couple were looking at two blocks opposite where I live with a view to building their first home. When you look at the prices they are selling those blocks for and the cost of building a house, you suddenly appreciate the challenge facing first home buyers and young couples as they try to move into home ownership in this state.

This move, along with allowing stamp duty concession recipients to rent out a room, is backed by the REIQ, the Urban Development Institute, the HIA and the Strata Community Association. It is relieving cost-of-living pressures, and during the campaign we knew that was front and centre for a lot of Queenslanders. Those cost-of-living pressures were reflected right across the board, and removing that stamp duty will make a big difference to a lot of young people trying to get into their first home. The *Courier-Mail* last week contained a comment by the opposition leader. He said that he would 'look at what the experts say' when considering his party's position. My challenge to the Leader of the Opposition is a simple one: do what you said you would do. Listen to the experts and support this bill.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I will start with the changes to the transfer duty threshold. I want to begin by saying, as the shadow treasurer did yesterday, that this Labor opposition will always support attempts to improve housing supply in Queensland. This side of the House fully supports the minor change put forward to the laws surrounding partial renting for first home buyers; however, my concerns reflect those of the experts from the Real Estate Institute of Queensland. It was clear they are concerned that the government has not done any modelling in relation to the actual uptake of the transfer duty threshold concession so we do not know whether it will have the effect that every member in this place wants to see for their constituency—that is, an increased rate of home ownership. It is true that, as we have seen, Queensland Treasury has not done modelling on whether this approach will even work. No-one knows if it is going to move the dial.

The LNP claim that this move will pave the way for thousands of first home buyers to save up-front transaction costs when first buying a new home, but where does this figure come from? Over what time period? The government have not done any modelling on the anticipated increase of home ownership through this measure, so how do they know how many people will benefit from this measure? To drive real change for prospective homebuyers, they need to take a look at where measures like these should be targeted. Removing the threshold completely is not a targeted approach. Removing a transfer duty threshold completely gives tax cuts to everyone, and that includes people who can afford to buy properties worth well over the median price. I did some maths. In my community, Deception Bay, the median price for a four-bedroom home is about \$760,000, so abolishing stamp duty there will save a first home buyer over \$11,000. That is pretty good. That sounds fantastic, but that is until you hear about a first home buyer who will save \$88,000 on a \$2 million house in Hamilton or Paddington. That is eight times the amount that would be saved by a person who is buying a house in Deception Bay.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I do hear some murmurs, but I want to remind the House that it was Labor that raised the first home owner's threshold. It was Labor that raised the first home owner's vacant land threshold. Before the election the Miles government committed to a post-election review of property tax settings to the Property Council. Did the LNP do the same? Not a chance. This review would have helped the LNP government create a more targeted approach for their policy.

Touching on the payroll tax exemption for general practitioners, I note that, as we have heard, this payroll burden did not exist. Let me point out that it was Queensland Labor that first introduced an amnesty on the GP payroll tax. We were the first in the country and we were thanked by the AMAQ.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): We will have silence, thank you, when the speaker is on his feet.

**Mr WHITING:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I did listen very intently to the member for Logan. I have a copy of what he tabled. It is headed 'Payroll tax lifeline for Queensland general practice' and it is dated September 2023. It states—

Queensland general practices can breathe a sigh of relief, with the State Government announcing it is bringing an end to the 18-month payroll tax battle.

The RACGP has welcomed the change, which will see normal business arrangements, patient fees including Medicare benefits and out-of-pocket fees, not subject to payroll tax when they are paid directly by a patient to a GP.

The other one, from October last year, states—

Queensland has become the first jurisdiction to permanently exempt GPs from payroll tax.

The announcement has led to widespread celebration among the state's GPs, who have spent years advocating for the exemption.

The Queensland Government's promise, revealed on Wednesday, will exempt GPs from payroll tax, if re-elected ...


The immediate past president said—

This is great news for GPs, but particularly great news for patients who would ultimately have had to absorb the cost and have to pay.

So thank you, Labor. There we go.

It is very clear that the former government led the way on this, as it did, may I note, on the 50-cent fares as well. Labor has always supported exempting GPs from payroll tax, and we delivered that. We were the first in Australia. Thank you, Labor. You're welcome. What is more, it was accounted for in the forecasts. It was put forward in the forecasts. General practitioners were already able to completely avoid being subjected to payroll taxes.

When the member for Logan was speaking, he reminded me of where the GP tax came from in the first place. It was the then health minister Peter Dutton. Remember the \$7 co-payment that they brought forward. Every time a person popped their head in to see the GP, Peter Dutton's hand would be out and he would be saying, 'Give me \$7 for that please.' As the member for Logan said, that was the real GP tax. Add to that what Abbott, Turnbull, Morrison and the rest of them did not do with those Medicare rebates. If we are talking about a particular party that really did want to put a GP tax in, it is those opposite. God help Queensland because they are now in control of our health system.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.51 pm): I have been looking forward to making my contribution on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. Much cleverer people than me have gone into the details of the bill in a clinical fashion. What I will enjoy doing is rebutting some of the scandalous falsehoods that I have heard emanating from the other side of the House. I heard a number of members—and it was not just the member for Bancroft—flagrantly deny that there was ever such thing as a GP tax. Why did they introduce it in the first place, and why was an amnesty necessary? I recall the then treasurer, in his usual style, doubling down and arguing that this was essential.

What this comes down to is a fault in the spending and taxing priorities of Labor governments. The Crisafulli LNP government is able to do things like this—that is, eliminate taxes—because we spend the money better. We understand also that applying a tax that will inevitably flow through to patients means that they are going to turn up at the local emergency department rather than at the GP. Labor never says, 'We're not spending the money properly. We're wasting it here and we have blowouts there. Let's fix those things.' They just reach into your pocket to take more. When the then treasurer and those around the cabinet table—

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from my friend the member for Scenic Rim and I will get to that because it is a very good point.

When the then treasurer and his cabinet colleagues contemplated this at the cabinet table, I am quite certain that there was no attempt to balance the ledger better and stop wasting money. They just wanted to grab more. What are the kinds of things that necessitate reaching out again and taking more money from the productive part of Queensland to prop up an unproductive government? I thought of the \$300 million spend on 'Wastecamp', the Wellcamp facility which held almost nobody and then was handed back to the people who built it for them. Do members remember the \$100,000 for the weight loss program for dogs? That was always an interesting one. I often had a laugh with my old friend the member for Cairns about that one. Well, I did the laughing; the member for Cairns seemed not to. We have had billions and billions of dollars in blowouts on projects like Cross River Rail and so forth because of the poor contracting and management of the Miles and Palaszczuk Labor governments and because of, in my view, the utterly corrupt association they had with thug unionists to extort more money from the people of Queensland.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. The member's speech does not contain much from the bill before the House. I ask you to bring him back to the subject matter of the bill.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Southern Downs, I will bring you back to the content of the bill before the House.

**Mr LISTER:** Thank you. We are talking about taxes. The reason an LNP government is able to pledge and deliver on the removal of this iniquitous tax is that we do not waste funds the way the Labor Party does. My honourable friend the member for Scenic Rim spoke about what the government would have put the proceeds of this particular GP tax towards—things like trying to shield Jackie Trad from public scrutiny. That is another iniquity which I am so pleased we have been able to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, once again I will bring you back to the content of the bill. Do not let me warn you again.

**Mr LISTER:** Labor have suggested throughout this entire debate on this subject that there was never a GP tax, that the GPs were all pleased about it. I heard the members for Bancroft and Logan say that the GPs were happy about it. That is not the feedback I got from GPs. I do not know what the context of their information was. Who are they kidding by saying that this tax never existed? It is brazen and it means that the Labor opposition are still fatally disconnected from the word on the street.

In relation to housing, I also heard Labor Party members say, 'We'll support any measure to improve the housing supply.' Why didn't they employ measures to improve the housing supply while they were in government, instead of indulging in distortionary practices which diverted resources away from people being able to afford homes, build homes and access the resources to build homes? We just saw inflation, taxes and red tape which all stemmed from poor spending, taxing and borrowing priorities of the Labor government. I am a great fan of this bill. I will certainly be supporting it. I commend it to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.56 pm): I too would like to lend my support to any attempts to improve the housing supply here in Queensland. Home ownership is something that I think every Queenslanders aspires to. It is heartbreaking to see many people in housing insecurity at the moment

or people who do not believe that this is a dream they can realise. I think to my maternal grandparents when I think about the importance of home ownership. They were very working class, with very low levels of education. They toiled and they applied hard work, and they instilled in me the principles around hard work. For them, their home was very hard-earned and it was their most precious possession. The conversations they had with me around that importance have stuck with me throughout my lifetime.

I appreciate that the circumstances in which they obtained their first home, which was their only home, were very different to the market my parents were in when they bought here in Queensland. They were fortunate enough to buy a house that they really overextended themselves to purchase in the first place. It was the home that I and my siblings were raised in and the home they still live in to this day. Again, they were very different circumstances to what I was in when I was able to buy my first home. Even though that was relatively recent, I appreciate that the framework, the circumstances and the impacts we are operating in today are completely different to when I purchased my first home a number of years ago. It is concerning to all of us to hear young people today talk about how they feel that home ownership is out of reach. I think of my young daughter and wonder where the real estate market will be and what prospects will be available to her and people of her age once they come of age and are able to contemplate home ownership.

I think, though, one of the things that was really stark through the committee process, certainly very stark through the report, is that the experts in the sector have said to us that this is not the silver bullet, that there needs to be a multifaceted approach applied to tackling this problem. They have said to us that, really, they are concerned that these concessions are not a targeted approach and that there has not been any modelling done from Queensland Treasury in relation to this.

One of the things I find in conversations with young people in my electorate specifically to this policy is that they do not think it will make an impact at all. Certainly if you are of means, if you are able to purchase a property in inner-city Brisbane, if you are buying a property for \$2 million or thereabouts, then you are going to get far more money back than somebody who is buying a house in a community like mine or a community like Bundaberg or Ipswich. We are all coming into this debate looking at the facts and looking at the expert opinions that tell us that not only has the modelling not been done by Queensland Treasury on the impact of this, so it is largely an unknown, but also they are concerned that it will not actually move the dial significantly on home ownership into the future.

I note the calls from the Property Council, which is looking for a review of the property tax settings. That is something we committed to. I think it is really important to do a review of property taxes here in Queensland. I certainly urge the government to look seriously at that.

I would like to also commend the committee for some of the recommendations they made in their really frank report. There was a very frank assessment done in relation to the housing sector and some of the solutions, and whether or not this particular policy, which is lauded by those opposite to be the silver bullet—it is one of very few policies that they took to the election; it is certainly in government one of the very few policies they are talking about—is in fact the answer to the comprehensive and complex challenges that Queenslanders face in the housing market at the moment. The UDIA said it really well when they submitted—

Supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types everywhere. The first home buyer concession is not going to solve the Queensland housing crisis. However, it does have a role to play along with those other land supply, infrastructure and regulatory reforms that are required. It does provide a helping hand to first home buyers to give them a leg up when they are being pushed further and further behind.

The challenges outlined really starkly—the challenges that are happening from generation to generation, from decade to decade—are obvious here in Queensland. We need to get more housing stock built. We absolutely need to be able to pull those levers. It is really disappointing to see that some of the first acts of the new LNP government in this state were, in fact, to cancel housing approvals, particularly affordable housing approvals for the state of Queensland, particularly in LNP electorates. We know that supply is the critical issue. We know that that is one of the biggest levers in terms of addressing housing supply here, and to slow that down is really concerning throughout the state.

One of the other things that has been raised through my community—something that I see when I am working with my community groups, something that my Zonta group locally has raised with me—is the housing insecurity that exists for women in our community. The REIQ also submitted that women over the age of 55 are the fastest growing demographic of homelessness.

I want to particularly acknowledge all of the housing support and the homelessness organisations throughout my community that do a tremendous job in supporting really vulnerable members of our community while they are going through a tough time. I was out with one of them a week or so ago. One of the journalists here popped out at the same time—not organised by me, of course. We were talking about the story that they covered in the press around people who are in really vulnerable stages of their lives—elderly Queenslanders who are very sick—and the fact that this is something that can happen to every Queenslander. We are all, I believe, only one or two life circumstances away from being placed in those really precarious positions. We know that once members of the community are in those insecure environments usually other issues in their life exacerbate as well.

There is absolutely more that needs to be done in this space. I suggest that there needs to be more government funding and more government support. It would be really good for the LNP to bring forward to this parliament proper and real solutions that are designed in consultation with experts and stakeholders in this sector in order to move the dial not only on home ownership but also on people who are living rough in our community, people who are insecure.


The government went to the last election promising they had solutions on a lot of things. Slogans are fine to take to elections—and it is up to the LNP how far they want to politicise particular challenges in the community—but once you are on the government benches it is incumbent upon you to deliver on what you have promised. The LNP have identified a number of crises and it is now up to them to deliver on them. I really worry about that when you have the former housing minister, the member for Everton, who gets into this place and idolises Joh Bjelke-Petersen and the Bjelke-Petersen government in this debate. I think the approaches of the LNP—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I hear the member for Nanango furiously interjecting, as always.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Parole Board President.

**Ms BOYD:** It's okay, you won't be gagged here by me, Deb. One of the things that is really important to do is to take the politics out of this—to stop the low blows, member for Nanango—and work with the sector and with experts to deliver the solutions that Queenslanders need.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (8.06 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill, as we know, proposes to amend the Duties Act 2001 for dutiable transactions that involve first home owners purchasing a new home or vacant land on which to build a home, to provide for duty relief. The bill would also allow first home buyers to partially rent out first home purchases while receiving first home concessions. There is also a legislated exemption from payroll tax for general practitioners to address the LNP's so-called patients tax which, as we know, involved a ridiculous misinformation campaign during the Queensland state election. The Miles government had already addressed this matter through the issuing of a new interpretation of payroll tax in 2023 and a further commitment to exempt GPs from payroll tax. To be very clear on the facts here, in 2022 a New South Wales court case found—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Take your seat please, member for Jordan. There will be silence in the chamber.

**Ms MULLEN:** In 2022 a New South Wales court case found that medical centres should pay payroll tax for GPs. It was the Labor government here in Queensland that put in place an amnesty and a public ruling that made it clear that doctors would not have to pay payroll tax. Despite this, the LNP started their fake scare campaign, and they continue to push this misinformation in the chamber even tonight. It is disingenuous, but I must say it is very predictable.

The substantive element of the bill deals with amending the Duties Act to provide full transfer duty relief to eligible first home buyers. The bill proposes that this relief be available for eligible transactions entered into on or after 1 May 2025. The bill goes on to define a new home as one that has not been previously occupied or sold as a place of residence. A new home also includes a substantially renovated home which, as renovated, has not been previously occupied or sold as a place of residence.

One thing we can all agree on is that we want to see more homes for Queenslanders and we want to ensure, wherever possible, Queenslanders have a safe and secure place to call home. We know that incentivising first home buyers through tax concessions and grants is only one part of the puzzle, but first home buyers need actual houses to buy.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland summed it up best when they submitted in the inquiry—

... supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types everywhere. The first homebuyer concession is not going to solve the Queensland housing crisis.


I represent a region where there continues to be significant greenfield development—in Springfield, Greenbank and Greater Flagstone. Springfield Rise, which was Lendlease's development in Spring Mountain—now Stockland—would often have land release days and honestly, it sometimes felt like *The Hunger Games* as people scrambled to secure lots. In Kalina in Springfield, I attend 'meet your lot' days where owners get to see their land for the first time. What I have noted from those events is that many of the 'new house and land' buyers are actually not first homebuyers at all, but locals or those living in the region looking to move up in the property market. In Flagstone—an area I also represent—house and land packages, 525-square-metre lots, are on the market for approximately \$750,000. These are good, solid first homes for many young couples or families and this is where targeted measures can certainly help.

It is clear the government has decided to progress with this policy without any tangible data or Treasury modelling, as revealed through the committee process, so it is difficult to know how helpful this will actually be. As the Real Estate Institute of Queensland also pointed out in their submission, it would have been helpful to have seen modelling that could show the expected take-up of the new concessions and anticipate an increase in the rate of the new concessions as well as the increased anticipated rate of home ownership in Queensland.

It is clear that while stakeholders think this change to the Duties Act may help, it is really only one small part of a broad suite of reforms that are needed to address the housing shortages we are seeing, as the Housing Industry Association also pointed out in their submission. We know that we need to fund and build the enabling infrastructure. When we were in government, the Catalyst Infrastructure Fund was absolutely vital in providing the water, sewerage and, importantly, new road infrastructure needed to open up large tracts of developable land. In Greater Flagstone, the funding we have provided to extend New Beith Road and Teviot Road as well as construct the new Flinders Lakes Drive will see more than 40 per cent of the Greater Flagstone Priority Development Area opened up for more housing, economic centres and sporting, community and recreational amenities. This is true catalytic infrastructure.

We want to see more improved planning and zoning by updating state, regional and local strategic plans to reflect housing supply targets. The state government must work with local councils and—sorry, sometimes take a firm hand—to promote medium- and high-density housing in well-located areas close to public transport, amenities and employment. We need to see approval pathways continue to be streamlined and simplified at a local, state and federal level. We also know other measures such as encouraging older Australians to downsize, developing more student accommodation, seeing more innovation in scale in the construction industry and, of course, training more construction workers to build homes will have a more significant impact on housing supply and affordability. These are just some of the issues also highlighted in the last few days by the national Productivity Commission in its released report on housing construction productivity.

Our Homes for Queenslanders plan provided for a comprehensive suite of reforms and a clear pathway forward. Our government also understood that bringing the housing, planning and local government portfolios together made complete sense in addressing the key issues to increase housing supply and affordability and it is disappointing to see those portfolios now scattered amongst various ministers. While I hope this legislation will provide some assistance and incentives for first homebuyers in Queensland, as the REIQ pointed out, the use of the new concessions may be limited.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (8.13 pm): I rise before you today to speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. The importance of this bill cannot be understated, and I will take this opportunity to enforce why this bill is so critical. For all of our hardworking GPs and practice owners across the state, the past five years have not been easy ones. Firstly, this sector dealt with the challenging, frightening and ever-changing period of time as healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The reality is that by the time the worst of the pandemic was over many GPs were exhausted, just like many other small business owners across the state. Then, right before Christmas in 2022, the former Labor government introduced the GP patients tax—a tax that was retrospective and required GP practices to be liable for payroll tax—despite having no warning and no chance to factor this into their past cost base. They were required to back pay this tax on days gone by.



**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms MORTON:** We are in Queensland, I take the interjection. Business does not work like this. You cannot under any reasonable condition impose a tax on the past without severe consequences for business owners. In Caloundra, we have the very brave and very dedicated Jen and Nic from Saltwater Medical. They came forward to share their story. They own a GP practice right in the heart of Caloundra, servicing 6,000 members of our community and they provide essential services in primary health care. Out of sheer terror for their future, and the ability for GPs to provide care, they told the LNP how on 22 December 2022 they received the news of a new definition of revenue laws. What a Christmas present!

We have heard from the other side of the chamber how this tax never existed. Then we have heard from others that an amnesty was granted. I do not know how an amnesty can be granted for a tax that did not exist, or if the other side just does not understand what they put people through. Let's ask Jen and Nic from Saltwater Medical if the tax did not exist. The member for Bundaberg was crystal clear yesterday that the amnesty was granted so they could properly investigate the implications, but wouldn't it be better to do this before raining terror on an entire sector? It took pressure from the LNP in order for any concessions to be made. What we know about this tax is clear: it was a tax that GP practices had never paid before. It was a tax that the Queensland government had never collected before. It was a tax that was not factored into their costs and a tax that would cripple GP practices.

Through pressure from industry bodies and the LNP, the former Labor government did a backflip on the retrospective tax and granted a temporary relief for GP practices, but the tax still existed. Why did the former government not listen to what was happening? Is it because they are completely incapable of managing a budget and therefore had to go after a sector that already battles with complex needs and governance? Were GPs an easy target for the former government? As panic grew, the former Labor government did another backflip. Now they decided that GP practices could be exempt from the tax as long as every patient was paying each individual GP directly. I do not know if the other side of the chamber understands the business model for GP practices, but that would have meant an individual claim machine for each doctor operating within the practice—a total administrative nightmare and burden. This is not reality; this is not efficient; this is not respectful or viable in understanding the primary healthcare model.

The reality is GPs are small business owners and specialist GPs are falling in number. We already have a shortage. We do not have GPs rolling around in money. Was it a brain snap moment dreamed up by a government that, when they realised they had made a mistake, did not axe the tax? Instead they doubled down on their own incompetency. The implications for changing and flipping their position are diabolical. The modelling for Jen and Nic from Saltwater Medical as business owners changed from trying to figure out how to pay a backdated tax to how to individually bill patients per GP and then collect the practice owner portion within the Medicare system to decide what the pricing looks like in order to be viable. Jen's words were, 'It would have broken us'. When the other side claims this is all made up by the LNP, remember the practice owner who said 'it nearly broke us'.


This sentiment was echoed by many of their colleagues as, realistically, GP practices are small business owners. They have governance, compliance, insurance and regulatory burdens, and this tax would have added to their red tape and, ultimately, cost the end consumer. I hope no-one sitting on the other side of the chamber needs any of their constituents to access health care from a GP who is a hardworking member of their community.

What Jen and Nick went through at the hands of the former government is unacceptable. They researched and planned for a business model and had no other option than passing the tax on to their patients, otherwise they would not have been able to provide care. This is just another example of the cost-of-living crisis, with another cost passed on to the millions of Queenslanders who simply want to see a GP.

I would like to thank the many brave GP practice owners who stood together to fight this horrible, sneaky patients tax. I thank them for all they have done to ensure Queenslanders can still visit a GP and receive health care in their community. What would this tax mean for everyday people in our communities? The cost to see a GP would increase. What happens when people cannot afford to see a doctor? Where do they go? That is right: they present at the emergency room—at our hospitals, the same hospital system that is already under pressure and that already has enough emergency situations to deal with. This additional pressure on our hospital system would be crippling.

It has never been a secret the critical role primary health care plays in our health system. Anyone who understands basic maths and basic community needs can see the GP patients tax as a disaster for Queenslanders. Without this Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill it will cost more to see a doctor.

In a cost-of-living crisis it will cost more to see a doctor. Under Labor, it would have cost more to see a doctor. This bill will permanently axe the GP patients tax and give security and respect to our hardworking GPs. I am proud to stand here today and say to every GP and practice owner listening: we respect you, we are listening and we will fight for you.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (8.21 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Queensland Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. This is a bill that not only demonstrates the LNP Crisafulli government's commitment to responsible fiscal governance but also addresses the pressing needs of Queenslanders, particularly those in the Gregory electorate who are striving for the great Australian dream of home ownership. I will focus the majority of my comments tonight on the removal of stamp duty for first home buyers, but I need to also mention the significance of the specific components that abolish the patients tax.

Gregory has very few private GP clinics, but, where it does, the criticality of that private service provision is high and vital. The certainty that comes with a strong government delivering on its commitments promptly to provide certainty and lower the cost outlook for patients has been well received by GPs and patients alike. This is a bigger picture issue than any one electorate, any one practice. It is about fairness and ensuring positive health outcomes for all Queenslanders and is especially imperative during a time when the cost of living is having such a real impact as it is today all around Queensland.

For too long first home buyers, especially those in regional and remote Queensland, have faced insurmountable barriers to achieving their dream of home ownership. This bill represents a decisive step towards breaking down the barriers of the past and creating tangible pathways to prosperity and stability for thousands of Queenslanders. As with the recent fight for equitable access to streaming for rural and remote communities, this bill represents a broader principle: no Queenslanders should be disadvantaged simply because of their postcode. The LNP Crisafulli government is transforming opportunities for first home buyers, countering unfair banking practices and rectifying mistakes of the past.

The removal of stamp duty for first home buyers is a transformative measure. For many in the Gregory electorate, where regional construction costs are already exorbitant, this exemption provides critical relief. Building a home in regional areas comes with additional costs: transporting materials, limited contractor availability and logistical complexities. On top of that, regional Queenslanders face the added financial burden of larger deposit requirements due to bank postcode discrimination which forces them to save tens of thousands of dollars more compared to buyers in metropolitan areas. This situation is yet another example of regional and remote Queenslanders being abandoned by corporate Australia and previous Labor governments. Just as regional and remote Queenslanders were told their right to enjoy so many other things has been compared to or taken away in the name of corporate and government profit, first home buyers have been told that their dreams of home ownership are less important than revenue streams. Through this bill the LNP Crisafulli government is sending a clear message: regional Queenslanders will no longer be treated as second-class citizens.

By eliminating stamp duty for new builds, we are reducing the entry barriers for first home buyers. The average homebuyer in Gregory will now save thousands of dollars—funds that can go towards construction, local trades or simply furnishing their new home. This is more than simply financial assistance; it is an investment in our regional and remote communities. It means more young families and hardworking Queenslanders can put down roots in Gregory without being penalised simply because of their postcode.

This legislation also recognises the numerous realities faced by homebuyers in today's housing market. Due to limited availability and rising living costs, the ability to rent out a room in a new home is nothing short of a godsend for many first home buyers. For many young home owners in Gregory, this flexibility will provide much needed financial breathing room, allowing them to reduce mortgage stress, and will contribute to easing the current regional rental crisis. Renting out a room offers multiple benefits: financial flexibility, addressing housing shortages and strengthening our communities. Much like access to connectivity connects and strengthens rural communities, this provision empowers first home buyers to create connected, supportive living environments. It reflects the lived experiences of Queenslanders and transforms home ownership from a financial burden into a sustainable long-term asset.

The opposition has argued that removing stamp duty does not make a difference in some cases. Let us examine the facts. The previous government reaped significant revenue windfalls from stamp duty—windfalls that could have been directed towards supporting first home buyers, yet they chose not

to act. In the past few years alone, stamp duty collections contributed billions of dollars to state revenue. However, during that time the previous government did little to alleviate the financial pressure on first home buyers, and their reluctance to provide meaningful assistance has directly contributed to the housing challenges we face today.


The opposition's claim ignores the simple truth: every dollar not spent on stamp duty is a dollar that a first home buyer can invest in their own future, whether for essential home improvements, paying down debt or supporting their family. For a first home buyer in Gregory, the stamp duty exemption would mean completing construction projects that were previously unaffordable, securing vital local trades and services, and establishing a financial safety net for unforeseen expenses. Moreover, regional areas like Gregory were disproportionately affected by the previous government's inaction. By failing to address the impact of bank postcode discrimination and rising construction costs, they left first home buyers without support. This bill corrects that mistake and draws a line under the fact that the Crisafulli LNP government will be a government for all Queenslanders.

This bill is about more than individual home ownership; it is also about regional equity. For years regional Queenslanders have been told that the cost of living in these areas is simply the price of a quieter lifestyle. However, the reality is that regional residents often face higher costs with fewer services. The Gregory electorate, with its vast distances and limited infrastructure, requires tailored policies that understand its unique context. This bill shows that we are listening and that we are committed to delivering solutions that make a real difference.

The ripple effects of this legislation extend beyond individual home owners. Increased home ownership in regional and remote Queensland will contribute to job creation, community growth and regional development. The flow-on benefits of this bill become more achievable due to the resilience of regional communities in the Gregory electorate and throughout Queensland.

When regional Queenslanders are recognised, valued and supported, whether it is through access to government consultation, telecommunications, road construction or home ownership, the state of Queensland wins. This is how the LNP Crisafulli government will create flourishing and self-sustaining regional communities that will continue to be the backbone of Queensland's future. The Queensland Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 is more than a financial measure; it is a commitment to fairness, opportunity and growth. It levels the playing field for first home buyers across Queensland and will address the past oversights of the previous Labor government by providing tangible solutions to real problems.

Just as we promised to continue the battle for equitable access, reminding all and sundry that our voices in regional Queensland matter, the LNP Crisafulli government will ensure that first home buyers in Gregory and throughout Queensland get the support they deserve. By removing the stamp duty burden, we as a government are empowering Queenslanders to own homes, build lives and strengthen their communities. We are unlocking untold economic potential by supporting local industries and ensuring that the dream of home ownership remains achievable for all Queenslanders. Let us pass this bill and give first home buyers the support they deserve. Let us build a Queensland where opportunity knows no postcode. On behalf of the people of Gregory, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (8.30 pm): As many members in this House have already shared, I, too, have a family member who is currently looking to purchase their first home. My much younger sister, Isabella, and her husband, Malcolm, are looking to purchase their first home—somewhere to settle down with their dogs and hopefully eventually raise a little family of their own. There has been a lot of pressure from our entire family to buy near us in the western suburbs, meaning that they will no longer be residents of the Bulimba electorate hopefully by the end of this year—sorry to say that, member for Bulimba—and the pressure will continue from all of us until they actually buy something. Izzy and Malcolm are not millionaires and neither are my parents. She is a dental hygienist and Malcolm works in film, so they are exactly the kind of young potential first home owners that this tax relief should be targeting. However, this bill casts a really wide net and they will be far from the only people who can take advantage of this tax relief. Some have raised concerns that there will be a number of people who will be able to purchase rather expensive homes with the proposed changes in the legislation. Indeed, according to the excellent statement of reservation, that will be entirely possible under these changes.

I understand that for many first home owners purchasing a house for under \$800,000 is really difficult. From looking closely at the market in my own community, I know that properties for sale that are suitable for a family for under \$800,000 are very difficult to come by, so I understand why the amount

needs to be increased. Like all members of this House, I will always support helping young people and first home buyers get into the property market, especially in conditions where they may be otherwise unable to fulfil their dream of buying their first home. As the statement of reservation outlines, completely removing the threshold is not a targeted response to an incredibly critical problem in the Queensland community.

Other speakers in this debate have also touched on the bank of mum and dad. Some statistics refer to the bank of mum and dad as being one of the top 10 largest lenders in the country. Exact statistics vary, but the bank of mum and dad is certainly a formidable force in the finance sector because it does provide significant sums of money and a transfer of intergenerational wealth to help lucky people get into the property market. Under this legislation, there is nothing to stop people from drawing quite deeply on the bank of mum and dad and also accessing this concession, which could mean that people will be able to purchase a million dollar property or a multimillion dollar property—certainly not something that people would consider to be an entry level property—and they will not have to pay stamp duty, even if they well and truly are able to afford to pay it.

There is also no modelling to suggest that these measures will not have an upward pressure on the price of a home that people can afford. Nobody wants to see a first home buyer take on a larger mortgage than they need to in order to get their foot in the door of the property market. We have only just seen rate relief with a cut after a really long time of intense pressure on households. I know from speaking to people in my community just how tough people all over the country have been doing it. The last thing we want to see is people taking on a large mortgage that might be putting them under mortgage stress. When there is upward pressure on prices, that puts upward pressure on the amount of money most people need to borrow, so I think that is something we need to be really mindful of when we are thinking about the policy levers we are pulling. When rates go up it is really concerning to see people in mortgage stress, especially first home buyers who have those larger sums of money owing. Other members have also spoken about the fact that anyone who goes to an open home knows that there are so many people at open homes looking for a family home. First home buyers in particular have to look at a property amongst tens of dozens of other buyers every time they attend an open house. This is a really critical issue. When we are making changes that could impact on something as life changing as house prices, we need to deeply consider what those unintended consequences might be.


In the time I have left I wanted to touch on another issue. During the election campaign I was contacted by a local GP from my community who was really upset about the LNP's scare campaign that was being run about what she called a so-called patient tax. She wanted to know how she could get involved in ensuring that Queenslanders did not fall for this ridiculous scare campaign. I have spoken before in this parliament about how proud I was to speak to the former treasurer after the New South Wales tax ruling was made to ensure this was not an issue that our GPs in Queensland had to deal with. I have spoken before in this House about the advocacy from my fantastic local GP Aaron Chambers, who owns a local practice in my community, Growlife Medical. That name may be familiar to members of this House because it has just recently been awarded GP Practice of the Year for Queensland and Australia. It is based in Mount Ommaney, so that is very exciting.

We know that the RACGP and the AMA welcomed the Miles government's decision and supported our government's amnesty on payroll tax. We had ruled it out, and those opposite absolutely knew that at the time. They knew what was said. They knew what the deal was and they nonetheless chose to exploit the concerns of vulnerable Queenslanders about the rising costs of health care, and that is something I would hope all members of this House are passionate about addressing. I know that is why this side of the House was so passionate about ensuring Queenslanders have access to quality primary care. When they cannot get an appointment with a GP, we stepped into the breach by opening satellite hospitals in communities near mine like Ripley, which is only a 20-minute drive away, so that if they could not get in to see their GP but do not need emergency care they are able to access that care.

Recently we have also seen an urgent care clinic open in the heart of Oxley which supplements the work of our local GPs. That urgent care clinic, incidentally, is also being run by Growlife Medical. This is not an infomercial for Growlife Medical, but it does fantastic work in our communities and you can see how our GPs work hand in glove with our urgent care clinics and our satellite hospitals. All of these services are proudly supported by this side of the House because we fundamentally believe in the importance of primary health care and ensuring that communities have good access to a GP. When you have good access to primary health care, it prevents so many issues. I cannot tell the House the number of families who have been so grateful to access the satellite hospital and the urgent care clinic in our community and receive quality after-hours urgent care with healthcare issues such as a

suspected broken bone on the weekend or late at night. It is initiatives like satellite hospitals and urgent care clinics that are going to help Queenslanders tackle the cost of living so they can get into their first home sooner, not running scare campaigns and renaming hospitals. But, hey, you guys do you.

I will always support any measure that helps struggling home owners get into the market, but, along with Labor members of the committee, I do have serious concerns about the unintended consequences of this bill. We want young people to get into the property market. I think every single person in this House is super passionate about making sure every Queenslander who wants to own a home has the ability to do so, but we need to be careful about how we go about that and ensure we do not have unintended consequences along the way.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (8.39 pm): I rise in strong support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I commend the Treasurer and Minister for Home Ownership for his hard work to get this bill that we are debating today before the parliament so quickly. The LNP is the party of lower taxes. In our first bill of the year we are abolishing two of them. This bill is about more than just tax reform; it is also about helping more Queenslanders achieve the dream of home ownership, especially young Queenslanders. It is about opening up more rental supply. It is about saving Queenslanders from paying more when they see their GP. After a decade of Labor, Queenslanders are facing crises in housing, the cost of living and health care. The Crisafulli government is ready to meet the challenges to ease these crises and this bill is a great start to help us get there.

Under the former government our state saw the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation, sitting at just 63½ per cent. In my own electorate of Bonney on the inner northern Gold Coast it is even lower, at just 53.7 per cent. The situation is even worse for young Queenslanders: only 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own their own home compared to nearly 50 per cent just a few decades ago. For too many young Queenslanders, home ownership has felt impossible to achieve. Abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers will help to change that by removing a massive financial barrier to make it easier for people to buy their first home.

This bill achieves two key reforms. It abolishes stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers from 1 May 2025 and it allows first home buyers to rent out a room without losing their stamp duty concessions. Both of these measures will help more Queenslanders own their own home. They will increase housing supply and contribute to easing rental market pressures. This is not just about giving first home owners a leg-up; it is also about using our tax system to incentivise more builds in our state to meet the needs of our growing population.

Stamp duty is one of the biggest financial barriers to home ownership. It adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of buying a home, making it harder for young Queenslanders to enter the market. From 1 May 2025 this bill will completely abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home or vacant land on which they will build. A first home buyer purchasing a new home worth \$850,000, for example, will save more than \$24,000 in up-front costs. With the average cost of a home in Queensland now sitting at around \$900,000, this change will provide incentive regardless of the cost of a first home build, ensuring more Queenslanders can take their first step onto the property ladder. This will remove a major financial hurdle and help more Queenslanders buy their first home sooner.


This policy is not just about affordability for first home owners; it is also about boosting housing supply for renters. The restrictions on first home buyers, blocking them from legally renting out a room for fear of losing their stamp duty concessions, have been, frankly, ridiculous. This bill removes those restrictions. First home buyers will now be able to rent out a room in their home without any financial penalty or the threat thereof. This means an additional income stream to help with mortgage repayments. It also increases rental availability. Anything which eases pressure on the broader housing market is a good thing. For many young people, having a housemate could be the difference between being able to afford a mortgage or staying stuck in the rental cycle. Treasury modelling shows that 20,000 first home buyers each year could benefit from this change, along with thousands of other owner-occupiers. This policy recognises the reality of modern home ownership, where people need flexibility in how they manage the costs of their housing situation.

These changes do more than help individuals; they are part of the Crisafulli government's broader plan to fix Queensland's housing crisis. Housing affordability is about supply. We cannot help more Queenslanders achieve home ownership unless we build more homes. By incentivising new builds, this policy will encourage greater investment in housing construction. An Australian government Productivity Commission report on housing construction released just this week found that productivity in this sector has collapsed. The number of dwellings completed per hour worked by housing construction workers

has fallen by 53 per cent over the last three decades. In the same amount of time, the general economy has grown by a massive 49 per cent. Labour productivity in house construction has declined by 25 per cent since 2001. The building and construction sector has lagged behind the rest of our nation's economy, driving up costs and reducing housing affordability. One of the biggest challenges is the high regulatory burden on housing construction which slows down approvals and limits supply. This bill is part of our broader plan to fix that. It flows on from our Building Reg Reno we announced last week which is cutting red tape for tradies across Queensland.

The Crisafulli government is making home ownership more affordable and we are delivering the right regulatory environment for our building and construction sector so we can build the homes Queenslanders need. These reforms have been widely welcomed by housing experts and industry leaders. The Real Estate Institute of Queensland said that stamp duty is a considerable financial barrier for first home buyers and welcomed this move to remove part of the up-front cost of buying a new home. The Urban Development Institute of Australia said that this bill provides a helping hand to first home buyers to give them a leg-up when they are being pushed further and further behind. The Housing Industry Association supports both abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers and allowing room renting, recognising their dual benefits. The Strata Community Association called the ability to rent out a room a sensible change that helps alleviate mortgage concerns while also increasing rental supply.

To conclude, the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill is a bill which delivers the change Queenslanders voted for last October. It makes home ownership more affordable by scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers. It gives new home owners flexibility to rent out a room to help meet their mortgage costs. It boosts housing supply by incentivising new builds and increasing the availability of rentals. It supports jobs and economic growth by incentivising our building and construction sector. These reforms directly address Queensland's housing crisis and will help more people move into homes sooner. After 10 years of inaction from the previous government young Queenslanders need a fresh start, and this bill delivers it. This is about ensuring more Queenslanders have the opportunity to own their own home. This is about ensuring we build the homes Queenslanders need. This is about making sure Queensland is a place where the dream of home ownership is not out of reach. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (8.47 pm): That was an underwhelming contribution from the so-called Minister for Housing after he cancelled hundreds of homes in Arundel. That is his record. They should call him the 'Minister against Housing', not the Minister for Housing, because his first act was to cut hundreds and hundreds of homes for Queenslanders.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. My first act was to pause BPIC.

**Mr BAILEY:** I think that is a debatable point.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member, will you withdraw?

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw. We on the Labor side are very strong supporters of housing affordability, supply of housing and health access. This is a lightweight bill. Two of the three key matters had already been resolved by the Miles Labor government. That shows me that this is more a smoke-and-mirrors bill than one of substance. It is all feathers and small strands of meat. It is like being given an oil painting and then scrawling your own initials—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, it would help if you were not being provocative.

**Mr BAILEY:** I was not the one who complained about too many women on the Parole Board, that is for sure. We know the record of the member for Everton.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, for the order of the House it would help if you were not being provocative.

**Mr BAILEY:** I remind the chamber that neither was I the one who mashed their costings in the last week of the campaign in 2020. We remember that well. It was a great effort. I digress.

This bill is like being given an oil painting and then scrawling your own initials in the bottom corner—'LNP'—putting it on the wall, pretending you painted it and telling people that you did. It is like walking into a car yard for a test drive, driving off with a car and not coming back. Why would I say that? Because there are two key parts of this bill that had already been resolved by the previous Miles Labor

government. That is a fact. This bill is but a cheap misuse of the parliamentary process to legitimise a fake campaign by a fake leader who knew how to get elected but does not know how to keep his promises and does not know how to govern Queensland at all. That is already clear from the savage cutting of hundreds of new homes at Arundel by the Minister for Housing, the many health cuts that have happened already, the dumping of the Sunshine Coast direct line and the tenuous 'no new stadium' election pledge by the Premier. However, I digress.

Let us deal with the falsely labelled and fictional patients/GP tax, as spun by the LNP. This matter was resolved in September 2023, nearly 18 months ago, but that did not stop them from politicking in the year after that due to the election. In September 2023, a new interpretation meant that GPs could avoid paying any tax. That was endorsed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. That is a fact. It is on the public record. It was backed up by Labor's commitment leading into the formal campaign itself. It was absolutely endorsed by the Treasurer, who released the fact that there is no revenue forgone. If there is no revenue forgone, then the fake nature of it is very clear and very real.

What we have here is the Crisafulli LNP government following through on their pretence and we on this side will not be lured into an obvious political wedge. We will not stand in the way of this bill, but we will call it out for what it is: a smoke-and-mirrors bill. The biggest impact on the health sector has been the denigration of the primary healthcare sector after nine long years of Tony Abbot, Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison cutting and undermining Medicare and bulk-billing. That has had the greatest impact in terms of GPs in this state, by a country mile. It is a disgrace. To hear these lightweight contributions from the key lines from some of those opposite when the problem is obvious to anybody who understands the health sector shows just how little this government actually knows.

Of course, for patients, another much greater threat than this smoke-and-mirrors matter is cuts. Under the government, there have already been cuts to nurse-led clinic hours. There have been cuts to the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme that helps us to attract health professionals to rural and remote areas. Many of those seats are not held by members on this side; they are held by members on the other side. Good luck with that. There have been cuts to the transfer initiative nurse program in emergency departments, which reduces ramping. I wish them luck with their commitments on ramping because they are taking away the TINs who let the paramedics go back out to do their jobs, reducing on-ramping.

The government has cut the Townsville Hospital expansion program and kicked it off into the never-never. They have cut the funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville. Townsville constituents elected three new members. What do those members have to say about all the cuts in health in Townsville? Nothing! I have heard nothing from those members. They are mute. What is their purpose if they have been elected but are quiet and silent when their own government kicks off a massive expansion of the Townsville Hospital and pulls funding for a perinatal unit? What is the perinatal unit for? It is to support mothers who have had babies but are having problems with postnatal depression and mental health challenges. Those are important things and they do not deserve to be defunded by this government. We have seen cuts around access to the Queensland Children's Gender Service despite no issues whatsoever being identified.

That has all happened under this government and we know that there is more to come. Therefore, let us not hear any more nonsense about the fiction that is being put forward as a campaigning line by this government or these overdone speeches about how it is transformational, blah, blah, blah—God save us; that was just appalling—when, in fact, the stakeholders are saying that if these matters are going to have any impact it will be minimal. That is what they have been saying.

I turn to the issue of first home buyers being able to partially rent out first home purchases while still getting their first home concessions. On 19 September last year, the Commissioner of State Revenue issued a public ruling allowing for the partial renting of a first home within a year of purchase without affecting the concessions. That is something that we did. It is helpful. It is part of a range of things to help with housing. There are a lot of ways to attack housing, but again the government is mailing in our achievements as their own. They are misusing this parliament's time because they actually have no bills. What we are seeing is mismanagement and a lack of priority after this government was elected in terms of the parliamentary process. We have done very little business. There has been a lot of filibustering. A lot of time has been taken up on minor matters such as moving motions and political stunts rather than actually dealing with the legislation that this state needs. This government is showing itself to be incompetent in terms of managing the House.


This bill is lightweight. We will not stand in its way. Two of the things have already been done. It does not need legislation but the government want to be seen to be doing something. I can assure the government that they are going to have to do better than that. That is my contribution—

**Ms Simpson:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr BAILEY:** I have not finished speaking.

**Ms Simpson:** I was hoping.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is a lightweight bill. In that vein, I hand over to the member for Maroochydore.

 **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) (8.56 pm): I am enthusiastic about speaking. When I hear the Labor Party whinge about the fact that we are getting rid of two taxes, I think what a bizarre world. We have a cost-of-living crisis, but they do not have the good grace to acknowledge that taxes are actually better off in the pockets of everyday Queenslanders. We acknowledge that taxpayers have a right to a bit of a concession. It is their money, anyway.


This bill is really about achieving a good policy outcome to support people in terms of home ownership. Obviously, I support our Treasurer and the legislation that he has put forward. I acknowledge that this is an election commitment. It is a great election commitment to get rid of two taxes. We have heard members on the other side deny the fact that this is necessary. They hate giving money back to hardworking taxpayers who have a right to put their dollars towards home ownership. In the case of the GP tax or the patients tax, which Labor really messed up, we are ensuring that there is a downward pressure with regard to the costs that our GPs face. That particular payroll tax was a punitive burden on them, given the structures they were looking at having to wear, and it was a tax that was passed on to patients.

Let us celebrate the fact that we have a fresh start for Queensland. It is a fresh start and a new way of looking at these taxes, which had to be reformed. We are committed to ensuring that we treat Queenslanders' money with respect. Of course, it is disappointing that there is a legacy of debt and mismanagement by Labor. Today we heard the Treasurer's update on the credit rating: after only three months since the change of government, we are still dealing with a Labor budget. The LNP budget will be introduced in a few months time. The Labor budget has left Queensland with a legacy of debt and there is a lot of hard work to be done. However, Queensland is a great place to live and we want to help people to flourish and live their lives well. We want them to own their own homes and, if they cannot own their own homes, have the safety of being able to rent a place. We want more housing supply.

I celebrate the opportunities that this positive piece of legislation brings forward as we continue to work towards better outcomes with more housing, more opportunity and affordability. It has been pretty rough going for a lot of people and we have never seen such pressures with homelessness. Record numbers of people line up for a small pool of rental properties. People desperately want to have aspirations and opportunities to own their own homes. I support this legislation. I support the fresh start that the Crisafulli government is bringing to Queensland.


Debate, on motion of Ms Simpson, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Springwood Electorate, Infrastructure and Policing

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (9.00 pm): This parliament plays an important role in shining a light on government accountability. The community that I am grateful to represent has strong views on many matters of this government's accountability or otherwise. Tonight, I will address just two of those in the short time that I have. I start by putting the LNP government on notice about our big infrastructure projects—the M1 expansion and the extension of the busway. Before I do, I acknowledge the nation's Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, for his strong support of those two incredibly important projects. The Rochedale park-and-ride is a critical piece of community infrastructure, funded by Labor in government.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.



**Mr de BRENNI:** I take the interjection from the member for Mansfield—it sure is. As she knows, this station was expected to be open and ready for the start of 2025, yet tonight, as I speak, the gates are locked and no-one can get in. We cannot use it but, for all intents and purposes, the project is finished. The signs are up, the asphalt is laid and even the service boards for the buses have been lit up for months now. It is time this LNP government rolled up its sleeves, got this project finished and started the next stage to Daisy Hill. If the LNP is standing in the way of this project, it should get out of the way.

Our community is also calling on the government to support our frontline police. Concerns are high in the community I represent regarding our police beats and their status and staffing. I can inform the parliament tonight that I have been advised that vacant positions within our police beats have not been backfilled by the Crisafulli LNP government. In fact, we need more police.


**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The Minister for Police laughs about it. The citizens of Rochedale South are not laughing. I have been defending police beats for a decade, and I welcome the local councillor also raising the alarm about LNP plans to close the Rochedale South Police Beat because after that we saw an embarrassing backdown from the Minister for Police. It took local community members to mobilise the police, not the LNP government or the minister.

The flying squad is welcome but, when the flying squad moves on, we need local guaranteed resourcing. Tonight, we call on the LNP to guarantee that our local police beats and stations will remain operational and fully staffed. For a government who say they are about keeping Queenslanders safe, why would they even consider closing down police stations in the electorate that I represent?

During the election campaign, Queenslanders were told the LNP would deliver. David Crisafulli said Queenslanders could trust him. How can they? We are over three months in and the community is already doing this bad government's heavy lifting.

### **Redlands Electorate, School Leadership**


 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.03 pm): I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible young leaders in our Redlands schools, particularly those who have recently been inducted into 2025 leadership roles across our primary and high schools. Over the past weeks I have been, and over the next few weeks I will be, privileged to attend leadership ceremonies at our local schools, where students have stepped forward to take on responsibilities that will help shape their school communities. These young leaders, whether they are school captains, house captains, student council representatives or in other leadership roles, are not just wearing a badge; they are embracing a role of service, integrity and responsibility.

Last Thursday, I attended the St Rita's leadership ceremony in Victoria Point, a place that is special to me and my family as that is where my son completed his primary school education. I would like to take this opportunity and acknowledge by name their school leadership team: Isabella Rodrigues, Abby Cameron, Georgia Swaby, Aleah Gibbs, Natasha Leigh, Amalia Stanbridge, Neil Wong Kai In, Tilly Bastow, Ella Gilmartin, Olivia Robertson, Luke Spence, Julien Coats and Lani Taginakaibure. You are all very special to your school and I wish you all the best in 2025. Thank you for allowing me to share in your ceremony and I wish you and your year 6 cohort all the best for the year ahead. I also look forward to joining Victoria Point State High School on Monday, my only Redlands electorate high school, for its leadership ceremony.

Strong school leadership is about more than titles; it is about setting an example, fostering inclusivity and encouraging others to strive for their best. Our young leaders are learning the values of teamwork, resilience and problem solving—skills that will serve them well beyond the school gates. Leadership in our schools also plays a critical role in building a positive school culture. When students take ownership of their school environment, they help to create a sense of pride, respect and belonging. They become role models for their peers and advocates for their fellow students. They remind us all that leadership is not just about decision-making; it is about making a difference.

I congratulate the newly elected school leaders of Redlands. Your community is proud of you and I encourage you to lead with kindness, courage and a commitment to making your school the very best it can be. The future of Redlands is bright and it starts with the strong, capable young leaders we celebrate today.

### Motor Neurone Disease


 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak on a matter that affects the lives of thousands of Queenslanders: the ongoing battle against motor neurone disease, MND, and the battle for funding. We all know that MND is a cruel, life-limiting neurological condition that affects not only the individuals diagnosed but also their families and communities. It robs people of their independence, their mobility and, tragically, their lives. While there is currently no cure, we know that, with the right support, care and resources, we can improve the quality of life for those living with this devastating disease.

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting MND Queensland, a service in my electorate that is essential to the people of Queensland with MND, their families and their carers. MND Queensland is recognised as the state's leading MND support organisation with its in-house multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing a range of individualised services and supports. During my visit I met with Stacey Thorpe, the CEO, and heard about their in-house team, which does great work providing support and equipment for sufferers across Queensland.

The Miles Labor government recognised how essential this service is and committed to fund MND Queensland. Under Labor, MND Queensland would have received \$600,000 per year for the next four years. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, guess what—this funding has been cut. This government has failed this organisation and it has failed Queenslanders with MND. I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to match the former Labor government's commitment and provide this desperately needed funding, not cut the funding. The funding is for telehealth-based support, for much needed counselling services for individuals and their families and for the provision of crucial equipment for those in urgent need. Cutting the funding will impact significantly on those who are isolated in rural and remote parts of Queensland.

I know that cutting is in the Crisafulli government's DNA, but I urge the Crisafulli government to step up and fund this great organisation. These services are vital and enable those with MND to maintain as much independence and quality of life as possible. Tragically, there is no cure for this disease and it seems there is no cure for the Crisafulli cuts that have only just begun.

### Far North Queensland, Roads

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (9.09 pm): Fourteen months ago the floods following Cyclone Jasper hit Far North Queensland hard and our region and our roads are still a long way from recovered. Over the past three weeks, Far North Queensland has had some of the worst road closures I have seen in my 20-plus years of living in Cairns. Hundreds of trucks were stranded with food spoiling before it could reach Far North Queensland. Grocery shelves in the two major supermarkets were empty. Thousands of parents were unable to make nutritious school lunches or meals for their families. Local bakeries were closed as they could not get flour, so being the breadwinner was literally true for anyone who scored a loaf. Finding household items and food was like pirates searching for treasure, but that treasure was a tomato or lettuce, and, sadly, many of us did not find any treasure for weeks. People were scrambling and panic buying when food did arrive thanks to flights organised by the Deputy Premier. There were weeks with no tourists making the drive north and tales of those who tried the 22-hour detour, getting lost and needing rescuing. The region has lost \$7 million through cancellations in the past two weeks, forward bookings for the next four weeks are down 44 per cent and the forecast impact by the end of March is approximately \$50 million in lost customers.

The Bruce Highway is an absolute goat track. Every year it closes to Far North Queensland. We have to deal with this issue because Labor governments did nothing for decades. This closure does not impact Brisbane. That is why Labor never cared. They do not care about Far North Queensland and Far North Queenslanders have had an absolute gutful.

I will share one story with members. CSF Industries is a Cairns based large heavy industry business that services the construction industry and employs up to 180 people. This company relies heavily on the transportation of steel and other heavy equipment by road from Townsville to Cairns. It was at risk of being in breach of contracts, with subsequent knock-on delays, due to the inability to get items to Cairns from the major industry service centre in Townsville. CSF came within two days of having to stand down all of its staff.


Thankfully, the roads opened, but Far North Queensland's reputation as a reliable source of materials for major projects across Northern Australia is at significant risk. One Cairns company has tendered for a \$3.5 million job which would secure the livelihood of over 100 jobs and this potential contract is in jeopardy as the client is now considering suppliers in the south.

In Far North Queensland many roads are vulnerable and need considerable upgrades. I stand here not only as a representative of Barron River right now but as a representative of all of Far North Queensland. On behalf of my parliamentary colleagues in Mulgrave and Cook, we must ensure Far North Queensland remains accessible.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Barron River, before you resume your seat I would ask you to withdraw some unparliamentary language you used in your contribution.

**Ms JAMES:** I withdraw.

### Lunar New Year

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.12 pm): Lunar New Year is always a very busy time of year in the Stretton electorate. We are home to people who have come from all over the world and there are many spectacular cultural celebrations that take place throughout the year in my community, and Lunar New Year is one of the best. It is a time for family reunions, delicious food, lion dances, red lanterns, honouring your ancestors and asking for good luck. It is also a very popular time of the year for young family members who receive good luck pocket money in red packets known as Hong Bao.


One of the most enthusiastic young people when it comes to this tradition is my son, Oliver, who is 11. He has Chinese heritage and he is certainly a big fan of that particular part of his heritage. The thought of getting a red packet full of money does tend to encourage very good behaviour so it is a good time of year for all the parents around Stretton.

This year we are celebrating the Year of the Snake. Those born in the Year of the Snake are said to have intelligence, wisdom and intuition. They are also known for being determined, caring and good at forming deep relationships. Each Lunar New Year, many other Labor MPs and I have the pleasure of attending numerous events hosted by outstanding community organisations on the south side, including the QCUC, the Queensland Chinese Forum, Sunnycare, the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations, WAMCI, the Shandong Association and Chamber of Commerce, the Beijing Business & Arts Council, the Hakka Association, the Hong Kong Australia Business Association and the Chung Tian Temple, just to name a few. There are many more.

All of these community organisations rely on hardworking volunteers who put their own time and effort into organising these community celebrations. One of the highlights of the celebrations each year is the fireworks on top of Sunnybank Plaza, which are always very well attended by the community. It is fantastic to see so many families of different ethnicities—not just Chinese or Taiwanese people—out on the rooftop carpark each year enjoying the lion dancing, singing, cultural performances and, of course, delicious food.

Lunar New Year—Chinese New Year—is a lot of fun, and it is such a fantastic opportunity for Queenslanders to come together and celebrate in a shared experience. Another highlight each Lunar New Year is presenting my red packets with gold coins in them to locals in my community—for total transparency, they are chocolate coins. I would like to wish all members of the House and all people in the Stretton electorate a happy and prosperous Year of the Snake. Xin nian kuai le.

### Moore, Hon. J, AO

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise to acknowledge and honour the life and service of the Hon. John Moore AO, who served with distinction as the federal member for Ryan for 25 years. As the Assistant Minister to the Premier, Leader of the House and state member for Moggill, I was privileged to attend the state funeral for the late John Moore, held in St Lucia on 4 February 2025. The event was attended by Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC, PSM, Governor of Queensland; former prime minister of Australia, the Hon. John Howard AC; General the Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, CVO, MC (Retd); as well as the Deputy Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie MP, and many other distinguished guests.

John Moore was unquestionably a dedicated parliamentarian, a distinguished businessman and a proud Queenslanders. Raised on a cattle station west of Bowen, John Moore's early life embodied the values of resilience and determination. He pursued higher education at the University of Queensland, where he developed a lifelong passion for sports and business pursuits, before later pursuing politics.

John Moore's parliamentary career began in 1975, upon his election as the federal member for Ryan. Over the following 25 years he served with honour, contributing to both government and opposition with unwavering commitment. He held ministerial roles under both the Fraser and Howard


governments, shaping Australia's economic and defence policies in ways that still resonate today. As minister for business and consumer affairs, John Moore played a pivotal role in standardising corporate regulation through the federal Companies Act and advancing financial deregulation.

Upon the election of the Howard federal coalition government, he was entrusted with the industry, science and tourism portfolios, where his work reshaped key sectors, particularly the automotive and pharmaceutical industries. Perhaps the most defining ministerial role for John Moore came in 1998 when he was appointed as minister for defence, where he oversaw Australia's largest military deployment since Vietnam as part of the Interfet mission to East Timor.

John Moore's contribution to public life extended well beyond politics, and his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2004 was a fitting recognition of his decades of service to the nation. As many have remarked since the passing of John Moore on 22 January 2025, John Moore was a man of intellect, principle and dedication.

Personally, I certainly valued his collegiate mentorship and guidance over many years. As the state member for Moggill, which is within the federal electorate of Ryan, I wish to extend my condolences to his wife, Johnnie, his children, family and friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. Vale, the Hon. John Moore AO.

### Lunar New Year

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.18 pm): I too rise tonight to talk about the Lunar New Year—a time of joy, renewal and cultural appreciation for many across Queensland and beyond. The celebration of the Lunar New Year typically starts with the Spring Festival and ends with the Lantern Festival, lasting for approximately two weeks. In 2025, as we heard from the member for Stretton, we welcomed the Year of the Snake, a symbol in the Chinese zodiac known for its wisdom, elegance and intuition. As we begin this new lunar year, it provides an opportunity to honour the qualities of the snake while celebrating the vibrant traditions of our diverse community.

People born under this sign are often regarded as insightful and strategic. This year encourages us to be thoughtful in our actions while appreciating the beauty of life's complexities. It is also a perfect time to acknowledge the deep cultural heritage of the Chinese community, which has significantly shaped Queensland's identity.


At the start of this year's celebrations, I had the distinct honour of receiving a traditional Ming Dynasty costume from Miss Xia of the Queensland Hanfu Association. This very thoughtful gift not only deepened my appreciation for the cultural significance of the Lunar New Year but also highlighted the rich history embedded in the customs we are celebrating.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of attending several events that brought together the community to celebrate the Lunar New Year. On Wednesday, 22 January I was lucky enough to attend the celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, hosted by the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China. This event offered a beautiful opportunity to connect with community members and engage in the celebration of the traditions that make this time of year so special.

On Monday, 27 January I was honoured to attend the Oriental Care Chinese New Year celebration at Landmark, hosted by the Oriental Care organisation. It gave me the opportunity to distribute New Year red envelopes to many of the elderly guests present which is a way of expressing blessings in Chinese traditional culture.

On Tuesday, 28 January I attended the 2025 Lunar New Year celebrations at the Chung Tian Temple, hosted by the Buddha's Light International Association. Going to the temple to offer incense is also an important part of the Lunar New Year celebrations.

### National Servicemen's Day

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.21 pm): On Saturday, 15 February it was a privilege to represent the people of Toowoomba North at the National Serviceman's Day Memorial Service held at the National Service Memorial in Toowoomba. For those who do not know, Barry Vicary founded the National Servicemen's Association in Toowoomba in 1987. I would like to thank the president, Keith Shepherd; the secretary, Pat O'Sullivan; the treasurer, Dennis Gillbard; and past president Bill McMillan for the service for the nashos on that particular day. Present was the Harlaxton RSL Brass Band, who always do a great job, and the Toowoomba Choral Society.


For those people who are not aware, 287,000 young men were called up for service in the Army, Navy and Air Force between 1951 and 1972—212 paid the ultimate sacrifice on active service: two in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam. The call-up, conscription, was used when voluntary recruiting was insufficient. National service was reinstated in two schemes: in 1951 to 1959 because of the Korean War and in 1965 to 1972 due to conflicts in Borneo and Vietnam. The first scheme, from 1951 to 1959, was for the Navy and Air Force six months full-time training at the age of 18 and for the Army three months full-time training, followed by part-time service in the Citizens Military Forces. There were 227,000 called up and they remained in reserve for five years.

For the second scheme, from 1965 to 1972, the call-up was at age 20 for two years full-time Army service—20-year-olds, two years full-time. They went to Borneo and the Vietnam War. Selection was based on a birthday ballot. Not all eligible men were called up, but if your number came up then off to conflict you were sent, or you were certainly trained to do so. There were 64,000 young men conscripted and 19,500 served in the Borneo and Vietnam conflicts. Others served in support roles in Malaysia, in Papua New Guinea and obviously in Australia, and 35,000 served six years in the Citizens Military Forces as an alternative.

I think it is really important for us to note that these were conscripts. These were people who were asked by politicians to serve the nation and put their lives on the line in certain circumstances. Although they are now ageing—and Keith, who made a great speech on that day, is getting close to 90—we should always commemorate the service they gave. Lest we forget.

*(Time expired)*

### **Bruce Highway**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.24 pm): The recent flooding has again highlighted the ongoing problems with the Bruce Highway and the lack of an alternative transport route. I thank the Premier and the minister for their handling of the floods and for being easily accessible to me and the member for Hinchinbrook over the past few difficult weeks.


To put it bluntly, the Bruce Highway is a national disgrace. In North Queensland we are used to seasonal flooding, but this event has again magnified how fragile the Bruce Highway and our northern transport supply network is. There is anger and frustration at the complete lack of attention to this vital National Highway. The KAP and other regional bodies have been constantly calling for the Bruce to be fixed for decades, but no state or federal government has stepped up and invested significant funds into North Queensland. When the highway is cut, everyone suffers, including business and transport companies. Farmers lose millions as they cannot get their crops to market and supermarket shelves go dry. Insurance costs skyrocket and claims often take up to 18 months to complete.

All of this comes back to the core issue of fixing the Bruce Highway and providing an alternative route so transport can get through during floods. We all know that the collapse of Ollera Creek bridge was unpredictable, but we need to get back to basics and target the areas that year in, year out are a major problem. An example of this is that the member for Hinchinbrook has been banging on about fixing the Bruce Highway over the Seymour River and the Gairloch flood plains in his electorate for seven years. Fix this, then the government can concentrate on the Tully and upper Murray rivers and all the other areas of the Bruce Highway that are cut off during the wet season.

Fixing these crossings will make a huge difference, but it still will not be enough. When the Bruce is cut off we all know there is an alternative route—that is, from Charters Towers to the Tablelands along the Gregory Developmental Road. However, we need to ensure this route does not become fully cut off. It is clear as day that the major problem areas are Hann Creek and Clarke River, which are guaranteed to flood from the Burdekin backing up, even though there may be little rain coming from the west. Fix these two areas and 80 per cent of the cut-off problems will be resolved. Then the government can move to upgrade other problem areas such as the Fletcher and Lolworth flood plains, Snake and Stockyard Creek, and Basalt River. Finally, the last 11 kilometres of the Hann Highway must be completed. I believe the federal government has now committed to this.

Both the state and federal governments have stated, 'We must do better.' This is their chance. Words are hollow. The Bruce can no longer be ignored and needs immediate action.

### Sunshine Coast, Transport Infrastructure

 **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) (9.27 pm): I am proud to be part of a strong LNP team and to be working with some fantastic LNP colleagues on the Sunshine Coast as we work and fight together to deliver the right and the best integrated transport network for the whole of the Sunshine Coast. It is vitally important to get the rail, the road and all of the public transport upgrades that are the necessary not only for today's needs but also for future needs. That is why the Olympic and Paralympic Games are seen to be, and are, an important event to unlock legacy infrastructure for our region and certainly for South-East Queensland and other parts of Queensland as well.

It was so disappointing when the federal Labor Party pulled the funding on a critical piece of bottleneck unlocking infrastructure—the Mooloolah River Interchange. When the federal government pulled the funding that had been allocated by the previous coalition government, it threw into chaos all of the transport planning for the Sunshine Coast including rail and even rapid bus. It needs to be addressed. Labor's answer at the last election was to stop rail at Caloundra and then have nothing connecting—not even a bus—Caloundra to Maroochydore in time for the Olympics or into the future.

The answer to addressing the transport needs of the Sunshine Coast has to be rail, it has to be road and it has to be all public transport. We have to call out the fact that Labor did nothing when their federal colleagues pulled the funding. They took it on the chin and did nothing. That is what we are fighting for—to see funding for those projects restored, not only for the Mooloolah River Interchange, which is at the nexus of the whole network, but also for future priorities in Infrastructure Australia for rail.

We will continue to fight for the Sunshine Coast when it comes to transport infrastructure. I am delighted that there is a commitment to ensure we get the legacy infrastructure—not only to look at what has been talked about to date, which is to get transport to where the athletes village is supposed to be in the middle of Maroochydore, as was planned for the Olympics, but also to start to look at how to connect airports, universities, hospitals and other key pieces of infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast.

We must ensure there is a proper working network right throughout the Sunshine Coast that enables the growth we are managing right now to be sustainable and to enable people to go to where they need to go into the future.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young